

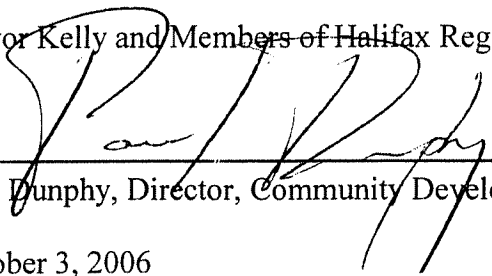
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Halifax Regional Council
October 3, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

DATE: October 3, 2006

SUBJECT: **HRM Facility Lease & Program Agreement: Contributions Fund
2006/07 Awards - Community & Neighbourhood Facilities**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates with staff of Community Development and outlines the Contributions Fund Program and the interim criteria to be used for the 2006/07 fiscal year as per funding approved in the 2006/07 departmental operating budget.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, Regional Council approved the creation of a program to provide funding assistance to registered non-profit community groups operating HRM-owned recreation facilities on the municipality's behalf. These operating arrangements currently fall under management or lease agreements. The aim of funding in fiscal year 2006/07 is to stabilize operations for facilities in the Neighbourhood & Community Category identified in the HRM Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2004). Twenty-four neighbourhood and community facilities were identified by staff as potential participants in the 2006/07 pilot project.

DISCUSSION

Interim Funding Criteria

The aim of the *Contributions Fund* is to provide financial support to community partners who provide recreation and leisure opportunities to the general public under contract to HRM through a facility management or lease agreement.

In this first year of the program, not all facilities have the record-keeping capacity and/or type of information intended to form the basis of a quantitative assessment of (a) eligibility, (b) risk, (c) need, and (d) service delivery. Therefore, as *an interim measure* staff have developed a simplified approach that relies primarily upon meetings with facility operators, councillors and HRM staff.

The interim measure will utilize the following criteria for eligibility:

- recreation amenities/programs that align with HRM's mandate
- current Board status
- Board capacity required to conduct "Board business"
- a financial account with a recognized institution
- status of any debt to HRM

Some facilities have been deemed not able to meet this criteria and will not be eligible for further assistance. For those deemed eligible, the majority of the funding shall then be distributed primarily based upon the size of the facility for the first year.

The remainder (30%) will be held separately as a discretionary service enhancement subsidy to address public safety, service quality, priority program development, and any emergency contingency. This will be distributed based on request and will be driven by financial needs.

Unless Council directs otherwise, staff shall proceed utilizing the above interim measures to allocate funding for 2006/07 and will report back to Council in two weeks with the results.

2007/08 Funding Criteria

Staff are continuing to develop more detailed and performance driven eligibility criteria, policy and procedures for 2007/08. This will be brought back to Regional Council later this fall ahead of the 2007/08 budget cycle. Other classifications of facilities may be recommended for inclusion in successive years pending an evaluation of this year's pilot project.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Staff will return in two weeks with the final funding assistance allocation for 2006/07 based on the interim funding criteria outlined in this report.
2. Council could disagree with the staff interim funding allocation criteria. If this is the case, staff should be notified in the next two weeks prior to allocating funding with any changes to the process or criteria to be used.

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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