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Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No. 6**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 22, 2023**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed

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Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 29, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Lockview High School All-Weather Field Track

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

June 28, 2022 Regional Council meeting motion (item 15.2.1):

**MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Austin.**

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report to advance the development of an all-weather field and running track located in the area of Lockview High School by the Municipality, as outlined in the proposal from the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, and including reviews and investigations of:
  - a. The suitability of the site;
  - b. The funding as outlined in the proposal, including that 80% the proposed funds be directly from the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee, and the Provincial and Federal governments;
  - c. The ability to enter into suitable arrangements with the HRCE/Province of Nova Scotia; and
  - d. Opportunities to partner with Indigenous community leadership; and
2. Pending the outcomes of the reviews and investigations of the suitability of developing the proposed all-weather field and running track at Lockview High School, identify the project within future capital, operational budgets and business plans and include it in Provincial and Federal funding applications. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

November 8, 2022 Regional Council In Camera meeting motion (item 17.6):

**MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Blackburn**

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to submit an application for ICIP funding for the Lockview High School project for a total project budget amount of \$4.9M, with a maximum contribution of 23% from HRM, a minimum contribution of \$213,000 from the community and the balance from PNS and ICIP funding for a recreation facility that may include an all-weather sports field, running track and indigenous programming space, as generally based on the community proposal;
2. Direct the CAO to include the HRM share of costs in the upcoming capital budget;
3. Direct the CAO to engage with the community group for any additional funding to support the project, as may be required; and
4. Authorize the CAO to negotiate and execute any agreements in support of the project as required.

**This in camera report was declassified on November 23, 2022.**

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

### ***Halifax Regional Municipality Charter 79A Municipal Expenditures***

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if
- (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality

## **BACKGROUND**

Lockview High School, in the community of Fall River, is comprised of a school building, parking areas, open space, and a grass sports field with a gravel track (Attachment A). HRM is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the sports field under a Service Exchange Agreement (SEA) with Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE).

### **All-Weather Field Proposal**

The HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee (Turf Committee) is a community group formed to advocate to government for the redevelopment of the grass sports field and gravel track at Lockview High School into an all-weather field and rubberized running track, and to include an Indigenous teaching and recreation space. The Turf Committee has also committed to raise funds toward the project.

The Turf Committee proposed that this project would be aligned with funding programs to increase recreational activity participation within the community and would be mutually beneficial for high school and community athletic programs, as well as general recreation. On June 28, 2022, Regional Council directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare a staff report on the following matters related to the project:

- suitability of the site;
- confirmation of the proposed funding model;
- confirmation of the necessary agreements to operate the field on Provincial lands;
- confirmation of opportunities to partner with Indigenous community leadership for the project; and
- funding for the proposed project as well as operational costs, pending favourable confirmation of the above.

The Turf Committee has continued to advocate for the project with elected representatives.

### **Direction of Regional Council**

While preparing the staff report based on the June 28, 2022 direction of Regional Council, the Turf Committee developed updated costing for the project, which they submitted to the Provincial Government. Based on this updated costing the Province of Nova Scotia contacted HRM in the Fall of 2022 regarding a funding opportunity for this project. The province required a decision prior to the staff report completion date.

The funding opportunity was discussed and approved by Regional Council on November 8, 2022, with direction to the CAO to undertake the following:

- submit an application for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding, for a total project amount of \$4,900,000, of which a maximum contribution of 23% would be from HRM;
- include project costs in 2023/24 Capital Budget;
- engage with Turf Committee on the funding required to undertake project; and
- negotiate and execute agreements in support of the project.

The approval and updated direction of Regional Council means the June 28, 2022 requested staff report is no longer necessary. The remainder of this report is an update on the advancement of the Lockview High School field redevelopment project.

## **DISCUSSION**

Since the November 8, 2022 approval of Regional Council, the following steps have been taken to advance the Lockview project:

- inclusion of funding for facility design in 2023/24 Capital Budget;
- an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) application has been submitted and approved;
- a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been drafted for design services and cost estimates;
- negotiations for land lease have commenced;
- permissions for access to the site are advancing;
- preliminary discussions about the prospective Indigenous teaching and recreation space are occurring; and
- engagement with Turf Committee relative to fundraising is ongoing.

It is anticipated that the following project milestones will be met in order to support the timely delivery of the project:

- due diligence and design RFP drafted and tendered - summer 2023;
- due diligence and design - fall 2023 / winter 2024;
- lease agreement for lands - late fall 2023;
- construction tender – spring/summer 2024; and
- construction - summer 2024/25

The current construction labour and supply market is impacting the timing and cost of many construction projects. In recognition of this, the Lockview High School field redevelopment project's timing and costs are being monitored, including regular communications with stakeholders, and with the province on the ICIP funding.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Project funding for design is available in the 2023/24 Capital Budget from Project Account No. CP200001 – Park Recapitalization. The budget availability has been confirmed by Finance. Funding has been planned in the four-year budget in project CP210013 – Park Development, for the municipal portion of the funding agreement to undertake construction in 2024/25 and 2025/26 fiscal. HRM's estimated portion of the construction cost is \$1,127,000.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There was no community engagement in the development of this report. There is ongoing community engagement for the project that is primarily with the Turf Committee as the project proponent. Additional engagement is ongoing with Halifax Regional Centre for Education and other Provincial Departments regarding land leasing, funding, and other aspects of the field redevelopment.

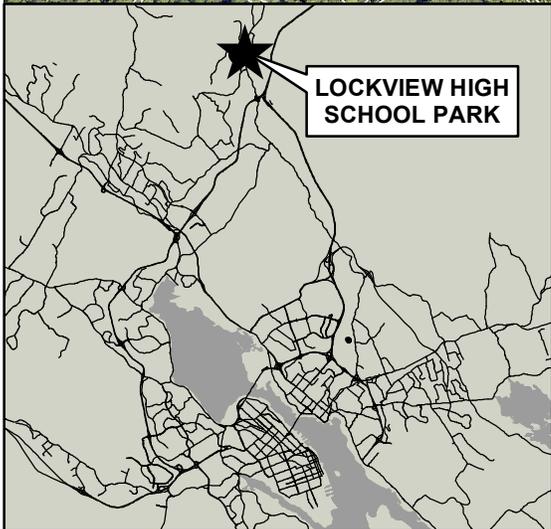
## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A Lockview High School Site Map

A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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## LOCKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL PARK SITE OVERVIEW

 Lockview High School Park - Provincially Owned Land Parcels



**HALIFAX**  
Parks & Recreation  
Policy & Planning

0 40 80  
Meters