

Item No. 4 (i)
Halifax Regional Council
August 14, 2012
Committee of the Whole

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Michael Freill, Chair, Long Term Arena Strategy

DATE: July 30, 2012

SUBJECT: Long Term Arena Strategy – Steering Committee Report

ORIGIN

- April 1, 2008, Short Term Arena Strategy presentation to Regional Council; and
- January 11, 2010 Regional Council approved the Terms of Reference to establish a Project Steering Committee, and to proceed with the Long Term Arena Strategy (LTAS); and
- June 8, 2010 Regional Council Information Report re: Implementation of Community Access Plan; and
- January 12, 2012 Motion by Councilor Fisher regarding web based payment system for arena users.

RECOMMENDATION

The Long Term Arena Strategy Steering Committee recommends Halifax Regional Council approve the Long Term Arena Strategy as outlined in the attached Staff Report.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Long Term Arena Strategy (LTAS) is a strategic approach to ensuring that the quality of life of citizens is enhanced through the provision of sustainable, planned, accessible and appropriate community arenas. As the existing municipal arena inventory is aging, the probability of high risk and high cost for disruption of services and significant recapitalization was the compelling rationale for this review.

As such, the Steering Committee has carried out extensive data collection and research in order to evaluate current operations, building assessments, scheduling, usage patterns and inventory practices.

In all cases, recommendations were considered by the Steering Committee to add value where there was evidence of inherent inefficiencies to the provision of services to citizens. As well, the basic concept of “increased utilization and participation for citizens” was a critical guiding principle to the review. A final measure for the Steering Committee was the premise that the future provision of ice in HRM should be done in a manner that enhances access to citizens while, when at all possible, provides a more cost and operationally effective structure for the municipality. In an environment where over 58% of the ice surfaces in the region are over 30 years old, and 57% of the municipally owned facilities are over 30 years old, there was consideration given to building new facilities as purpose built and purpose located, versus the value of continued investment in existing aging facilities.

The Steering Committee has taken a look to the future. A motion of approval was put to the Steering Committee at its final meeting, and was passed unanimously. The recommendations that follow are an indication of a desire to be proactive in the establishment of more effective and sustainable facility provision and service delivery.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Staff will develop outlines for Capital requirements for presentation to Regional Council as outlined in the Staff Report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, and the approved operating, project and reserve budgets. This project is also in compliance with the Municipality’s policies and procedures.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Steering Committee is comprised of members of the community and Provincial Sport Organizations that represent user groups of arenas. The Steering Committee utilized input from the community through media, letters, and emails provided to staff, hosted meetings with managers and schedulers of community arenas, along with representatives of all minor sport and

organized adult user groups. It is recommended that, as Council proceeds with specific aspects of the recommendations in the Long Term Arena Strategy, specific public engagement takes place, when required, relative to each phase of work.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose to reject the Steering Committee's recommendation, and instruct HRM staff to investigate further options.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Chair would like to thank all those who participated in the process of forming the future strategy for HRM arenas including HRM staff, arena managers and schedulers. Special thanks to the Committee Members who gave their time voluntarily, and who's input was invaluable to the report recommendations. Honorable mention to Cathy Oliver who has provided the extensive statistical data and Betty Lou Killen whose commitment to the process has been the cornerstone of the project.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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