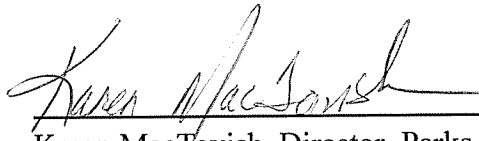

Halifax Regional Council
November 19, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Karen MacTavish, Director, Parks and Recreation Services

DATE: November 12, 2002

SUBJECT: **Access to Scotia Learning P3 School Athletic Fields -Dartmouth United Soccer Club Petition**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Request by Councillor Warshick at the Halifax Regional Council meeting of October 1, 2002 to acknowledge receipt of petition from Dartmouth United Soccer Club.

BACKGROUND

The Dartmouth United Soccer Club has served the youth of the former City of Dartmouth for many years. The Club in conjunction with the Municipality and the associated Metro/Provincial Leagues, are always looking for various opportunities to provide practice and game facilities to accommodate the growth of the sport. One opportunity that has arisen is the potential to use the sport fields that were developed at the P3 School sites located within HRM.

The Club presented a petition with nine hundred and forty-five (945) signatures supporting the efforts of HRM and the Province to secure access of the sport fields owned by Scotia Learning for use by their Club. The schools in question include Eastern Passage Education Centre, Portland Estates, and Ecole Bois Joli. These fields are not presently available to the general public.

DISCUSSION

Staff have been in discussion with Scotia Learning on a potential agreement to enable HRM to maintain and schedule the sport fields adjacent to their schools. Last year the Province, HRSB informed HRM that the fields had not been accepted as being built to standard and that the Province and Scotia Learning were in arbitration regarding community access (both indoor and outdoor) to Scotia Learning P3 schools. HRM / Scotia Learning discussions regarding field access have slowed to stand still while awaiting the arbitrator's ruling and final acceptance of field construction. This summer P3 fields were reconstructed and all but two fields were accepted as to standard. The arbitrator's ruling is expected within one month.

Recently Scotia Learning met with the Mayor, Councillor Goucher and CAO, George McLellan to reiterate their desire to have HRM take over maintenance and scheduling of their P3 fields. HRM has agreed to continue discussions but to proceed slowly until the arbitration ruling is delivered and understood.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

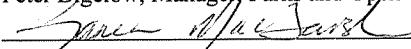
N/A

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jim Naugler, Regional Coordinator, Parks and Open Spaces, 490-4631

Peter Bigelow, Manager, Parks and Open Spaces, 490-6047

Report Approved by:


Karen MacTavish, Director Parks and Recreation