

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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### HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

April 8, 2008

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Robert Harvey  
Reg Rankin  
Gary Meade

**REGRETS:**

Councillors: Krista Snow  
Gloria McCluskey  
Brad Johns

**STAFF:**

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**3. SHORT TERM ARENA CAPACITY STRATEGY**

C A presentation dated March 2008, Short Term Arena Capacity Strategy was before Council.

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development introduced Mr. John Lindsay Jr., Chair of the Facility Master Plan Steering Committee, to Council.

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development, and Ms. Betty Lou Killen, Development and Planning with Community Development, presented the *Short Term Arena Strategy* to Council.

The presentation focused on:

- C Short Term Strategy
  - C Deal with Immediate Deficit & Risks Now
  - C Deal with Growing Demand & Aging Ice Surfaces Later
- C 21 Ice Surfaces - 22 Minimum - 25 Goal
  - C 3 Ice Surfaces at Risk of Increasing Shortage to 18
  - C 3 Configurations: Single, Double & Quad
- C 2 Development Models:
  - C Traditional Municipal
  - C RFP for Partnership
- C RFP & Partnership Preferred Model in Current Circumstance

Next steps:

- C Ongoing Costing of Municipal Option
- C Develop RFP Model & Review with Council
- C Finalize RFP and Issue
- C Review RFP Results and Municipal Options with Council
- C Depending Upon Council's Choice
  - C Design & Tender; or

- C Negotiate with Selected RFP Proponent
- C Budget for Either Option Required in 08/09

Upon completion of the presentation, discussion ensued among Council with the following points coming forward:

Councillor Younger inquired as to the feasibility of having two different companies building the arenas at the same time to facilitate the process. He also asked if the option of building an arena in conjunction with a business such as a hotel, restaurant or fitness centre as an example, would be feasible. The Councillor also noted that any facility must be energy efficient. Mr. Dunphy addressed Council advising that all options will be considered. At this point staff are addressing the short term arena deficit and will continue with longer term planning. In regard to the question of building an arena with a business, the staff concern is whether such a plan could deliver HRM inventory. Energy efficiency will definitely be addressed in the short term and longer term initiatives.

Councillor Meade inquired if each surface will have different seating capacities. The Councillor also asked if the host community will end up paying the difference if there is a funding shortfall. Ms. Killen advised that this arena will be considered a regional facility and funding would be a regional issue. She advised that different ice surfaces would probably have different seating capacities.

Councillor Harvey added annual recapitalization will be a large issue and one of the biggest challenges. Mr. Dunphy replied that the Facility Masterplan will be addressing recapitalization and this is one of the criteria to be evaluated. The Facility Masterplan will also look at standardizing facilities within HRM as many inconsistencies now exist in this area.

In response to a query by Councillor Karsten, Ms. Killen advised that staff recommendations will come back to Council in early September.

Councillor Mosher noted that there is a need for facility standardization and that these facilities need to meet the population base.

In response to Councillor Walker's request on a location, Mr. Dunphy advised that there has been no determination at this point. This will be addressed in the RFP, the proponent may have interest in supplying a site. Councillor Walker added that many of HRM's arenas are in good condition, and many have already had some work and upgrades completed.

Deputy Mayor Adams raised concern that Option 1 is not being considered in the short term. Deputy Mayor Adams added he is requesting that Option 1 be considered when the report comes back from staff and that Option 1 be added to the motion.

Councillor Murphy advised that accessibility and affordability need to be addressed. Facility upkeep must be considered as the plans move forward. The Councillor inquired if there were any discussions with the Military in regard to facility partnering with them. Mr. Dunphy added that there are some discussions taking place with the Military as part of the Facilities Masterplan.

Councillor Wile also noted that accessibility is important. Mr. Dunphy advised that the short term goal is to construct a regional facility for HRM residents. It has been determined that most residents consider a 20-30 minute travel time as reasonable for facility access. Councillor Wile also advised that other sports, such as curling, need ice space as well.

Councillor Hendsbee added that HRM needs an international ice surface and this should be taken into consideration. Ms. Killen replied that this is being considered.

Councillor Smith added that HRM needs to get a true knowledge of demand. Ice time is at a premium, and HRM knows of some demand as it turns clients away. Many groups are not asking for ice time as they know the lack of availability.

Council were in agreement that this must move forward as soon as possible in order to meet community needs.

**MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council request staff develop RFP Model for Configuration Options 2 & 3, and information on the feasibility of Option 1 and return to Council for review prior to finalizing RFP. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Acting Municipal Clerk