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Item No. 15.3.2
Halifax Regional Council
August 6, 2024

TO: Mayor Savage Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Councillor Cuttell, Chair, Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

DATE: July 18, 2024

SUBJECT: Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre Proposal for George Street Property Acquisition

ORIGIN

July 18, 2024 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, Item 10.3.1.

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report to evaluate and provide options in response to the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre request related to 2A George Street, Sackville.

BACKGROUND

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee received a presentation from Pam Glode-Desrochers, Executive Director of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and Cody Parker, VP of Operations, Wolves Lacrosse Association dated July 18, 2024 to a proposal for the acquisition of property located at 2A George Street, Sackville for the construction of a multi-use facility.

For further information refer to the attached presentation dated July 18, 2024.

DISCUSSION

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee considered the presentation and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be explored in a future staff report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration will be explored in a future staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications will be explored in a future staff report.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives will be explored in a future staff report.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee – Terms of Reference Oversight – Planning

3. The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee shall provide oversight of the Municipality's Regional Plan and Regional Planning Initiatives, as follows:
 - a. overseeing the Municipality's Regional Plan and Regional Planning Initiatives;
 - b. reviewing and recommending to the Council the scope of the five-year Regional Plan reviews including roles of sub committees;
 - c. co-ordinating with the other Standing Committees on major Regional Plan initiatives;
 - d. being involved in developing the Municipality's approach to public participation programs for various planning processes such as regional and municipal planning strategy amendments; and
 - e. overseeing the priority setting relative to the Community Visioning Program, Functional Plan Implementation and major planning projects.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Extract from the July 18, 2024 Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Draft Minutes.
Attachment 2 – Presentation dated July 18, 2024.

Extract of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Draft Minutes – July 18, 2024

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre Proposal for George Street Property Acquisition

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Presentation request dated July 2, 2024
- Presentation dated July 18, 2024

Pam Glode-Desrochers, Executive Director of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and Cody Parker, VP of Operations, Wolves Lacrosse Association gave a presentation. Glode-Desrochers, Parker and Steve Brown, President Wolves Lacrosse Association responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report to evaluate and provide options in response to the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre request related to 2A George Street, Sackville.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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Mi'kmaw Native
FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

Proposal for Sackville Community Hub

PID #00351676

2A GEORGE STREET, LOWER SACKVILLE

The Request

To have the property at 2A George Street, Sackville, Nova Scotia transferred to the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society to create a community hub for Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members.

This new Indigenous led Project will partner with the Wolves Lacrosse Association to build a community hub that will include two indoor lacrosse pads for the use of the Association. This would be the first dedicated lacrosse facility east of Montreal.

The Society has a support letter from the Thunderbirds that states they are looking at having this site as their practice space along with potentially housing their offices. The Society will own and operate the building while creating a long-term MOU with the Wolves Lacrosse Association to ensure that the community has access to the lacrosse pads for generations to come.

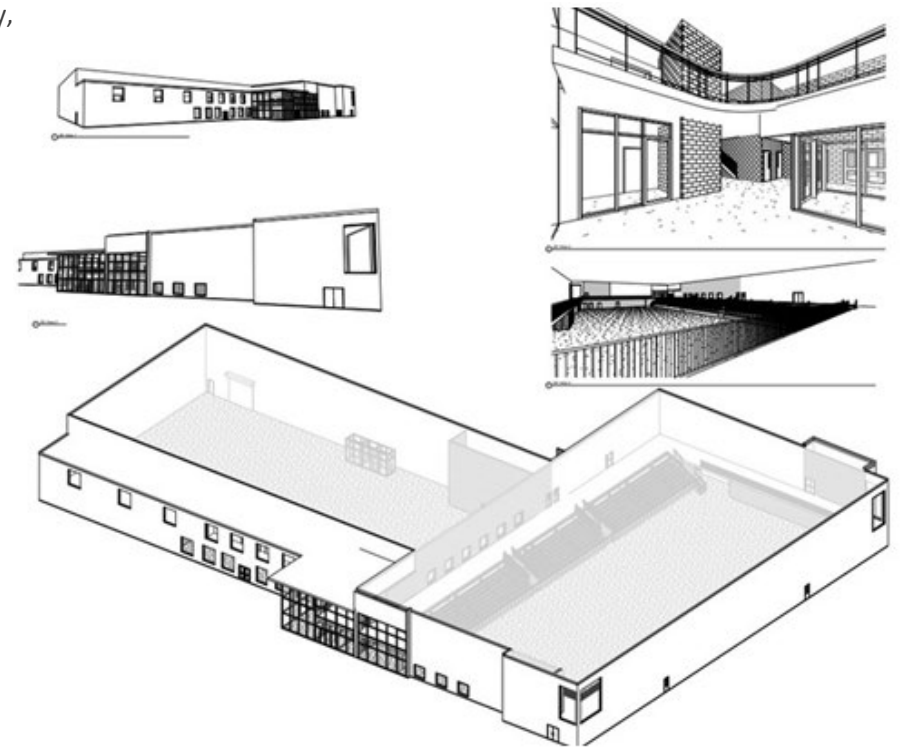
The Society is extremely pleased to be partnering with the Wolves Lacrosse Association as this is a natural fit to ensuring that Indigenous Knowledge and traditions are upheld. Lacrosse is a traditional Indigenous sport that once held very significant place in our communities. The Society would like to help in the preservation and growth of such a deeply rooted tradition for our communities and to help the sport grow outside in Indigenous communities.



The Facility

An investment in a multi-level +/- 75,000 sf recreational facility that will help ensure families continue to stay, live, work and play in the Sackville community. Each component contributes to a sustainable non-profit operating budget. Conceptual designs include:

- ❖ Indigenous Cultural and Traditional Spaces
- ❖ Two official sized dry floor surfaces
- ❖ Accessible spectator seating
- ❖ Inclusive dressing room facilities
- ❖ In-door walking track
- ❖ Community fitness center
- ❖ Multi-use recreational spaces
- ❖ Community meeting and cultural program rooms.
- ❖ Retail component
- ❖ Office space
- ❖ Daycare facility
- ❖ Primary Health Care services



Renderings to follow..





 harvey
Architecture



harvey
Architecture




harvey
Architecture



 harvey
Architecture



 harvey
Architecture



The Location

The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship is celebrating 51+ years of operating within the downtown of Halifax. With this experience and knowledge there has been pressures to look at satellite offices for on going programs and services for urban Indigenous Peoples. Sackville has been identified as a real gap for urban Indigenous community members being able to access culturally appropriate programming. This location is a natural next step for the Society.

The Wolves Lacrosse Association is celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2024. The Association has made their den in Sackville for all of these 50 years. For the last 50 years the Association has been having to travel all over the province in order to find floor time and are very limited into a compressed season to play and grow the sport. Despite this challenge the Wolves have continued to grow and are limited in this only through access to a community pad for lacrosse.

The Society would also like to acknowledged that we have two other opportunities to help address the needs of community. The first is that Nova Scotia Health has identified the need for a location in Sackville for an accessible location for Primary Health Care services. They have a timeline of 2-3 years to achieve this out come.

We have also been working with the Wolves and the Thunderbirds to not only allow for the Wolves to grow but to also provide a home for the Thunderbirds. One where they can hold practices and provide potential office space for their staff. Sackville provides a unique opportunity for community access and for improved services for Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members.



The Society

Our Mission:

- ❖ To improve the lives of Indigenous peoples living in an urban environment through social and cultural programming.

Our Mandate:

- ❖ to operate our Friendship Centre for the use and benefit of Indigenous peoples
- ❖ to assist Indigenous peoples to adjust to an urban environment
- ❖ to promote the educational, cultural and economic advancement of Indigenous peoples
- ❖ to assist in locating shelter for Indigenous peoples in the Halifax/Dartmouth Regional area
- ❖ to encourage the active participation of Indigenous peoples in all aspects of society
- ❖ to create mutual understanding and positive relations between Indigenous peoples and others
- ❖ to work with government and other organizations with similar aims to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples.

Continued..

Our Values:

The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society creates an environment of inclusiveness, openness, transparency and accountability. We value our culture and are committed to working in a respectful way that is responsive to the needs of our community and fosters their active participation in everything we do.

Overview of Center:

The Society opened its doors on September 17, 1972, and was incorporated June 02, 1973. It is one of 126 Friendship Centers across Canada. The Society is a non-profit, Indigenous board governed organization that currently operates 60+ programs. Each program is mandated to deliver its core service but are also supported in developing proposals for projects and initiatives that expand and enhance programs and services in innovative ways. The Board of Director's must be 95% Indigenous and are elected every two years by the community. In 2022 2023 the Society serviced over 7,500 urban Indigenous clients.

History:

- ❖ 1972 - Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Center is opened
- ❖ 1973 - Located on Harris Street, Halifax
- ❖ 1975 - Incorporation of the Society
- ❖ 1977 - moved to Brunswick Street, Halifax
- ❖ 1984 - moved to our current location at 2158 Gottingen Street, Halifax
- 2021 - interim move to Brunswick Street
- 2026 - EXPECTED to move to our new home



The Wolves

The Wolves Lacrosse Organization is a not-for-profit community organization operated by a Volunteer Board serving the community of Sackville, Bedford, Fall River and East Hants. The Wolves lacrosse organization is proposing a development of the first dry floor lacrosse facility to be built in Sackville, NS. As one of the only indoor dry floor lacrosse facilities in HRM, our proposed facility plays a large role in the sustainability and future growth of our sport. The new facility will be designed to operate in a financially sustainable manner while respecting the impact on the surrounding environment.

50+

Years of operations

450+

Minor members

2+

Junior A Teams & Junior B Team

100+

Tykes registered Annually



Our Partners

Nova Scotia Health – To align with their strategic initiatives of accessible community health care and “More Healthcare Faster”, Nova Scotia Health has expressed interest, including a letter of intent to house Primary Health Care services within the facility.



Halifax Thunderbirds - The Halifax Thunderbirds are a professional box lacrosse team located in Halifax, Nova Scotia. With the sport of lacrosse growing at such a rapid pace, they would be able to provide year-round training and programs at the facility.



*Letter of Intent and Support to be provided if applicable.

In Conclusion

The Society would like to create a gathering place where friendships and social networks are built. The need to be treating social infrastructure as ways to build healthy, inclusive community gathering spaces is imperative for future development of our cities. The Society is a leader within our communities, and it looks to build on UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples) Articles, TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) Calls to Action and the MIIWIWG (Missing Indigenous Women and Girls) Calls to Action for Indigenous peoples and our communities to provide safe access to community spaces for our community. We also believe that we are in a time of change where many community members need access to a safe community space. This project can bring us together to provide such a unique space. This gathering of two organizations – one Indigenous and one non-Indigenous is TRC at its best. With the support from the Halifax Regional Municipality, we can build better and stronger social infrastructure that will allow for a community to have access to culturally appropriate programming while building opportunities for the growth of the sport of Lacrosse. We all win as a community. This support will help by building stronger, better and healthier communities.

This is an opportunity to build a center for increasing access to better health promotions, wellness opportunities, providing access to education opportunities, and may provide the opportunity to build out a culturally appropriated early childhood education through an Aboriginal Headstart and Daycare. The Society is looking to enhance the quality of life for those individuals who live work and play in the Sackville area. The development will help bridge the gap for urban Indigenous peoples while also helping to bridge the gaps in access for all of Sackville. This project also supports the need for the sport of Lacrosse to continue to grow, provide a home to the Thunderbirds Lacrosse Team and providing space for Nova Scotia Health to grow and expand services for health care.