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Item No. 3
Halifax Regional Council
August 5, 2014

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director
Brad Anguish, Director, Community & Recreation Services

DATE: July 10, 2014

SUBJECT: Service Agreement - Lake District Recreation Association

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

January 20, 2009, Regional Council motion: Halifax Regional Council direct staff to explore the possibility of a service agreement with the Lake District Recreation Association in regard to the Sackville and District Community Arena.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter, Section 79(1) including (k) recreational programs

BACKGROUND

HRM uses three main types of agreements related to the provision of recreation services by other parties. These include:

- Joint Use Agreement – a specific agreement between HRM and Halifax Regional School Board to outline community access where HRM has provided funding to enhance the facility
- Facility Lease Agreement – an agreement between HRM and a volunteer group to lease a HRM owned facility to provide recreation programming as an alternate service delivery to HRM operation of that service
- Management Agreement – an agreement between HRM and a third party to operate a HRM owned facility on behalf of HRM

In addition, HRM has entered into service agreements with other partners to ensure community benefit or access to a facility in exchange for the provision of funding. Examples of these agreements included:

1. Dalhousie University – Wickwire Field
2. Saint Mary's University – The Tower and Alumni Athletics Field
3. Soccer Nova Scotia – Mainland Common Soccer Facility
4. Discovery Centre

HRM is also currently reviewing a proposal by Tennis Canada for capital funding for a tennis facility. Should Regional Council choose to provide funding to that facility, a service agreement would ensure community access to the facility.

In each service agreement case, HRM has contributed a one-time capital contribution for the construction of recapitalization of a significant piece of privately owned sport/recreation infrastructure. The contribution enabled a guarantee of community access to the facility or recognition of other community benefit provided by the facility.

Previous discussions regarding the Lake District Recreation Association (LDRA) owned Sackville and District Community Arena raised questions at that time whether a service agreement between HRM and that organization would facilitate an appropriate mechanism for recognition of the community dependence on the facility. The report was requested some time ago but was never presented to Council. As a result, it has remained on the Regional Council status sheet as outstanding. This report addresses the request.

DISCUSSION

In each service agreement noted above, the organization has agreed to provide and ensure a committed level of ongoing community access to their facility or overall community benefit, and in return HRM has provided a one-time capital cost contribution to enable initial construction or recapitalization of these facilities.

The Sackville and District Community Arena was constructed under the leadership of the LDRA for the specific usage of the community as implied in the facility name. The facility's mandate is to provide service to the community and has done so since it was constructed in 1971. Since the facility is already in operation and its main purpose is to serve the community, there is no requirement for an agreement with HRM.

Further, creation of an agreement would not permit consideration of funding for LDRA on an annual basis for capital repair funds through the normal HRM Capital Budget process. Annual capital funding allocations through the municipal budget are designated for municipality owned facilities, pursuant to the HRM Charter. As a result, allocations from HRM's capital budget are not able to be provided to privately owned facilities regardless of the facility type. HRM does provide funding support to not for profits that own and operate facilities as part of their service through the Community Grants Program. The LDRA has successfully applied in the past to the annual Community Grants Program and would be eligible to do so again in the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> 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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