

Halifax Forum Community Association  
2016/2017 Annual Managers Report  
May 2017

**Forward:**

We began our fiscal year with a \$48,238 accumulated surplus and \$302,067 in our equipment reserve. This is the first year since 2004 that the Forum has not been in a deficit position.

In April 2016, the Halifax Forum Community Association's directors were as follows: Chairman George Findlay, Vice Chairman Terry Gallagher, Mr. Ted Fowler, Mr. Blair Landry, Councillor Jennifer Watts, Mr. Hap Hanson, Mr. George Hallett, Mr. Tom Abraham, Mr. Paul Card, Mr. George Fox and Mr. Wayne O'Brien.

Councillor Watts did not re-offer in the October 2016 municipal election. The successful candidate in District 8 Mr. Lindell Smith was appointed to the board, by council in November 2016.

The board passed a motion in January 2016 deferring any board composition changes until after the Governance Report on Multi District Facilities has been released. Although expected in 2016, the governance report has yet to be presented to council.

**Re-development:**

Our redevelopment project despite the lack of action remained the most significant undertaking in the current fiscal year. This redevelopment project necessitates the continuation of another fiscal year with no capital funding, and difficulty committing to any long-term contracts. Although the loss of long-term contracts is important, the lack of funding to re-invest in our infrastructure is devastating. The MPC is in need of a face lift, and its condition restricts our advertising potential and the ability to project an adequate, attractive facility for some events. In January 2017 the interior MPC was painted and the washrooms updated, but this is only a short-term band-aid improvement

The original redevelopment time table proposed a September 2016 construction tender, September 2017 start date and a September 2019 opening date. With the lack of progress, there is no chance of a September 2019 opening.

The tender for an external peer review of the Forum's business case closed May 5, 2016 with a 60 day time limit. The HFCA thought this timing was problematic and would not reach council prior to the October election. Six months later the peer review has still not been presented to council.

Stantec was awarded the contract for the peer review and met with staff and the re-development committee in June and July 2016, with a projected completion date of August 22, 2016. The two reports (peer review and internal structural review) were completed sometime in late 2016. Early in 2017, HFCA was advised that Parks and Recreation staff are using these reports as the basis for an upcoming report to council.

In February 2017 the HFCA heard through allnovascotia.com and the CBC that the projected has been officially delayed a year, and that any report to council may not happen until June 2017

### **Introduction:**

2016/2017 was a tremendously successful financial year. Although audited figures are not yet available we increased our contribution to our reserve account and still had an operating surplus. (Strikingly similar to 2015/2016)

### **HRM/Governance**

Forum staff met with HRM in June 2016, and the board received the new Multi –District principles on July 29, 2016.

In last year's report the governance report to council was scheduled to be presented in June 2016. It was since postponed to September 6, then September 20, then November 22...

The Mutli District Facility Project Plan went to council December 13, 2016. This plan is to provide the basis for new management agreements. Board Chairman was informed that the first draft would be ready for February 2017...

### **Budget / Capital Projects:**

We proposed 4.1 million balanced budget.

There was no capital funding in 2016/2017 as we await the re-development project.

### **Reserve Funding:**

The Forum continues to fund an equipment reserve account

**Ice Rentals:**

Youth Prime time ice rates at the Forum and Civic have remained the same since 2012, with our \$190 rate now being well below the norm in HRM, only Devonshire offer a less expensive rate. The average ice rental rate in HRM has increased to \$226. Examples of prime time rates in selected HRM arenas are as follows:

<b><u>Facility</u></b>	<b><u>Prime</u></b>	<b><u>Youth</u></b>
BMO	277.00	224.25
Dartmouth Sportsplex	231.00	231.00
Sackville Sports Stadium	225.00	225.00
St. Margaret's Centre	230.00	230.00
Halifax Forum (Civic)	215.00	190.00

A report went to Council in March 2016, recommending that a consistent fee structure for ice surfaces be included with the study of all recreation fees. This HRM project was not actioned in 2016, and has met with some opposition from arena's and minor hockey organizations.

HRM is looking at an arena based booking and payment system. An information report went to Council in February 2016. This report originated in 2012, and at that time included a centralized scheduling process. This report has not been actioned. The Forum has been using a web-based booking and payment system with tremendous success since November 2012.

**Bingo:**

In May 2014 the board received a staff report predicting a future growth in bingo revenue and plans to enhance our operations to help achieve and sustain this growth. The Loyalty program, cosmic bingo, community groups and this year's Chase the Ball are all examples of enhancements that contribute to a successful bingo.

Personal electronic verifiers (electronic bingo) are in use at the native bingos in Nova Scotia and have been approved on a trial basis at the Oakhill Fire Station (Bridgewater.) The Forum and Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame have a meeting scheduled for May 2017 with NS Dept. of Alcohol and Gaming seeking electronic bingo approval.

**Expenses:**

Operating expenses this year were exactly the same as last year.

### **Capital:**

No capital funding this year, awaiting the re-development project.

### **Non-Routine Special:**

Again this years projects were kept to emergency repairs and more specifically occupational Health and safety projects. Projects included paving, painting, remodelled washrooms, roof repairs, and occupational health and safety projects: protective light covers, portable eye wash stations, repair steel MPC column, lead paint removal, media booth renovations, roof repairs, new shipping container, and fall protection safety hand-rails.

### **Mechanical Equipment/Vehicle Repairs:**

Our Olympia ordered in September 2015 arrived December 2016. Once we begin using the machine our repair bills for our 2005 Zamboni, should be almost eliminated we are keeping the machine as a back up.)

Our 2010 Olympia is fast approaching its “best before” date and following past practices, the Forum will ask HRM Parks and Recreation to replace the machine through its fleet replacement policy.

The potential closing of several HRM arenas with the opening of the Dartmouth 4 pad could make available several surplus machines.

### **Other:**

### **Parking:**

In June 2016 the Forum contracted One Shot Parking to manage the parking aspect of our parking lot. Revenue has increased and the volume of un-authorized parking has decreased.

### **OHS:**

In June 2016 the Forum received a report from HRM’s Health and Safety Dept. listing 88 required opportunities for improvement at the Forum. Many of these items were housekeeping in nature others were capital. As previously stated much of our non-routine special costs were related to these opportunities. At year end 85 of 88 items have been completed. With the three remaining items awaiting Forum renovations ie:

1. Increase height of Forum walls in seating areas
2. Install a permanent means of accessing the Forum roof
3. Redesign hallways and stairs in media booths

Sincerely submitted,

A.M. Driscoll, General Manager  
Halifax Forum Community Association