

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017		
Subject: Lacrosse facilities		
<p>Motion for Regional Council to consider:</p> <p>THAT Halifax Regional Council: Request a staff report assessing the need and feasibility of establishing both indoor and outdoor box lacrosse facilities.</p> <p>Reason: Correspondence from staff: "Staff assessed the property between the Metropolitan Field and Leslie Thomas Jr. High for an Open Lacrosse Box as suggested by the Wolves Lacrosse Association. Due to the steep slope between the Metropolitan Field and the upper soccer field, staff feel it is not a feasible site on which to construct an Open Lacrosse Box facility.</p> <p>The sport field was also considered; however, it is a scheduled field used for soccer and therefore not an option for conversion. The field is currently booked Monday to Friday from 6-9 p.m. from June 1st to August 24th for soccer.</p> <p>There is an underutilized Lacrosse Box in Highfield Park (Doug Knickle) that could serve the needs of this group, however, it does require upgrades.</p> <p>If the facility in Dartmouth was deemed to be unfavourable, then we would need to consider opportunity sites for a new facility through a planning process. The recent Community Facility Master Plan (CFMP) does not speak to the need for an Open Lacrosse Box facility."</p> <p>Correspondence from Lacrosse community: "Right now, we can only get into the Bowles, Gray, LeBrun, Devonshire and Spryfield Arenas in time for the start of our box lacrosse season, May 1-July 15. Of those arenas, Devonshire can only be used for practice. We do get some home game time at Musquodoboit Arena for the Eastern Shore Club teams. We get some floor time from the first of June at Sackville Arena and the Forum, as of last year. You can see why I am so worried about losing the rinks in Dartmouth. The Dartmouth Bandits have the largest lacrosse club in Metro. We have not had good luck with BMO since it was opened, either. They wouldn't take ice out and we managed to only get time after the first of June for one season. Often, the problem we face there and St. Margaret Arena is shut downs for repairs and maintenance. This year, BMO offered one of the floors that you can't really seat the parents/fans in.</p>		

With so much unknown for the future of our sport in the Halifax Region, the bulk of our registrants, our community is very nervous. We register at least 1000 kids to young adults and older adults each season in Metro. The reason that I sent this mass email to all of you is to do everything I can, as a long time hockey, and now lacrosse volunteer, to preserve our sport, Canada's Official Summer Sport, in Nova Scotia. Our community feels that we need to do everything we can to survive and I feel it is very important to make our views known in as positive way as we possible can.

I appreciate all of this input and I would be happy to meet with Mr. Mancini to learn more about any plans. I am more than willing to meet with anyone at any time about this issue.”

“As the President of Lacrosse Nova Scotia, I am writing this letter to make you aware on ongoing concerns that the lacrosse community in the municipality of Halifax has with regard to the lack of availability of arena dry floor time for our sport. In past years, I volunteered my time on the Long Term Arena Strategy Committee and was re-assured by the support that this committee included in the final submission to Council in August of 2012.

In April of 2016, I was invited to a meeting of potential users of the new 4-pad arena build in Dartmouth. At that meeting, it was made clear that it was unlikely that box lacrosse would have access to dry floor time at the new complex. That was disappointing but I was still hopeful that our sport would be accommodated, either through usage of a decommissioned arena or by providing greater access to dry floor time in other area arenas. Our sport has received no follow-up on that possibility.

This year, upon making inquiries about booking for the upcoming spring season, we have been told that we may lose some of our traditional floor time, which is already at a premium, due to rink closures for capital improvements. If the sport of lacrosse loses the minimal floor time that we have traditionally been given, we will be at risk of losing players and our sport. Our volunteers at all levels, club, league and provincial, work hard to maintain our registration numbers. Our biggest deterrent to growth is not having enough arena floor time to practice and play on during the time of year that we don't compete with the larger sports.

We are asking for you to support the sport of lacrosse. Please support children being given multi-sport access. In your deliberations on arena closures, please understand that arenas are not only valued for their ice. There are sports that need access to their cement floors. In this 150th Anniversary of Lacrosse Year, Canada's Official Summer Sport should be given high priority and it would be particularly sad to find ourselves in future, without the arena access that we need.”

Outcome Sought:

Options to improve existing lacrosse facilities access and increased lacrosse facilities in HRM.