



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 21, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Chair  
Councillor Janet Steele, Vice Chair  
Councillor Trish Purdy  
Councillor Jean St-Amand

**REGRETS:** Councillor Becky Kent  
Councillor Patty Cuttell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Councillor Laura White

**STAFF:** Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation  
William Hatfield, Solicitor  
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 26, 2025**

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Steele

**THAT the minutes of June 26, 2025 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Steele, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**

**8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – June 26, 2025**

**8.1 Park Steward Program**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated June 10, 2025
- Staff presentation dated August 21, 2025

Richard Harvey, Manager, Policy and Planning gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Steele, seconded by Councillor Prudy

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop the Park Stewardship Program as outlined in the discussion section of the staff report dated June 10, 2025.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**10.1 Correspondence – None**

## 10.2 Petitions – None

## 10.3 Presentations

### 10.3.1 Proposal for an Air-supported Dome for Tennis Courts at Gorsebrook Field

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Presentation request dated July 16, 2025
- Handout dated August 18, 2025
- Presentation dated August 21, 2025

Jamie Power, Headstart Tennis gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report responding to the request of Headstart Tennis to install an air-supported dome over the four planned tennis courts at Gorsebrook Park per the park plan, including recommendations for public consultation and engagement with this organization as a stakeholder when the existing courts are at end of life.**

Power, Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks and Recreation and William Hatfield, Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### 10.3.2 Rink Availability, Allocation and Rate Fee Considerations

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Presentation request dated July 22, 2025
- Presentation dated August 21, 2025

Marni Tuttle, Bedford Skating Club gave a presentation.

Councillor Deagle Gammon stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Steele assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report with:**

1. **An update on the Long-Term Arena Strategy and the approach to future facilities planning for arenas;**
2. **A review of the impacts of the single, flat rate as set by the HRM Rate Fee By-law for Spring and Summer and the dates for those seasons on Provincial Sport Organizations; and**
3. **Information on the implementation of the current ice allocation policy, challenges and opportunities for improvement.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Deagle Gammon resumed the Chair.

**11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair noted there were no registered speakers and called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak; there were none.

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**13. REPORTS**

**13.1 STAFF**

**13.1.1 Lighting Strategy in Existing Parks**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated May 29, 2025
- Staff presentation dated August 21, 2025

Stephen Cushing, Landscape Architect gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Steele

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include the park pathway and court lighting as identified in the staff report dated May 29, 2025, in the 2026/27 capital plan, within current funding levels and with implementation occurring over 5 years, subject to the annual capital project prioritization process.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**14. MOTIONS – NONE**

**15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE**

**16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 18, 2025**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Dorothy Maponga  
Legislative Assistant