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Item No. 13.2.2
Halifax and West Community Council
June 27, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of the Halifax and West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original signed
Tom Musial, Chair of Western Common Advisory Committee

DATE: May 29, 2017

SUBJECT: Western Common Regional Park Signage

ORIGIN

Motion from the May 24, 2017 Western Common Advisory Committee meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 5(b) of the Terms of Reference of the Western Common Advisory Committee states:

*The Municipality's management of the Western Common will be guided by the following objectives:
(b) the provisions of access to sustainable wilderness recreation through improvements and programs;*

Section 6(b) of the Terms of Reference of the Western Common Advisory Committee states:

The Committee shall monitor the phased development of the Western Common and advise Council, through the Halifax and West Community Council, on the community perspective of the implementation of the Master Plan as follows:

(b) the Committee shall advise Council on environmental sustainability in the Park, including:

- (i) public access and wilderness recreation programming;*
- (ii) impact of land uses, within and adjacent to the Western Common, on the Park;*
- (iii) ecological diversity and connectivity;*
- (iv) cultural landscapes; and*
- (v) park operational matters.*

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Halifax and West Community Council recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to post signage at major entry points to the Western Common Regional Park; the signs to include the name of the park, a phone number or e-mail address for obtaining more information, and listing some of the basic rules of conduct within the park.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Western Common Advisory Committee reviewed Chapter 6 of the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan at a special meeting of April 5, 2017. The Committee confirmed that the Western Common Regional Park not only serves Municipal residents from all districts but also welcomes visitors and tourists from away. The Committee also recognized that signage would not only help all visitors derive maximum benefit from the major features of the Park but also allow them to report incidents that require attention or remediation.

Leave-No-Trace principles are well-known, widely published and can be reproduced on the designated website. The following wording was suggested, but the Committee welcomed the recommendation of staff for other wordings.



Accordingly, a motion was passed at the Committee's May 24, 2017 meeting recommending Halifax and West Community Council recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to post signage at major entry points to the Western Common Regional Park; the signs to include the name of the park, a phone number or e-mail address for obtaining more information, and listing some of the basic rules of conduct within the park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications will need to be identified by staff in a future report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk considerations will need to be identified by staff in a future report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Western Common Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the Halifax and West Community Council and is comprised of eight members of the public and one appointed member of Halifax and West Common Council. The meetings are open to the public and the agendas and minutes are posted online in advance of the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications will need to be identified by staff in a future report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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