East Hants Sportsplex

Manager’s Report

January 15, 2024

Good evening all and welcome,

Due to the global pandemic occurring in early 2020 it has been over 3 years since our last AGM. During the past 3 years the East Hants Sportsplex, like most businesses, struggled to navigate the challenges of this unprecedented event.

Operations ceased from March 13, 2020, until September of 2020 with the facility re-opening adhering to extremely strict guidelines centered around gathering limits. These limits forced us to modify our operating model allowing for only one ice surface, no meeting spaces and to close the cafe for the fiscal year 2020/21. During this time, we maximized all available government subsidy programs to help remain operational. Due to the financial challenges stemming from the pandemic, the EHAA engaged the Municipality of East Hants for financial aid. These discussions led to the parties entering into a Facility Management Agreement, the sale of the building to MEH, debt relief for the EHAA and a way forward ensuring the East Hant Sportsplex remained an important asset for of the community.

 With the new FMA in place, the EHAA as the operating agent for MEH resumed full operations for the 2021/22 season with an initial 8-month period to help align with MEH’s fiscal year. Coming out of the pandemic we experienced a positive uptake in facility usage, the desire to return to our normal way of life was clear. While the facility usage uptake was positive, significant increases in wages, utilities and food costs post pandemic related inflation impacted our operational bottom line. As we navigated these inflationary increases, the facility also underwent upgrades with the replacement of three new compressors in the ice plant.

As we moved into the 2022/23 season the EHS continued to struggle financially to meet the demand of operation costs. Repairs needed to the facility due to Hurricane Fiona and inflation resulted in another challenging budget year. Based on these results and looking to 2023/24 the EHAA requested its first rental rate increase in over six years. Approval of this increase helped pave the way for the EHS to continue to provide a recreation facility to our community while navigating the ever-increasing inflationary costs to our operations.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our staff, the volunteer Board of Directors of the East Hants Sportsplex and Municipality of East Hants for their dedication, commitment and support navigating the EHS through its most challenging times to date! The expected growth from the new residential developments and accessibility improvements due to an additional interchange, help us be well positioned to provide the best possible venue for our community’s recreational needs.

Sincerely,

Scott Forward

General Manager

East Hants Sportsplex