

City of Alexandria, Virginia

17
3-12-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 5, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE STATUS OF CHETWORTH PARK IN THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS

ISSUE: Consideration of (i) the rescission of the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog park, under the City's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, thereby requiring that all dogs using the park be on leash, and (ii) the development of a temporary fenced dog park at the City-owned site at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street until the permanent three-acre dog park in Potomac Yard's Rail Park can be developed.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, effective March 31, 2002, rescind the designation of Chetworth Park as a dog exercise area, thereby requiring that dogs using the park be on leash, and authorize and direct the City Manager to take all actions necessary and desirable to carry out this rescission; and
- (2) Consider whether it wishes to authorize the development of a temporary fenced dog park at the City-owned property at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street, and to allocate up to \$60,864 in funds for this development.

BACKGROUND: In September 2000, City Council approved the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 1). The original recommendation from the Park and Recreation Commission for Chetworth Park stated:

This park is too small for a fenced dog area. When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park should be eliminated.

As a result of the public hearing on the Master Plan, City Council changed this recommendation from "should be eliminated" to "will be reevaluated."

At the October 13, 2001, public hearing meeting, Council received comments from a number of citizens regarding the fenced dog park and the children's playground use at Chetworth Park. Following a discussion on these issues, Council unanimously voted that staff proceed with planned playground changes at Chetworth Park, and look for an alternative site for the fenced dog park because it was apparent that the two uses at Chetworth Park were in conflict.

On December 4, staff prepared a status report on Chetworth Park. The report contained an analysis of alternative sites for a fenced dog park near the park, and stated that staff intended to work with Crescent Resources (the owner of the Potomac Yard and Potomac Greens properties) to develop one of the three acres at Rail Park as a fenced dog park site as rapidly as possible (Attachment 2). A second status report was issued on January 31, 2002, which outlined the meetings that had been held during December with various public groups regarding Chetworth and Rail Parks (Attachment 3). At that time, the special use permit application for the initial one-acre fenced dog park at Rail Park was to be considered by the Planning Commission on February 5 and, if approved, forwarded to Council for the February 25 public hearing.

In a February 5, 2002, status report, staff recommended to Council that the designation of Chetworth Park as a dog exercise area be rescinded upon the opening of the initial one-acre fenced dog park at Rail Park, and thereafter that only dogs on-leash be allowed at Chetworth Park (Attachment 4).

On February 7, 2002, the SUP application for the initial one-acre fenced dog park at Rail Park was deferred by the Planning Commission for up to 90 days. After testimony by neighbors at Old Town Greens and other interested citizens, the Commission believed that the plan needed additional work to resolve traffic and safety problems.

DISCUSSION: Staff has reviewed the Planning Commission's concerns regarding the initial one-acre fenced dog park at Rail Park and those of the neighbors, and believe that the traffic and safety concerns are most appropriately addressed and resolved at the time the Potomac Greens site is developed. It is staff's recommendation that we do not proceed with the initial one-acre site at this time and, instead, develop, with citizen input, the design of the permanent three-acre site in conjunction with the development and site plan for Potomac Greens. We anticipate that a development plan for Potomac Greens will be submitted within the next 18 months.

In order to provide a temporary site for off-leash dogs until Rail Park is opened, staff has again looked at the City-owned property at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street. We strongly recommend that this site not be developed as a temporary fenced dog park. For one thing, a dog park at this location would be inconsistent with the location's identity as a gateway to the Old Town Greens (as well as to the neighborhood in general) and, in the future, the Potomac Greens and other nearby developments. A fenced dog park would detract from the appearance of the entrance to these communities.

In addition, the City would, of course, bear the expense of developing this fenced dog park. Development of the site for a 6,505 square foot fenced dog park, which is the size of the current Chetworth dog park, is projected to cost \$41,701; a 13,010 square foot park, which is the maximum the site can accommodate, is projected at \$60,864 (Attachment 5). At this time, with the financial difficulties that the City is facing, an expenditure of this size, for a temporary short-term facility, in our view, is not justified. Moreover, it should be noted that Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks sets the minimum square footage for a fenced dog park at 21,780 square feet (Attachment 6).

Further, as you may recall, the City had contracted to sell this property as part of a retail/office project that would encompass the City site and the adjacent property within the same block. That project has proven to be infeasible since retail users could not be convinced to lease space. As a result, the adjacent property owner has recently sold his property to Madison Homes for residential construction. Interest has been expressed in the City property for the construction of additional townhouses which would be coordinated with the construction of homes on the adjacent parcel.

The users of Chetworth Park are in conflict over the many uses that this small site now provides. Many users believe that the use of the park by off leash dogs presents a safety problem for children, who also use the park, and presents health issues for nearby residents. There have been repeated requests to City officials and staff to designate the park in a way that requires dogs to be on leash at all times. Many dog owners enjoy using Chetworth Park as an off leash dog area, do not see this use as being incompatible with other park uses, and believe that the park should remain an off-leash area until an alternative site becomes available.

It is apparent that, despite the best of efforts by many individuals, this incompatibility in uses, and these disagreements among residents, are not going away. Because I believe the incompatibility is significant and does need to be addressed at this time (improvements to the play area at the park are scheduled to begin within the next two months), I recommend that the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog park in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks be rescinded by Council, effective March 31, 2002, and, from that point on, that the park be permitted to be used by dogs only when they are on leash.

Staff have attempted to find a temporary alternate site for a fenced dog park. In December, we believed the provision of an initial one-acre dog exercise area at Rail Park would be a satisfactory solution in the short term, but that solution has not worked out. We do not believe there are other nearby sites that are appropriate in location and size, and that do not require a significant expenditure of funds for what would be at best a 24 to 30 month facility. As already noted, I recommend against such an expenditure of City funds at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$41,701 for a 6,605 square foot temporary fenced dog park, or \$60,864 for a 13,010 square foot fenced dog park. If Council wishes to authorize development of a dog park at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street, this item should be considered as an add/delete item in the

upcoming FY 2003 budget deliberations. Besides these costs, the creation of a dog park could prevent or defer the sale of the City property for other uses (most likely at this time, residential development). Based on the sale price of the adjacent parcel, the value of the City site is likely between \$1.4 million and \$2.0 million. Proceeds from any sale would be used, as is our practice, to enhance the City's capital improvement program.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Master Plan for Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas
- Attachment 2: December 4, 2001 Memorandum - Status Report Regarding Alternative Sites for a Fenced Dog Park near Chetworth Park
- Attachment 3: January 31, 2002 Memorandum - Status Report Regarding Chetworth Dog Park and the Plans for a Temporary Dog Park at Rail Park
- Attachment 4: February 5, 2002 Memorandum - Status Report Of Chetworth Park's Fenced Dog Exercise Area Upon Completion of New Fenced Dog Exercise Area in Potomac Yard's Rail Park
- Attachment 5: Cost Analysis for Temporary Fenced Dog Park at Slater's Lane and Powhatan
- Attachment 6: Possible Dog Parks at Slaters Lane - Proposed Plat

STAFF:

- Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
- Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

EXHIBIT NO. 1

CORRECTED VERSION AS OF 9-25-00
SEE PAGE 2

City of Alexandria

16
9-27-00

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^S

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS

ISSUE: Approval of the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks as amended based on input from the September 16 Public Hearing (Attachment 1) and incorporating guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas (Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council approve the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks as amended to include the guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas and the following changes to specific areas:

- A) Area 1 - Founders Park - The Founders Park dog exercise area will remain located where it is currently delineated near Union Street, and staff will continue to monitor this area. Staff will recommend to the City Manager by April 2001 if further action is necessary. If, at a later date, the dog exercise area is determined to be unsatisfactory for all users of Founders Park, an alternative location will be considered.
- B) Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind the CVS was originally recommended as a new dog exercise area. It is now recommended that this area not be included at this time on the list of proposed new dog exercise areas.
- C) Area 17 - New area behind George Mason School - Staff will return to Council with a recommendation regarding the proposed new designation or the use of fencing in this area by December, 2000 after reevaluating this area with all area users.
- D) Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place - The language in the Master Plan has been changed to read: "When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park will be reevaluated."

These amendments were discussed with the Park and Recreation Commission at its September 21 meeting, and the Commission concurs with changes A, B, and C. As to recommendation D - Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place, the Commission recommends retention of the original language, stating the fenced dog park should be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in the neighborhood is located. The Commission believes that if another more appropriate site becomes available, the Chetworth Park site is too small for a fenced dog park and should be eliminated.

BACKGROUND: After receiving testimony on the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks at its September 16 Public Hearing, City Council requested that staff reevaluate several sites, evaluate the request for lighting at the Beatley Library fenced dog park as well as other fenced dog parks, and clarify which City staff in the future will be enforcing the ordinances pertaining to the off-leash dog areas.

DISCUSSION: Following the City Council Public Hearing on September 16, 2000, staff reevaluated the following sites:

A) Area 1 - Founders Park Dog Exercise Area: . .

In the Master Plan, this area was described as being at the northeast corner of Founders Park at Oronoco Street and the Potomac River. After the Master Plan was disseminated in June, users of Founders Park asked that this site be changed to a 100' x 100' area on the north side of Founders Park near Union Street. The users and the Animal Control officers stated that this was the area that had been used during the past several years, not the signed area in the northeast corner of the park.

Staff reevaluated the area in June and found that the proposed 100' x 100' area in the northeast corner of the park would impact both the walking path and the volleyball court. Staff installed bollards designating a 100' x 100' area near Union Street as an alternate site, with the understanding that this site would be reviewed over the summer and addressed when the Master Plan came back to Council for approval in the fall. Staff did hear from one individual that he preferred the original location at the northeast corner, but the majority of comments, including residents of the Founders Park area testifying at the September 16 public hearing and numerous, favored the site near Union Street.

It should also be noted that the Waterfront Committee at their June 15, 1999 meeting passed a resolution that the "Dog Exercise" sign be removed from Founders Park and that the leash laws be strictly enforced. The Committee believed that ~~there~~ should be no off-leash area at Founders Park. At their March 21, 2000 meeting, the Committee addressed the lack of enforcement for dogs off leash at Founders Park and asked that the City Manager call a meeting of key city staff to address this problem. Staff reported to the Waterfront Committee at their May 16 meeting that as a result of a meeting with the City Manager on April 19, three parks, Founders Park, Ft. Ward Park and Simpson Park were selected for increased attention for enforcement of leash laws.

Between April 19 and June 9, Founders Park was visited 70 times for a total of 41 hours of patrol time. Twenty five warnings were issued with no summonses issued. Currently Animal Control Officers visit Founders Park at least twice a day and often, more frequently. At the Waterfront Committee meeting May 16, members continued to express the opinion that Founders Park was an inappropriate place for dogs off leash. Staff has also requested input from the Founders Park Civic Association; however, staff has yet to be informed of the outcome of a vote by the Civic Association on this issue.

In light of the public hearing testimony and staff review, staff recommends that this dog exercise area be located where it is currently delineated near Union Street. Staff will continue to monitor this area, and staff will make a recommendation to the City Manager by April 2001 if further action is necessary. If, at a later date, the dog exercise area is determined to be unsatisfactory for all users of Founders Park, an alternative location will be considered.

B) Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind CVS:

This area is listed in the Master Plan as a recommended new Dog Exercise Area. Since the Master Plan was disseminated to the public, the fenced dog park at Beatley Library has become very popular, and an additional new fenced dog park will be opened this fall in Ben Brenman Park. Considering the addition of these two areas, and based on comments at the public hearing, staff concurs that a dog exercise area at Pickett Street behind the CVS not be included at this time.

Staff recommends this area be removed from the listing of proposed new dog exercise areas in the Master Plan.

C) Area 17 - Area behind George Mason School:

This area is listed in the Master Plan as a recommended new Dog Exercise Area. In response to a petition from 14 residents stating that they would only support this area for dogs off-leash if it is fenced, staff will reevaluate this area. In order to receive input from all area users, a neighborhood meeting will be held and staff will return to Council by December, 2000 with a recommendation for this area.

D) Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place:

The Master Plan recommended this fenced dog park be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park is opened and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located. Many users of this area asked City Council that the word "eliminate" be reconsidered as this dog park is currently a favorite place in the neighborhood.

The Park and Recreation Commission discussed this issue at its September 21 meeting, and the Commission recommends retention of the original language, stating the fenced dog park should

be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in the neighborhood is located. The Commission believes that when another more appropriate site becomes available, the Chetworth Park site is too small for a fenced dog park and should be eliminated.

Staff also concurs that the Chetworth Park area is too small for a fenced dog park, and staff recommends that the word "eliminate" be changed to "reevaluate" in the wording of the Master Plan as it relates to this fenced dog park.

Area 19 - Beatley Dog Park Lighting Request:

City Council asked staff to evaluate the request for lighting at the Beatley Library site and to discuss what other parks have lights. There are no lights at any of the Fenced Dog Parks with the exception of Simpson. Simpson Park currently has a light in the Fenced Dog Park, which was installed on an existing light pole at a cost of \$350. There are currently no plans to install a light in the Simpson Fenced Dog Park near Monroe Street when we move the area from its current location. Staff will look into costs for lighting all the fenced dog parks in the context of the FY 2002 budget; however, staff caution that depending upon the site improvements that could be required at various dog parks, the cost to install wiring and lighting may significantly exceed \$350. Such improvements will need to be considered in light of the many competing priority needs in the City's budget.

Enforcement:

City Council asked for further clarification as to which City staff, in the future, will be enforcing the ordinances. The Animal Welfare League has four Animal Control officers who provide service from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. Police officers will respond to specific calls from the Animal Control officers and the public if available. The Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Department will designate the following positions to be trained by the Police Department to help enforce the ordinances pertaining to dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks and issue citations: Deputy Director of Parks and Natural Resources, Park Superintendents, Assistant Park Superintendents, and Park Facility Specialist. This will provide an additional six positions authorized to enforce the ordinances pertaining to dog parks Monday through Saturday.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost for installing lights at the fenced dog parks will be considered in the context of the FY 2002 budget; however, additional funding for these improvements will need to be considered in the context of the many competing needs in the City's budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, including recommended amendments
- 2) Park and Recreation Commission's Proposed Guidelines to establish new Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks and proposed ordinance changes. (City Council Docket Item from September 12, 2000)

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

**MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS
FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA (including recommended amendments)**

The City of Alexandria has had 26 designated dog exercise areas for over twenty years, none of which were fenced until 1996. Fences were installed at the existing dog exercise areas in Simpson Park in 1996, Chetworth Park in 1997, and Montgomery Park in 1998. The new fenced dog park near Beatley Library on Duke Street was opened in 2000. These fenced areas have become very popular and citizens are asking for more such areas throughout the City. In addition, citizens have requested that dog exercise areas, where dogs can be off leash but the area is not fenced, should be improved by providing well defined areas, trash receptacles and posting established rules.

Definitions:

<u>Owner:</u>	A person having right of property in a dog.
<u>Running at Large:</u>	Any animal that is off its owner's property and is not restrained by a physical leash, which is held by a handler, attached to a collar.
<u>Handler:</u>	Any person having a dog(s) under their care, custody or physical control.
<u>Dog Exercise Areas (DEA):</u>	Areas of open space set aside for the specific use of dog owners/handlers to allow dogs off lead. Feces must be immediately picked up inside DEA.
<u>Fenced Dog Parks (FDP):</u>	Fenced areas set aside for dog owners/handlers to allow their dogs off lead. Feces must be immediately picked up inside a FDP.

Rules:

The following rules will be posted at all areas:

- All dogs must be under the owner's/handler's control.
- Only three dogs per person (owner/handler) are allowed in FDP or DEA.
- All dog handlers must have a leash in hand at all times.
- No female dogs in heat are allowed.
- Only dogs 4 months and older are allowed.
- Dogs must be legally licensed, vaccinated and wearing both current tags.
- Dog owners/handlers must keep their dog(s) in view at all times.
- Any bite of a person or other dog must be immediately reported to Alexandria Animal Control and all parties involved must wait for an officer to respond, except in the case where immediate medical care is needed.
- Dogs must not be allowed to bark incessantly or to the annoyance of the neighborhood.
- Dog owners/handlers must immediately pick up and dispose of, in trash receptacles, all dog feces.
- Aggressive dogs are not allowed at any time inside a DEA or FDP. An aggressive dog is defined as a dog(s) posing a threat to human beings or other

dogs. Owners (handlers) are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injury caused by them.

- Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting a DEA or FDP.
- If people are not abiding by these regulations, please contact Alexandria Animal Control at (703) 838-4775.

In addition to the above rules, the following rules will be posted at Fenced Dog Parks:

- Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult when inside a FDP.
- Food is not allowed inside a FDP, non-alcoholic beverages are allowed.

City Ordinance: One of the first items that needs to be addressed is the preparation of a new ordinance amending the City Code to limit, to three, the number of dogs per handler at both the Dog Exercise Areas and the Fenced Dog Parks. The Commission believes that for the safety of the animals and the handlers that one person cannot adequately control more than three animals at one time. This ordinance will be enforced by Animal Control or by the Police Department. Based on the City's current civil penalties provisions, a written civil citation would be issued in the amount of \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for each subsequent violation. It is recommended that the civil penalties be raised to a class four civil penalty which would be \$100 for the first violation, \$250 for the second, and \$500 for each additional violation.

Enforcement: The Park and Recreation Commission recommends that the animal control officer issue a written warning on the first offense. The City Attorney's Office advised that this should be left to the discretion of the officer. If a violation is of great magnitude, a ticket should be issued on the first offense. It is recommended that in addition to the City's animal control officers, the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities may delegate authority to her employees to enforce these code provisions and issue notices of violations.

What the City will provide:

Fenced Dog Parks

Covered Trash Receptacles/Pick Up Bags
Posted Rules
Fencing and Gates
Water if feasible
Shade where possible

Dog Exercise Areas

Posted Rules
Defined Boundaries
Covered Trash Receptacles/Pick Up Bags
Shade where possible

Additional Amenities

Additional amenities such as benches and bulletin boards will be added if outside funding (citizen's support) is available.

I. Recommendations for Existing Dog Exercise Areas: (Attachment 5)

Area 1 - Area at northeast corner of Founders Park at ~~Gronco Street~~ and the Potomac Union Street:

This area should be retained in the short term with clear delineation of the area with signs and bollards. Stricter on-leash enforcement should be attempted in the remainder of Founders Park. If it is later determined that results are unsatisfactory, an alternative location should be considered.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles and additional signs directing people to dog exercise area.

Meeting with interested citizens in June, a site adjacent to Union Street was found to be more appropriate. This site was staked off over the summer months and after further review it is recommended to replace the northeast corner location with this site.

Area 2 - City property at southeast corner of Gibbon and Union Streets (Pommander Park):

Recommend a small ornamental fence be installed on western edge as a buffer between the park and the sidewalk on Union Street.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 4 - Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth:

Recommend ornamental fencing on Braddock and Commonwealth

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 5 - Hooff's Run, east of Commonwealth between Oak and Chapman Streets:

Recommend reducing parking area if possible and enlarge exercise area.

Install ornamental fence along Commonwealth/Oak/Chapman for safety of dogs

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 6 - Area between Ft. Williams and New Ft. Williams Parkway:

Area is located on top of hill in slightly wooded area. Identify area with signs and add trash cans.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 7 - Along Old Mill Run west of Gordon St. (Tarleton Park):

Recommend moving DEA to area along the dry streambed and away from tot lot.

Make a clear delineation of the area with bollards and signage.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles in addition to posting the area near tot lot - "Dogs Must Be On Leash"

Area 8 - Southeast Corner of Armistead and Beauregard:

Although the area is hilly and not suitable for Frisbee and other such dog activities, it is wooded and still is a desirable location for people to walk dogs off leash.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 9 - Along Chambliss Street south of tennis courts:

Post signs designating DEA. Also need signs on either end of Chambliss Park identifying the park.

Recommend boundary fencing along Chambliss and walking path up hill.
Pick up bags and receptacles

Area 10 - East side of entrance to Fort Ward Park:

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Move area further away from Braddock Road and the Fort Ward Road, and clearly delineate. Area should remain unfenced.

Area 11 - Median to Timberbranch Parkway between Braddock and Oakley Place:

Provide pick up bags and receptacles at both ends

Clearly define area and avoid areas covered by poison ivy.

Area 12 - Chinquapin Park east of loop:

Move DEA to wooded area off loop. Opportunity for larger designated off-leash area which could be delineated with bollards and signage.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 13 - East entrance to Monticello Park:

Delineate a specific area to be used as DEA with bollards.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 14 - Edison Street cul-de-sac:

Unless use of entire area as DEA is acceptable, delineation is recommended.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 15 - 200 ft. W&OD Railroad at Raymond Avenue:

Recommend fencing at Raymond Avenue

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

II. Recommendations for New Dog Exercise Areas (Attachment 5):

~~Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind the CVS.~~

~~Area 17 - Area Behind George Mason School - Currently not designated as DEA but is in a desirable area. Recommend a barrier fence along the old foundation wall to keep dogs off the soccer field. Site to be reevaluated and a recommendation given to Council by December, 2000, after meeting with neighborhood residents.~~

III. Recommendations for existing Fenced Dog Parks: (Refer to Attachment 5)

Area 18 - Simpson Stadium Park at Monroe Avenue:

Move the area from the Duncan Avenue side of the park to the Monroe Street side of Simpson Park
Install water for irrigation
Provide a covered trash receptacle inside the park

Area 19 - 5000 block of Duke Street east of the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Library:

Reinstall fence and gates so they are correctly aligned with cement entry pad.
Provide covered trash receptacle
Reinstall fence to include tree area

Area 20 - Montgomery Park at the corner of Fairfax and 1st Streets:

Enlarge area, provide additional shade through the planting of trees and landscape fence line.

Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place:

This park is too small for a fenced dog area. When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park should be eliminated will be reevaluated. In the meantime, fencing and gates should be installed to ensure the children entering the play area do not have to pass through the dog area.

Area 22 - Ben Brenman Park south of Backlick Run:

Provide covered trash receptacles.

IV. Recommendations for New Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 5):

Area 23 - Southeast corner of Wheeler and Duke Street:

Recommend fencing the entire existing dog exercise area
Cover drain with grate
Provide covered trash receptacles

Area 24 - Potomac Yard:

A new three acre area park between the two rail lines just west of Potomac Greens to be developed by Commonwealth Atlantic Properties as part of the overall development of Potomac Yard.

Area 25 - Carlyle:

A new two plus acre park at the north end of Mill Road. Developers will fence area, provide water, benches, receptacles and trees.

V. Recommendations for Elimination of Areas that are no longer Appropriate (Attachment 5):

Area 26 - Jones Point Park - The National Park Service does not allow dogs off leash at any National Park. Jones Point Park is leased to the City of Alexandria by the National Park Service and we must adhere to their regulations.

Area 27 - Loop at Duke Street - Telegraph Road Interchange - Due to traffic this area is unsafe for dogs to run off leash.

Area 28 - Holmes Run Parkway between Library and Beatley Bridge (Recommend new area be added behind CVS on Pickett St.)

Area 29 - Loop to Van Dorn from Duke Street - This area has no parking, no access, and with heavy woods and bramble it is not a safe site.

Area 30 - Median of Yoakum Parkway near Virginia Power Sub-Station - Area is small and in high traffic area.

Area 31 - Park at Rynex Drive - The vehicular entrance to the Rynex Natural Area is between the park and Fairfax County in a very remote area. It is hilly and very wooded.

Area 32 - Northwest corner of Seminary Road and Beauregard - High traffic area and lack of access makes this an unsafe area.

Capital Costs:

For Each Fenced Dog Park:

Fencing	
6' High - 6 gauge Chain link	\$16 lin. ft.
includes two air lock gates and posts required	
Ground Cover	
Enkamat	\$1.18 s.f.
3-D reinforcement of heavy nylon monofilaments	
Turfgrids	\$.76 s.f.
Polypropylene fibers rototilled 4" - 6" deep	
Grassy Pavers	\$1.48 s.f.
Flexible polyethylene plastic	
Grassing	
Bermuda sod	\$.33 s.f.
Bermuda sprigging	\$.20 s.f.
Irrigation	\$.13 s.f.
Furnishing and installing	
Trash Receptacles	\$500
Water	\$3,000
includes copper service, approximate cost of meter, hose bib and fixture	
Signage	\$300 each
Brown metal signs with white lettering	

Capital costs for a 20,000 s.f. fenced dog park (similar in size to Simpson)

Fencing (100'x 200')	\$ 9,600
Enkamat with sod	\$29,600*
Turfgrids with sod	\$15,800*
Grassy Pavers with sod	\$33,600*
Trash receptacles, water service and signage	\$ 3,800
Irrigation	\$ 2,600
Total costs	\$31,800 - 49,600

* subtract \$2,000 if Bermuda grass is sprigged

For Each Dog Exercise Area:

Bollards 2' high constructed of recycled plastic with dog paw insignia	\$80 each
Trash Receptacles	\$498 each
Signage Brown metal signs with white lettering	\$280 each
Total capital costs for Dog Exercise Areas (assuming 4 bollards)	\$1,100

Maintenance Costs for both Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas:

Maintenance including aeration, overseeding and fertilization	\$.22 s.f.
Maintenance including grass mowing and trimming	\$.006 s.f.
Bags and Liners for trash receptacles (approximate one year supply)	\$175

Fees: In order to assist with the capital costs and maintenance, it is recommended that the animal license fees be increased, with a portion of these fees set aside for dog park initiatives. Currently, there is a state mandated maximum of \$10.00 per dog on license fees.

Current Fees: \$10 - non-neutered dog
\$2 - neutered dog

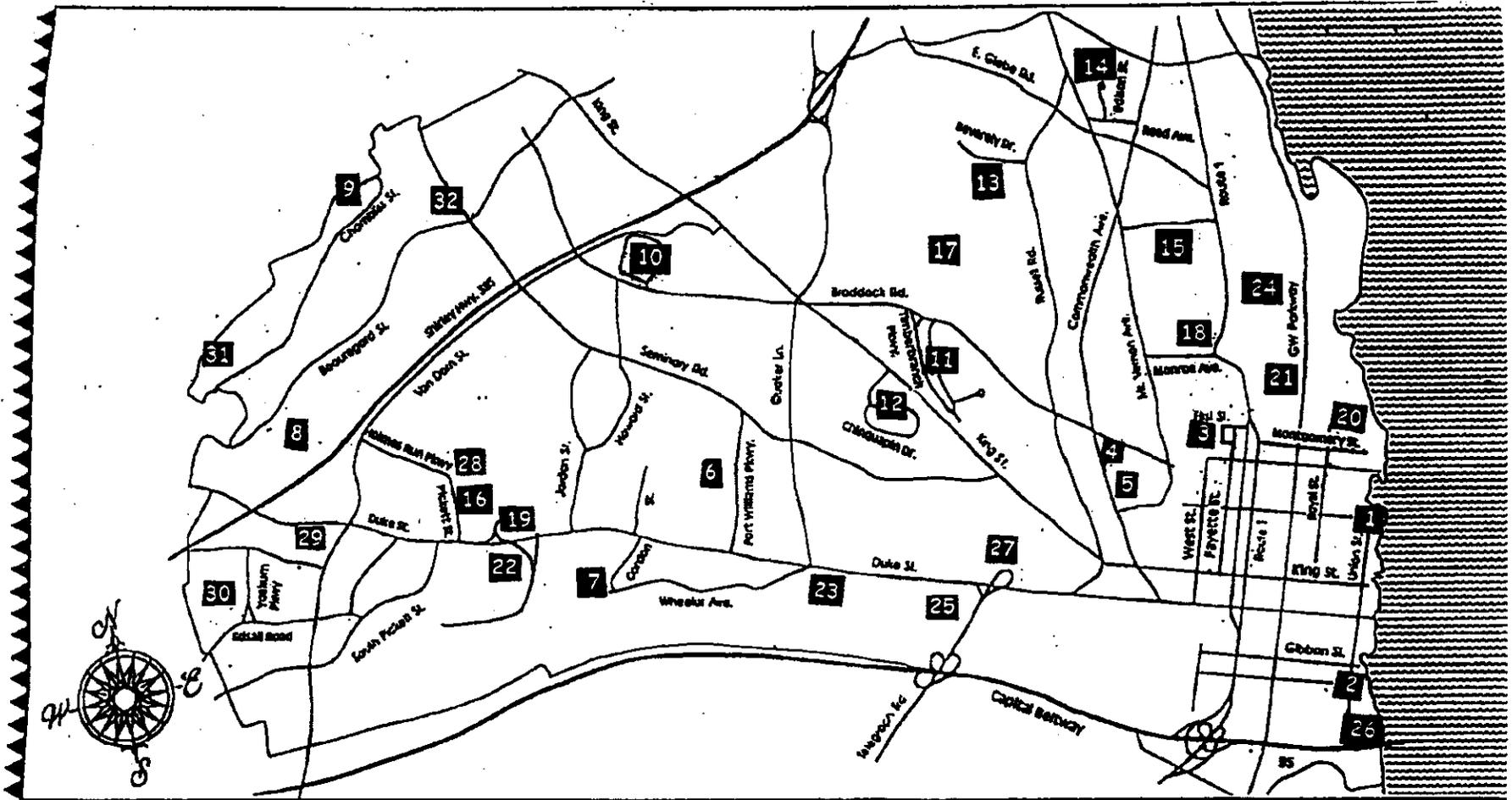
Recommend: \$20 - non-neutered dog
\$10 - neutered dog

Additional Recommendations:

It is also recommended to add a box on the license application requesting donations to help maintain Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks. Information on dog licensing should be sent to all households via some mechanism (car tax bill, utility bill, or other method) to be determined at a later date.

Environmental concerns: The Park and Recreation Commission also recommends that due to environmental concerns and to ensure the water quality in the area any new DEA or FDP must be set back an appropriate distance from a body of water.

Implementation of the recommendations will be prioritized and budgeted appropriately after the Master Plan has been adopted.



City of Alexandria Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Areas:

1. Northeast corner of Founders Park at Oronoco Street and the Potomac
2. City property at southwest corner of Gibbon and Union Streets
3. City property at northeast corner of First Street and Payne Street
4. Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth
5. Hooff's Run, east of Commonwealth between Oak and Chapman Streets
6. Area between Ft. Williams and New Ft. Williams Parkway

7. Along Old Mill Run west of Gordon St. (Tarleton Park)
8. Southeast corner of Armistead and Beauregard
9. Along Chambliss Street south of tennis courts
10. East side entrance to Fort Ward Park
11. Median to Timberbranch Parkway between Braddock and Oakley Place
12. Chinquapin Park east of loop
13. East entrance to Monticello Park
14. Edison Street cul-de-sac
15. W&OD Railroad at Raymond Avenue

16. Holmes Run on Pickett St behind CVS - PNE
17. Area Behind George Mason School - PNE
18. Simpson Park along Duncan Avenue - F
19. Duke Street east of the Beatley Library - F
20. Montgomery Park at Fairfax and 1st Street - F
21. Chetworth Park - F
22. Ben Brenman Park south of Backlick Run - F
23. Southeast corner of Wheeler and

- Duke Street - PNF
24. Potomac Yard - PNF
25. Carlyle north of Mill Road - PNF
26. Jones Point Park - PE
27. Loop at Duke Street - PE
28. Holmes Run Parkway between Library and Beatley Bridge - PE
29. Loop to Van Dorn St. from Duke Street - PE
30. Median of Yoakum Parkway near Virginia Power Sub-Station - PE
31. Park at Rynex Drive - PE
32. Northwest corner of Seminary Road and Beauregard - PE

PNE=Proposed New Dog Exercise Area. F=Fenced Dog Park. PNF=Proposed New Fenced Dog Park. PE=Proposed to be Eliminated

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2000

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSED GUIDELINES TO ESTABLISH NEW FENCED DOG PARKS AND DOG EXERCISE AREAS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS AND PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGES

ISSUE: Receipt of the Park and Recreation Commission's Proposed Guidelines for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks and proposed ordinance changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

1. Receive the guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (as discussed on page 2 of this memorandum);
2. Pass the proposed ordinances that make changes to the City Code consistent with the recommendations set forth in the Master Plan on first reading and schedule them for public hearing on September 16, and second reading and final passage on September 26; and
3. Thank the members of the Park and Recreation Commission for their work on these matters.

BACKGROUND: At its June 27 legislative meeting, City Council received the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 1) from the Park and Recreation Commission and draft ordinances amending the City Code. Council requested that the Master Plan and ordinances be docketed for public hearing on September 16, and for adoption on September 26.

In accordance with Council action in June, the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks was released for review by the public over the summer. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities mailed copies of the proposed Master Plan to veterinarians, animal hospitals, civic associations, pet supply stores, the Alexandria animal shelter, the Alexandria Animal Welfare League and numerous interested citizens. In addition, the Department will post notices of the September 16 Public Hearing at all current dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks prior to the public hearing.

At its June 27 meeting, Council also requested that the Park and Recreation Commission develop proposed guidelines, for inclusion in the Master Plan, that can be used by the City Manager when designating future Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

DISCUSSION: The following criteria are recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission to be used by the City Manager as guidelines for the designation future sites for new Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks:

1. Area must be at least ½ acre, or 21,780 square feet.
2. Area must be at least 50 feet from a residential property line, or 50 feet from a commercial/industrial structure.
3. Area must be at least 60 feet from the top of a bank of any stream bed or water source. It will be located to minimize potential problems for wildlife and habitats, and is subject to normal environmental assessment procedures, including the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.
4. Area must be easily accessible for police and animal control protection.
5. Unfenced areas must be a safe distance away from roadways.
6. For Fenced Dog Parks, there must be adequate monies available to establish landscaping and buffers around the perimeter.

Recreation staff concur with these guidelines, and have indicated that all of the criteria would need to be met to designate a future site.

FISCAL IMPACT: Upon review and acceptance of the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, staff will recommend that Council increase dog license fees for spayed and neutered dogs from the current fee of \$2 to \$10, and for other dogs, increase the fee from the current \$10 fee to \$20. There are currently 2,950 dog licenses in the City, comprised of 2,500 for spayed or neutered dogs and 450 are for other dogs. If all of the current licenses are renewed at the proposed higher rates, the increase in revenue would total \$24,500 per year. However, an increase in fees of this magnitude will likely result in fewer dog owners renewing their licenses, and as a result, the actual net additional revenue received is likely to be less than \$24,500. It should be noted that there is no change recommended in the license fees for cats, which will remain at \$2 for spayed and neutered cats, and \$10 for other cats.

The new dog license fee annual revenue will help offset part of the operating costs of implementing the Master Plan. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities projects that the additional operating costs of implementing the Master Plan would be between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per year. Capital costs would be additional (beyond the \$25,000 currently funded in the capital budget), and would vary based upon the particular capital plans developed for each fenced dog park or dog exercise area. If City Council approves the Master Plan, City staff will develop a schedule for implementing the proposed improvements to the fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas. This schedule would be used to develop operating and capital budget plans, and the pace of implementation of the schedule would be subject to annual funding considerations.

ATTACHMENT: 1. Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (City Council docket item from June 27, 2000)

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities
Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT REGARDING ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR A FENCED DOG PARK NEAR CHETWORTH PARK

BACKGROUND: At the October 13, 2001 public hearing, City Council received comments from a number of citizens regarding the fenced dog park and the children's playground uses at Chetworth Park. Following Council discussion on these issues, Council unanimously voted that staff proceed with the playground changes¹ in Chetworth Park, and look for alternative sites for the fenced dog park by the end of year.

DISCUSSION: Staff reviewed five sites as possible locations for a fenced dog park near Chetworth Park, including the site identified by Councilwoman Pepper that is immediately west of and adjacent to Domino's Pizza on Slater's Lane. In reviewing these sites, staff took into consideration location, property ownership, and the potential cost to the City of developing the site for a fenced dog park. Of these five sites, the three acre site at Potomac Yard, called Rail Park, is currently designated to be a fenced dog park as part of the approved Potomac Yard plan.

Crescent Resources has agreed to accelerate the development of this fenced dog park by starting immediately to develop one acre of this three acre site for use by May 2002, with the remaining two acres to be developed later in 2002. I have directed staff to work with Crescent Resources to facilitate the development of this dog park as soon as possible. Crescent Resources will make application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a temporary fenced dog park in December, have it heard by the Planning Commission and City Council in February, and begin construction in March with completion planned by May, 2002. After receiving additional community input from potential users of the entire dog park site Crescent Resources will complete the remaining two acres in late fall of 2002. Crescent Resources will pay for the development of the site, with no cost to the City. A meeting for all City residents to provide input into the design of the dog park is scheduled with the architects from Crescent Resources on Thursday, December 13, 2001, at 7 p.m. at the Lee Center. Residents from the Chetworth Park area will be invited to this meeting, but they will also be briefed prior to December 13 at a separate meeting on December 6 as discussed below.

¹ The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities had been working with Northeast Civic Association for several months regarding improvements to Chetworth Park. At the October 3 meeting of the civic association, the association approved the playground improvement plans recommended by the Department of Recreation, which include removing and replacing the playground equipment, and modifying the fence and gate so children can enter the playground area directly without going through the dog exercise area.

The following is a summary of the other four sites reviewed by staff, including why these sites are not recommended as sites for a fenced dog park.

- 1) The parcel identified by Councilwoman Pepper that is immediately west of and adjacent to Domino's Pizza on Slater's Lane: this property is owned by Crescent Resources and would only serve as a temporary park until Crescent develops the property. The City would bear the expense of developing the site. I do not believe it is fiscally prudent to expend monies for the temporary development of this site as a fenced dog park, and I do not recommend that the City acquire this site from Crescent for permanent use as a fenced dog park.
- 2) The City-owned property at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street: this property is seen as a gateway for people entering Old Town Greens and, in the future, Potomac Yard. A fenced dog park would not be seen as an aesthetically pleasing gateway to these communities. The City would bear the expense to develop the site. This site is not recommended for development as a fenced dog park.
- 3) The property at Slater's Lane and Portner Road, adjacent to the City-owned parcel: this property is privately owned. If it were made available for a temporary dog park, the City would bear the expense of developing the site. I do not believe it is prudent to expend monies for the temporary development of this site as a fenced dog park, and I do not recommend that the City acquire this site.
- 4) The property at the corner of Bashford Lane and Powhatan Street: this property is owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the site is too small for consideration as a fenced dog park.

Staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will hold a meeting on December 6, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. to brief residents of the Chetworth Park area on these efforts to identify an alternative site, the plan to proceed with the development of Rail Park as the alternative site, and the time line for the playground improvements at Chetworth Park. This meeting will be held at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

While the one-acre portion of Rail Park is under development, Chetworth Park will remain both an off-leash dog area and a park for children and passive users. Once the one-acre fenced dog park at Rail Park is completed in the Spring 2002, I will docket the reevaluation of the fenced dog park at Chetworth Park for City Council's consideration, as required under the approved Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

cc: Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Lori Godwin, Assistant City Manager

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 31, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

FROM: SANDRA WHITMORE, DIRECTOR *SW/efr*
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT REGARDING CHETWORTH DOG PARK AND THE
PLANS FOR A TEMPORARY DOG PARK AT RAIL PARK

This memorandum is in response to Mayor Donley's request from the January 22, 2002, City Council meeting that staff provide a status report regarding Chetworth dog park and the plans for a fenced dog park at Rail Park in Potomac Yard.

Staff prepared a status report in December regarding an analysis of alternative sites for a fenced dog park near Chetworth Park, which concluded that we would proceed with Crescent Resources to develop one acre of the three acre Rail Park as a fenced dog park site as rapidly as possible (Attachment 1).

Since the December 4 report to City Council, staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities have held a series of meetings related to the development of a fenced dog park at Rail Park.

- The first meeting was held on December 6, 2001 at Charles Houston Recreation Center to brief the residents of the Chetworth Park area on alternate sites and the staff recommendation to develop a fenced dog park at Rail Park in Potomac Yard. Twenty-six people attended this meeting, including Councilman Euille and Councilman Speck. Attendees were divided between accepting this plan or leaving the fenced dog park at Chetworth.
- On December 8, 2001, twenty-five people toured the Rail Park site with staff and gave input. Comments ranged from possible parking problems, safety concerns, and the lack of a playground in the Old Town Greens area¹ to enthusiasm for a such a large dog park.

¹Staff held a follow up meeting with residents of Old Town Greens and members of Northeast Citizens' Association to address this concern on January 14, 2002. Representatives from both Crescent Resources and Eakin Youngentob, the contract purchaser of the Potomac Greens site, were in attendance. Residents voiced their concern that the City was moving ahead on a dog park before addressing the issue of a children's tot-lot in the Old Town Greens and Potomac Greens area. After a discussion of the development process for Potomac Yard, which includes the fenced dog park as a component of the concept plan, and the Old Town Greens development, which did not include a tot-lot in the initial design, both Eakin Youngentob and Crescent Resources, as good neighbors, agreed to explore with the residents possible solutions to their lack of a playground.

- A third meeting was held on December 13, 2001, at Lee Center for citizens that were interested in contributing ideas for the initial one-acre dog park at Rail Park, as well as for the three-acre permanent dog park. Twenty-seven people were in attendance, including Councilwoman Pepper. Ideas ranged from drinking water for both dogs and people, double-gated entrances, shade and benches, safe crossing across Slater's Lane, lighting for night use, bulletin boards, pick-up bag stations and hard surfaces beyond the entrance gates and around the drinking fountains.

In accordance with the time line presented in the December status report, the Planning Commission will consider Crescent Resources' application for a special use permit (SUP) to make initial improvements for a public fenced dog park on the one-acre southern portion of Rail Park at its February 5th meeting. This SUP will be docketed for public hearing and consideration at Council's February 23 public hearing meeting. Amenities in the initial plan incorporate several of the suggestions from the citizen input process during December, include fencing around the perimeter of the dog park, fenced de-leashing pens at the dog park entry, park seating and benches, ground surface material for the park such as blue stone dust, screening of the fence area that faces the Old Town Greens tennis courts, an asphalt trail that connects the dog park entry and the street, covered trash receptacles, pick-up bag stations and a bulletin board for posting park regulations.

City staff will also work with neighbors to make a safe route from the Chetworth neighborhood to this site. At this time, the dog park at Rail Park will not be lighted. It should be noted that the City does not currently light any of our existing fenced dog parks.

If the Planning Commission and City Council approve the SUP for the initial fenced dog park at Rail Park, Crescent Resources intends to begin work as soon as possible with a target date of late May 2002 to complete the project. It is the recommendation of staff that, at the time the initial one-acre dog park at Rail Park is completed, the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area be eliminated and that the City allow only dogs on-leash at Chetworth Park. We will be docketing this recommendation for Council's consideration at the February 12 legislative meeting.

Attachment 1: December 4, 2001 Memorandum - Status Report Regarding Alternative Sites for a Fenced Dog Park Near Chetworth Park

City of Alexandria, Virginia

15
2-12-02MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CHETWORTH PARK'S FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREA UPON COMPLETION OF NEW FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREA IN POTOMAC YARD'S RAIL PARK

ISSUE: Whether the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area should be changed upon completion of the new fenced dog exercise area at Rail Park in Potomac Yard, which is anticipated to open in late May 2002.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Receive the recommendation in this report, which is to eliminate the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area upon the opening of the initial one-acre fenced dog exercise area at Rail Park in Potomac Yard, and thereafter to allow only dogs on-leash at Chetworth Park. This recommendation is consistent with the original recommendation regarding Chetworth Park's fenced dog area from the Park and Recreation Commission;
2. Schedule this recommendation for public hearing on Saturday, February 23, 2002; and
3. Following the public hearing on February 23, 2002, adopt this recommendation.

BACKGROUND: In September 2000, City Council approved the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 1). The original recommendation from the Park and Recreation Commission for Chetworth Park stated:

This park is too small for a fenced dog area. When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park should be eliminated.

As a result of its public hearing on the Master Plan, City Council changed the recommendation from "should be eliminated" to "will be reevaluated."

At the October 13, 2001, public hearing, Council received comments from a number of citizens regarding the fenced dog park and the children's playground uses at Chetworth Park. Following a discussion on these issues, Council unanimously voted that staff proceed with the playground

changes in Chetworth Park, and look for alternative sites for the fenced dog park by the end of 2001 because it was apparent that the two uses at Chetworth Park were in conflict.

Staff prepared a status report in December regarding an analysis of alternative sites for a fenced dog park near Chetworth Park, which concluded that we would proceed with Crescent Resources to develop one acre of the three-acre Rail Park as a fenced dog park site as rapidly as possible (Attachment 2).

Since the December 4 report to Council, staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities have held a series of citizen meetings related to the development of a fenced dog park at Rail Park. Due to the variety of opinions of their constituency, the Northeast Citizens Association is not taking a position on this issue.

DISCUSSION: Crescent Resources, the developer of Potomac Yard, has agreed to make initial improvements for a public fenced dog park on the one-acre southern portion of Rail Park as soon as possible¹. In accordance with the time line presented in staff's December status report, the Planning Commission will consider Crescent Resources' application for a special use permit (SUP) to make initial improvements for a public fenced dog park on the one-acre southern portion of Rail Park at its February 5 meeting. This SUP will be docketed for public hearing and consideration at Council's February 23 public hearing meeting.

Amenities in the initial plan incorporate several of the suggestions from the citizen input process during December, including fencing around the perimeter of the dog park, fenced de-leashing pens at the dog park entry, park seating and benches, ground surface material for the park such as blue stone dust, screening of the fence area that faces the Old Town Greens tennis courts, an asphalt trail that connects the dog park entry and the street, covered trash receptacles, pick-up bag stations and a bulletin board for posting park regulations.

If the Planning Commission and City Council approve the SUP for the initial fenced dog park at Rail Park, Crescent Resources intends to begin work as soon as possible with a target date of late May 2002 to complete the project. It is the recommendation of staff that, at the time the initial one-acre dog park at Rail Park is completed and opened, the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area be eliminated, and thereafter that only dogs on-leash be permitted at Chetworth Park. This recommendation is based on the conclusion that, largely due to the small size of Chetworth Park, the use of the park by off-leash dogs is incompatible with the full and uninhibited use of the park by children and other park users, and poses too many unacceptable risks to warrant the continuation of the fenced dog park. This recommendation does not mean that dogs will not be permitted in Chetworth Park; it only means that dogs will have to be on a leash, under the control of a capable person, at all times while in the park.

¹ In the future, as development at Potomac Yard proceeds, Rail Park will be a permanent three-acre fenced dog exercise area.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Master Plan for Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Area

Attachment 2: December 4, 2001, Memorandum - Status Report Regarding Alternative Sites for
a Fenced Dog Park Near Chetworth Park

STAFF: Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities
Park Planning Office

2/14/02

Cost Analysis for Temporary Fenced Dog Park at Slater's Lane and Powhatan

Chetworth: Size = ± 6505 sf.

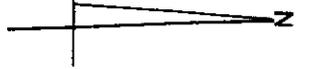
With 4" stonedust = 80 cy x 1.5 per cy/ton=120 x \$20 per ton	= \$ 2,400
Contractor	= \$ 8,430
Fencing for this area approx. 327 lf @ \$16. per lf + (2) gates	= \$ 6,232
Water fountain: fountain, connections, trenching	= \$ 3,500
Two signs	= \$ 100
Dog trash bag/recep.	= \$ 500
Geofabric .69/per sy @ 6505 sy	= \$ 4,489
Earthwork	= \$ 1,000
Total	= <u>\$26,651</u>
Plus water meter if needed	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total	= <u>\$41,651</u>

Chetworth Doubled: Size = ±13,010 sf.

With 4" stonedust = 161 cy x 1.5 per cy/ton=242 x \$20 per ton	= \$ 4,840
Contractor	= \$16,993
Fencing for this area approx. 469 lf @ \$16. per lf +(2) gates	= \$ 8,504
Water fountain: fountain, connections, trenching	= \$ 3,550
Two signs	= \$ 100
Dog trash bag/recep.	= \$ 500
Geofabric .69/per sy @ 13,010 sy	= \$ 8,977
Earthwork	= \$ 2,400
Total	= <u>\$45,864</u>
Plus water meter if needed	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total	= <u>\$60,864</u>

Note: Based on Master Plan, ½ acre is minimum size for a dog park in Alexandria.
½ acre is equal to 21,780 sf.

POWHATAN STREET



SLATERS LANE

BERNARD STREET

CITY BUILDING

13,010 sq. ft.
POSSIBLE DOG PARKS
6,605 sq. ft.

FUTURE SITE OF PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT

BY MADISON HOMES

PORTNER ROAD

POSSIBLE DOG PARKS AT SLATERS LANE
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ROUGH DRAFT

**CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Regular Meeting — March 12, 2002
Partial Verbatim**

17. Consideration of Amending the Status of Chetworth Park in the City's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

Mayor: Okay. Let me give, I guess, a little bit of history. We had a year-and-a-half or so ago, the Master, Dog Master Plan came before us for our consideration. The original staff recommendation relating to this particular park, Chetworth Park, was that, that it, it be designated as a leash facility, not an off-leash dog exercise area. After the public hearing and, and hearing from some citizens, some of the citizens who live up there, Council decided to, to change that designation against the, the original recommendation from staff that raised that recommendation primarily because they, they felt the area was too small, there would be maintenance issues and the potential for conflict. Well, a year-and-a-half later has occurred and, and we're here and much of, of staff's, I guess, rationale for their, for their recommendation has, has occurred. We've had a fair amount of, well, to say we've had a fair amount of, of attention on this matter is probably an understatement. We've had, you know, public testimony at, at a public hearing earlier in the spring at the, or in the fall. At that point we asked that, that staff explore a suitable alternative and that it would remain this way. We would do some improvements but it would remain this way until we found a suitable improvement, or a suitable replacement. That has, that process went, went forward. Rail Park was, or some, some improvements to, to what has been designated in Potomac Yards as Rail Park was, was contemplated. That is now sidetracked, and I think, you know, in retrospect, probably I think that the staff did a good job trying to make something happen there but it's, it's just, you know, not at the right time

and, and potentially the right place for, for that to occur. So we are at a, a juncture right now where we haven't been able to find a suitable alternative, a suitable replacement. We still have the conflicts. We have received e-mails, you know, a fair amount of e-mails supporting the, the off-leash facility, but, but we, we have, have literally neighbors against neighbors, and that is not a healthy situation for any kind of a community, particularly the northeast section of, of the city. And so, a couple, a month or so ago, Council asked staff to, to docket this item for further consideration for the possible change in the designation of Chetworth Park to, from an area that, that would permit off-leash dog exercise to, to an area that would treat it just like any other park and would require that the dogs be on leash when in the park. Now, the recommendation before us from the City Manager is that, is that we change the designation to a, to a leashed facility and that designation would occur on March the 31st. Additionally, and I asked the Manager to look into this, we need to have a discussion and, and, you know, potentially give the, the staff some guidance as to whether we want to consider some City-owned property at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street to be utilized as a, as a temporary facility and, and I think there are merits and demerits there of cost. If it's temporary now, how long, how long is temporary? Does it eventually become permanent? I mean those are, are various aspects of that, that particular decision. But, but the recommendation is before us tonight, and what I'd like to do is have some discussion on it and then decide the issue once and for all. Because I think one of the problems that we're, we're faced with is as long as, as the designation of Chetworth as an off-leash facility is a predicate to finding a suitable alternative, we're not going to be able to move forward, and in the meantime we will still have neighborhood unrest and that is, is not, again, a healthy situation. Discussion. Ms. Woodson.

Woodson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I have a couple of questions for staff, and so I think what I'll do is I'll ask them one at a time and there are four of them. Okay, the first question is, what is the maintenance cost at Chetworth, and I don't know if you've got it

broken out for dogs and what would it be without dogs. Actually, two questions at one time.

Mayor: Sandra?

Whitmore: I'm not sure that I have the current maintenance figures right in front of me for Chetworth.

Woodson: Estimate?

Whitmore: As far as going, let me just answer in general while he's got his pencil on the paper here. We visit that park regularly to empty the trash. It's a small park. Because it's so heavily used, we are out there a couple times a week. It's not going to be significantly more in maintenance costs whether the dogs are there or dogs are not there. I think though once we maintain the turf or whatever turf we have, we won't be going in to helping that. I will have to say on the neighbors behalf they have helped us try and keep that park area with mulch or bark or grass in there. So there's not, that's not going to be a significant difference between the maintenance costs.

Woodson: Okay.

Whitmore: Maybe a couple thousand dollars per year as according to Curt.

Woodson: Okay. So that's fairly insignificant, and the reason I was asking that is because part of the problem with the use of another site is that it's significant in, in cost, and so my question was, is there any balance there if it's going to be, you know, significantly less at Chetworth without dogs, can that be used to offset the additional costs at a different site and it sounds like it's dropped, the ?? doesn't matter. Well, then that gets rid of the third question, and the fourth question is, when are the proposed uses of that City site anticipated? I mean there were some comments in here in our docket item about -

Mayor: You're talking about the Slater's/Powhatan. Okay. Okay.

Woodson: The Slater, the Powhatan site. Yes. I don't, is there another site? That's another site? That's the only site we have in here.

Mayor: No, that's it.

Woodson: Okay. That's why it didn't reference it, but that's the site we're talking about. When do you anticipate uses at that site?

Sunderland: I think it's, the adjacent property has been sold. And others, remember.

Woodson: Right.

Sunderland: That's been sold. I don't think we have any, if Barbara's here, I don't think we have any site plan or any development plans that have come in for that yet. Anticipate if we were to sell and therefore there'd be a single project on the parcel from Powhatan over to, from actually not, from Portner over to Powhatan, you know, we're probably talking a year, 18 months, I would think. Some, in that time frame to get the project, architecture design through the site plan process.

Woodson: And that, and that being the case, and given the fact that there really isn't a significant amount of money that is going to be saved with maintenance, I know that I've gotten at least one, and I think more than one offer from citizens to offset the cost of maintenance in a site that is designated for dog use. Would that be something that would be possible for a period of 18 months, or until such time as that site is no longer a feasible site?

Sunderland: Well, I guess the question is if we end up selling it and we then, it may not be 18 months for it to be developed, but if we were to sell it, we would sell it before 18 months. So, when I gave you the 18 months, it's kind of when the project would be up and, and over.

Woodson: Well, I guess maybe that was really the question that I wanted to know.

Sunderland: Okay. Well, I guess if we were to do it, we would probably contract pretty, pretty soon so that

somebody would know they have the entire site to do development.

Woodson: Sure. And where are we in that process?

Sunderland: We, we have, we are waiting to to see a resolution.

Woodson: Okay. Thank you.

Sunderland: So, we, we need some guidance from you.

Pepper: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor: Ms. Pepper.

Pepper: I'm trying to think my way through this, and I'm very interested in, in the discussion that my colleagues will have because I don't see this as a very clear cut issue right now. There are a couple things I would like to know. First of all I guess starting really kind of from the beginning, the fact that we would have to wait some 18 months for Potomac Greens for the Rail Park. Can't that in any way be speeded up? Let me tell you where my questioning is beginning. It's beginning from the fact that, okay, if tonight we decide that the dog portion is going to require that all the dogs be leashed, on leashes. I don't see that as brining harmony and civility to this particular community. This is a very contentious issue, and I just don't see that as solving much. You're still going to have a neighbor eye-to-eye and toe-to-toe. So I kind of want to think a little bit about what other possibilities there might be, and I want to go back to square one. Is there any way of speeding that up and do we really have to wait until every last brick laid for Potomac Greens before we can, can put in a Rail Park there? That's my first question.

Whitmore: Several of the questions raised at the Planning Commission hearing on the Rail Park had to do with traffic and the inflow of traffic and how to exit traffic off the one public street there. There is going to be construction with Potomac Greens very shortly, within we think the next 18 months. What they had thought that we could do is do a turnaround at the end of the, I believe it's Potomac Greens Boulevard, and that is not possible. That's going to be a construction site very soon. So after

looking at what the Planning Commission and what the neighbors felt were safety issues, we did not think we could address the traffic and the safety issues before we had a full site plan for the area and knew where the egress and entrance to Potomac Greens was going to happen.

Pepper: You make it sound like it's not just a site plan, and that it may very well be a whole construction project.

Whitmore: Once we see the site plan that we will know how they're getting traffic in and out there, I think that we can work something out at that point, but right now for us to go off and on our own and try and solve this problem, I don't think that that's going to happen. There's only one public street in there and the rest are private streets with easements.

Pepper: But 18 months is a long time to live with this situation. I wanted to ask you about the cost of the Slater's Lane, just preparing a park there. It seems to me, you know, I mean, what is it that we're putting here that's costing \$41,000 or \$60,000? And while I'm on that paragraph, I'd like to mention the fact that if we require 21,000 square feet for every dog park that we have, we're not going to have very many.

Whitmore: That's true.

Pepper: And I think the idea is, is really to have, have more but smaller parks so that they are closer to neighborhoods.

Whitmore: I would disagree with you, respectfully disagree with you. The American Kennel Association says that one acre is the minimum they believe is safe for a dog park. You have to consider safety here, and we could pare that down because of Alexandria's lack of open space when we did the master plan to a minimum of a half acre. And -

Pepper: Is that what 21,000 square feet is, a half acre?

Whitmore: Yes, it is a half acre.

Mayor: Well, and I'll tell you, you know, the smaller, you know, the smaller kinds of parks, and I, and I appreciate what you're saying, but, but the smaller kinds of parks you have, the more, and I think we ought to learn from this lesson, the more opportunities you're going to have for, for conflict, particularly if you're going to scatter them all throughout the City. I mean, you know, we have some, we have some significant park, dog exercise areas, dog parks, in, in parts of Alexandria, and people drive to them. I mean, you live across the street from one -

Pepper: Sure do.

Mayor: At, on Duke Street, and we've put them in at, at Cameron Station. You know, we've, we've put one in at, and again, learn from our mistake, because we know that, that, you know, there is conflict with the residential communities at Simpson. So, you know, and I agree. I think that, that the larger dog parks are, are probably more advisable.

Pepper: Anyway I've got a couple more questions. I'll be as fast as I can. So what are you getting for \$41,000 or \$60,000?

Whitmore: You're just getting site preparation. You get the stone dust which is what we're going to cover the site with. The fencing, and that's about \$16 per linear foot. You'll get a water fountain and the water fountain connections. Two signs. The dog trash bag and receptacle that we have at all our dog parks. The fabric that goes underneath the stone dust, and whatever earth work we have to do to get the site fairly level. This does not include any drainage work whatsoever.

Pepper: Gee, that sounds expensive.

Whitmore: And that's -

Pepper: Then let me get to, to the property at Slater's Lane. Such a desirable property I would think would be, I mean I hate to leave these people kind of in the lurch out there. The property at Slater's Lane, I can't believe that it's suddenly going to become less desirable in 18 months. Is there some way that

we could land bank it if you will? You know, hang on to it for two years.

Sunderland: Sure. You can hang on, hang on it for 20 years if we want. The point is that we have a -

Pepper: Well now, let's not get exaggerating on this. I'm talking about -

Sunderland: No, no, what, what I'm saying is that we've got a parcel that is directly adjacent to it that is now under, has been sold for -

Pepper: I know that.

Sunderland: Okay. If, if we put a, if, if we're going to use the, the City parcel as a dog park. Look, the, the issue is whether it's really going to be a, one of the issues is it going to be a temporary, is it going to be temporary? And, and -

Pepper: Oh, my goodness, yes.

Sunderland: Well, with all respect, it's, we, we said two years ago or so we were going to re-evaluate this and we've had a hard time re-evaluating it, and I, and I dare say that if you put a temporary park in, when you, when you go to move, remove the temporary, you're going to be up here having the same debate, the same debate.

Pepper: Is that the Rail Park which hopefully would be in place?

Sunderland: You're going to have the same debate.

Mayor: You will have the same debate. There's no doubt about it. And I think the, the other appropriate question about, about, you know, let's just say it's, it's permanent. You know, the other question is, well, what, what other improvements do we have to make, and if those are monetary, but you know, in terms of from a planning and land use perspective, is that what we want to have at that location? And that's, that's, you know, probably a more significant question that, that if we, if we do it right we should involve the vast majority of, of the neighborhoods and civic associations out there in helping us make that decision.

Speck: Mr. Mayor.

Euille: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor: Mr., well, Mr. Speck and then Mr. Euille.

Speck: Mr. Mayor, this is anything but a happy moment. You commented that this was very divisive. I, I don't remember anything. We've dealt with some pretty controversial issues. This is about as divisive as anything that I can recall in a long time and, and there's plenty of blame to, to pass around on this. And to be very frank, beginning with us. I think, I think we made a mistake a couple of years ago in an effort to try to be accommodating to the concerns about the continuation of Chetworth Park, of leaving that door open. We knew it wasn't a good location for a, a designated dog exercise area, but we, we were trying to work something out, and I think what it did was create the feeling on the part of a lot of people that somehow with the right pressures that it would stay that way, and it was an instance where not making a definitive decision let the circumstance fester and that's what it's been doing and, and failure to make a definitive decision now will continue to allow that festering to go on in which neighbors are pitted against neighbors and civic associations are in great dissent and people are angry, and I, I don't agree that, that it has to continue. I think it will if we create the feeling that somehow it's not ever going to be resolved, and I think part of our responsibility is to make a definitive decision. As I said the other night, or I guess last month, this is one of those issues and there's no conceivable way that whatever decision we're going to make that people are going to be happy. And the question is whether you stay unhappy forever or whether there is just some acceptance of a decision that may be unpopular among some, popular among others, but nonetheless, a decision about, in this case, land use. And I think that we, I think we were genuine in our desire to find an alternative site, and I think there were some real enthusiasm about the possibility of the Crescent site. I don't want to go into all the reasons why it got sidetracked but I would say that the strategy of trying to sidetrack that decision in the hopes that it would delay the restoration of Chetworth Park was probably not, it's certainly not the approach that I

would recommend, but regardless, we're here now. We have to make a decision because otherwise I, I think any failure to resolve this will, will allow for that continuing division within the community and that's just tragic to see this, this park become such a battle field. The question that, that I think we'd been discussing was if we wanted to go in this direction and when would be appropriate to do it, and the Manager's recommendation was basically the end of this month. In conversation with Mr. Euille, he made a good point about providing a little bit more time, making a decision but giving people time to kind of get their hands around it and, and maybe work out some reconciliation among everyone, but making that decision nonetheless, I think, is one that we need to do, so I'm going to make a motion inconsistent with the Manager's recommendation that effective May first that we rescind the designation of Chetworth Park as a dog exercise area thereby requiring that dogs using the park be on-leash and authorize and direct the City Manager to take all actions necessary and desirable to carry out this rescission. And then I'm going to speak to the, the other matter of, of alternatives in a moment.

Mayor: Let me go ahead and, and we'll go ahead and address the motion that, that has been made by Mr. Speck. We have a motion by Mr. Speck to change the designation of Chetworth in terms of the dog exercise provision and that would be effective May 1 and that we would rescind the designation of the, of the off-leash provision and then require an on-leash provision there forward. Is there a second to that motion?

Woodson: Second.

Mayor: Is there any further discussion on that particular motion, and then, and then we can, oh, do you have a question? Okay. Ms. Eberwein.

Eberwein: I just want staff to respond. I know that they were going to begin shortly some reconfiguration of the tot lot and I'm wondering if, if that extra month is going to affect that or if we can just delay that until, delay that tot lot configuration if it's not already contracted for the work to begin until after the May first.

Whitmore: We've just gone out to bid for the playground equipment and after we get a successful bid, it takes probably six to eight weeks to order the material. So May first would work.

Eberwein: Okay. Good.

Mayor: All right. Any other discussion relating to the motion by Mr. Speck?

Euille: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor: Mr. Euille.

Euille: I would have loved to have made my comments prior to Mr. Speck making his motion. Perhaps I could support it, but I'm wondering if he would consider a friendly amendment to move from May first to May thirtieth. That's 60 days, thereabouts.

Speck: Actually, I thought that going from March 31 to May first was as a result of my conversation with you that we went to -

Euille: That's actually just one month.

Speck: It's, this is basically, May first is all of April, half of March. 45 days.

Eberwein: What difference does it make?

Speck: I don't care. I mean -

Mayor: Will you accept the friendly, the offer of a friendly amendment?

Speck: Of what?

Euille: May 30th.

Mayor: May 30th.

Speck: Sure.

Mayor: All right, May 30.

Eberwein: Same question.

Mayor: Same question.

Eberwein: Staff -

Mayor: So, so, is that acceptable to the second?

Woodson: I don't see where it really makes any difference. It's just another, what, few days, you know, all together. You know, I don't see where it makes that big of a difference. It's taking something away from a group of people who, you know, clearly want it, and I don't think that another 30 days is going to make them any happier. I do have a question, however, when it is my opportunity to ask it.

Mayor: And I will, but is, so I take it that, that the friendly amendment is acceptable.

Woodson: Fine with me.

Mayor: Okay. That's what I needed, needed an affirmative answer. Okay. You have a question, Ms. Woodson?

Woodson: Yeah, I have a question, and I'm not sure who to address this to. I understand that in some areas there is a movement towards commercial dog exercise areas where it is actually not owned by the City. It is not a City dog park. It is a commercially owned dog park. Perhaps it's a cooperative, perhaps it's just as it sounds, a commercially owned dog park where people pay perhaps a membership. What is the potential for that kind of operation in Alexandria where there isn't then any question unless it's not well-maintained, but there isn't any question about whether or not it's going to stay, today, tomorrow and, and 30 years from now.

Whitmore: I think the question is, is finding the commercial group, finding land that was acceptable to the City to put a dog park on, and then purchasing the land and going through the site requirements that they would have to go through. It's finding a half-acre of land that you feel is appropriate that will be the biggest.

Mayor: Well, land goes for about a million dollars an acre, and so, a fairly expensive proposition for a commercial enterprise. Other question? Ms. Eberwein.

Eberwein: Yeah, I have the same question I asked when the motion was for May first. How does that now affect your contracting with the -

Whitmore: What, we can set the date any time we want to. I mean it would mean a delay in getting the playground equipment operable but we're not sure exactly when the bids are going to be accepted and the playground equipment ordered and in. So I wouldn't base your, we've waited, at least for the three years I've been here, to get that playground installed so another few days isn't going to make or break the playground. We'll work around that although we will have to take part of that fence down to get the equipment in, and at that point there would be a construction fence around the area and it may not be the safest place for a dog off-leash during the time that we're bringing equipment in. Or we could delay it all until the time and just do all of it at once after which time -

Mayor: Well, that's, that's a determination you'll have to make. Ms. Eberwein.

Eberwein: Yeah. I, I agree with Ms. Woodson. I don't see what we're getting out of this additional time. I will support it but I, I really feel it's, it's more negative. I know Councilman Euille is trying to offer something to neighbors who have, have become used to the park being off-leash, but I view this as just lengthening the time of controversy and, and I really view the extension in a, as a negative. I think that it's -

Mayor: Well,

Eberwein: I think that it's time to move beyond that. Again, I will support it but I, and I understand the gesture behind the motion. I think that it does nothing to solve the problem, and in fact just delays the neighbors getting together to plan the park for the ultimate use and perhaps engenders even more opportunities for controversial meetings during the month of May.

Mayor: Well, I think there is a major -

Eberwein: I fear that.

Mayor: Well, I think there is a major aspect whether it's, whether it's May first or May thirtieth. There is some certainty that's now been injected into, into the process, assuming that there's an affirmative vote by the Members of Council.

Cleveland: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor: Mr. Cleveland.

Cleveland: I will not vote for this measure. Yeah, I, I can understand that where you're trying to talk about an alternative place. And that was the whole idea. We are negating a community and especially a whole, I will say a majority of a community from operating in something that we made a decision on. And when we made the second decision, it was to affirm that we would find another place for a park and then it would go back to being, to being the regular tot lot. So, we still haven't come up with a definitive place, and until we do that, then I could, I couldn't vote for the measure. But other than that, I'm not going to vote.

Mayor: Okay. I think the majority's going to respectfully disagree with you. Is there any further discussion?

Cleveland: I'm used to it.

Mayor: Okay. That's good. You ought to get used to it. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed, no. Okay, that passed 6-to-1 [Cleveland]. Let's now have some discussion about the, the Slater's Lane, Powhatan Street. Ms. Eberwein, then Mr. Euille.

Eberwein: Yeah. I, I sympathize very much with the comments of Vice Mayor Cleveland, but we tried to come up with an alternative site, and I was very, very disappointed by the, the reception that we received. Land is at a premium in this City, and I met with the Mayor with a group of residents and it was split. There were, I would say about a third of the group was adamantly opposed to the site, about a third of the group was willing to work with us and to make it better, and about a third of the group was, well, if we make some changes we might want to work with you. And, and that was, that was very, very disappointing to me. We had worked very hard to get Crescent Resources to speed up the project

and that's all fallen by the wayside. There was an alternative out there. Now, it may not have been to everyone's liking, but there are a lot of things that aren't to everyone's liking in this City. We located a school on less than three acres, less than two acres, less than one acre in Cameron Station. It doesn't meet the state regs for minimums for playground space or anything else, but we don't have the land in this City so we crammed that school on that site and we went up. And the School system was darn glad to get that property for that school. And I have to say I'm, I'm extraordinarily disappointed by this, this lack of willingness to work with us on it. We, this year, took a five-percent cut in all of our departments, including the Recreation Department. We have school construction needs. We've got people clamoring for tot lots, apparently in your neighborhood is what we're hearing. We would like to make additional park improvements. We'd like to put in a skateboard park for our youth. Now, maybe that's not important, but we have an awful lot of dog parks, we don't have a skateboard park and it would cost about \$200,000, and I have to say, with barely concealed unhappiness, that to spend \$60,000 on a temporary park for 18 months is a waste of taxpayer dollars that I, I will not support and I hope my colleagues won't either. I would like to see that money go to the skateboard park or to park maintenance or to a lot of things or to the creation of a dog park at the site that we talked about with Crescent Resources. I am disappointed that we have to wait 18 months, and I quite frankly if we were able to do it before in less than 18 months I don't see why we have to wait 18 months. I don't think we actually do. I think that now we're talking about planning an elaborate park with a tot lot and some other things in it perhaps and so now we're going to sort of delay it because the Planning Commission had a lot of people come to them and say, well there's all these issues with this park. Whether it was, as Mr. Speck has alluded to, a delaying tactic to try to keep Chetworth in place by defeating this other location, I don't know. But at this point we have voted and I would like to see us look at that other site and fast track it. But I cannot support taking valuable City land that is a gateway to that neighborhood and turning it into a dog park for 18 months to the tune of 60 some thousand dollars and then having to take it apart

later, and probably less than 18 months. So, if, if other people want to support that kind of notion, I think it's ridiculous.

Mayor: Mr. Euille.

Euille: Yes, Mr. Mayor. The question I have for staff is, there's already ongoing residential development in that, in that neighborhood, that adjacent neighborhood along Powhatan, not Powhatan but, excuse me? Portner, yeah, along Portner. You made mention of the fact that there is another residential development that will come forward that will occur next to the, the site, the City's own property site at Slater's and Powhatan, that's Portner, Slater's and Powhatan, excuse me, and then I am looking at the additional impacts of people moving in, having pets, mainly dogs, that are going to need more, you know, exercise areas. Have we taken that into consideration at all in terms of, you know, not, not even, forget the, the Rail Park site but just the fact that what we know is already occurring there and then what will occur, you know, six months, ten months, twelve months down the road. One could surmise, oh sure, they can, people can go over to Simpson, but we've already heard from the Simpson people that, and I, and I live right there and knowing how overcrowded that, that park, that site is presently. So, you know, I don't want us to rush to judgment to make the wrong decisions without having taken time to look at the overall impacts of, you know, both the budding neighborhoods. Chetworth Park just doesn't work, period. I mean, for, you know, dual use with, with humans and then dogs off-leash. I mean, I think the right decision is to require dogs on-leash but at the same time I think we have a responsibility to address, you know, the, the, and meet the need in terms of well where can dogs in that neighborhood go off-leash. Granted the Rail Park site was ideal, but that's you know not happening right at the moment. And I don't disagree with my colleague, Ms. Eberwein, in terms of whether it's wise or inappropriate or not to invest taxpayers' dollars for a temporary facility for, you know, whatever period of months, but I, I do believe that we have a responsibility to, you know, address an issue. And actually when the discussion came up and the Mayor mentioned tonight that he had asked staff to take another look at this, but back in

October I made mention, because as I walked and drove around the neighborhood, it occurred to me, My God, for, and I've lived in this City all my life, you know, for the last 15, 20 years, that site has sat there and nobody's wanted it. Now, we've had, put it on the market, there've been offers, but you know, it just never sold. But in the interim, something can happen there, and whether it's \$40,000, \$60,000, but I just don't think that we ought to discount that without, you know, giving it serious consideration, but also not discount the fact that that neighborhood is growing and is expanding already so whether it's the temporary site at Powhatan and Slater's or it's the Rail Park, that we've taken all that into consideration.

Whitmore: I'll ask Phil how many units may go in at that site.

Sunderland: I, I think that there probably on the order of seven to nine units, perhaps, that would be able to be built on our property. If you remember, if you go to the last page on the docket item, I can't tell you exactly where it is but, you know, maybe it's where the "Y" or the "T" on City Building is. You remember that's where the Metro tracks go under so there's a significant portion of the lot that cannot be built upon. So, the, the arrangement would be the, the homes that are now under contract along Portner, I understand, if they were to build on their own, they would face Portner. If we were to sell our site, then homes, they would face in most likely and be facing an internal street that comes off of Bernard. So, so, Mr. Euille, we probably, if we're at eight to nine units on the private side, we would build eight to nine on the City side as well, and we'd go from, we'd add another eight to nine, seven to nine units or so probably on that site. So the overall impact -

Euille: But I can reference the fact that there's that, all that new construction that's there now and those units. How many units are there at the, whatever, Manchester?

Sunderland: Well, I don't know. There's a number of, some townhouses and a number of condominiums.

Mayor: That's on the other side of Portner.

Sunderland: On the other side of Portner. Yeah, yeah.

Euille: There's a bunch of them there.

Mayor: Well, you know, and, and I mean let's be sort of, then I'll get to Mr. Speck in just a minute, but, I mean, let's be sort of, you know, frank here. If we move forward - yeah, well, but if we move forward with, with anything at Slater's and, and Portner, it's not going to be temporary. And so, you know, I think if, I think if there's any notion or any inkling that the Council wants to consider that site, you know, we need to initiate a planning process that, that is going to involve the civic associations and it's going to be more than one civic group, but just sort of, sort of like we did with Upper Potomac West. You know, they need to understand and they need to want it because it might not, yes, it might meet and, and very well so, the needs of a, of a particular constituency, but it might not meet the needs of another. Mr. Speck.

Speck: Well, I mean I think as far as alternatives, there are a couple of things. I'm not reluctant to look at other sites, but it's got to make sense financially and in terms of, of the, the quality of the decision, if you will. That you're picking a site that's useful, that doesn't create another problem down the road, and, and being mindful that, that we are the stewards of the public money and we don't want to spend it foolishly just for, for a quick fix. But I do want to just remind everyone that the issue of the Rail Park, Crescent, is actually still pending before the Planning Commission. They deferred it for 90 days, and what I'm hoping is that given the decision that we have now made, perhaps there will be an effort to work out with, with more fervor some of the issues that came up at the Planning Commission in an effort to resolve what we thought looked like at the time a very attractive site. And not only did it look like it was going to work, but we got Crescent to fast track it. They were talking about at the time had this been approved before Planning that they were looking at the use of that, that space late spring, early summer. We, we thought we'd, we'd come up with a pretty good solution, and, and we don't need to dwell on everything that happened at Planning Commission, but maybe there now might be a renewed

effort to work out some of the issues and turn that into something that could be very attractive. I hope that might be the case. I, I just, I hope that, I mean whether it's an extra 30 days or not, I mean I know people are angry, but, jeez, I mean, take your anger out on us, not on each other. I mean, it's just, it's, its terrible that, that you all are fighting, you know, about whether your dog should be able to run off-leash or on-leash. I think it's just terrible, and I hope that, that you'll, you'll put it behind you except the fact that that a decision we've made that you don't all agree with, some do, some don't, but that's what we're here for, and we, that's why there's recorded votes.

Pepper: Mr. Mayor.

Speck: Hope you all can find a way to work this out.

Mayor: Okay. Ms. Pepper.

Pepper: I would hope that staff will take this message back to Planning. That we really do want to see some quick action there. It seems to me that this is just the kind of situation where if there's a will there's a way. We seemed so close to it before. I know even that isn't an ideal situation, but I think that works as, as well as we're going to be able to do it.

Mayor: Well, I, you know, I'm more than happy to, to allow that process to, to continue, but I, I got to tell you I am, I am, I think that there are some significant concerns. My opinion. Of what I know about so far regarding access, pedestrian safety, and safety at the site. And those are, those are issues. And I'm more than happy to let staff try to work those issues out, but, but, you know, you're crossing a major street, you are in an isolated area that I think needs some light. Now, there might be, might be solutions here. There might be solutions here, but those are going to be real issues. And maybe Mr. Speck's right that, that now that we at least have made a definitive decision about Chetworth that maybe Rail Park, you know, potentially moves forward. I, I have my, my concerns about Rail Park as a dog exercise area. Pardon me?

Whitmore: As a temporary park, I, I agree. If we can go ahead and plan it as the three-acre park and put the monies in for the safety needs as you, low-key lighting, etc., at the time, but to do this twice, I'm not sure is cost-effective for Crescent and ??.

I do think there is a lot that we can do and get together with both the neighborhoods from Chetworth and Potomac, or Old Town Greens. Old Town Greens has also gotten some concessions in the last couple of weeks and maybe less, they were angry too for reasons unknown. But I think we can get the two groups together and talk with Crescent and see what we can do with that park either temporarily or it would be my hope if we have to move on the safety, or not if we do, we do have to move on the safety of the traffic returns that we do it in relationship to the area of the three acres that we know we're going to have permanently.

Mayor: One, one final, final question. Regarding the, the site at Powhatan and Slater's, and I know that we're talking, or at least, the, the discussion in the, in the staff recommendation was regarding a temporary use. Again, my recollection is that some of this property is not buildable. Correct? Not buildable? Not going to put anything on it. Okay. And that is the area that you've sort of designated as, or you, well, ballpark. And so, so, you know, and I'm not raising this as a, as an option at least at this point. I'm willing to let you go forward, but, but I'm not convinced that that necessarily is, is a bad site for a dog exercise area and, and but we'll let the Rail Park process run its course. But you know, I think the real question boils down to is that the true use you want to have at that particular intersection. And, and, you know, or do you want another kind of park? Do you want another kind of, of public use then? Because again it's not buildable. But that's a decision that, that the neighborhoods need to make because they're the ones that are going to have live with it and see it day in and day out. All right. I don't see that we're going to resolve anything regarding the secondary issue tonight, so I think it's time to move on to Item 18.

* * * * *

PHONE-O-GRAM[®]

for: Mayor & Council ¹⁷/₃₋₁₂₋₀₂

From Geraldine Tricek Company _____

City 1323 Chelworth Ct Area _____ Code _____ Phone _____

Telephoned Please return the call Returned your call Will call again Came in See me

Message She is against closing Chelworth Park - leave it as it is.

Date 3/12 Time 3:50 Taken by bc

Action Wanted _____

Action Taken _____

PHONE-O-GRAM[®]

for: Mayor & Council ¹⁷/₃₋₁₂₋₀₂

From Stephani Locket Company _____

City 6A Auburn Ct. Area _____ Code 22305 Phone _____

Telephoned Please return the call Returned your call Will call again Came in See me

Message She is opposed to rescinding the designation of Chelworth Park as a dog exercise area.

Date 3/12 Time 10:02 Taken by bc

Action Wanted _____

Action Taken _____

PHONE-O-GRAM[®]

for Mayor & Council ¹⁷
3-12-02

From Mary G. O'Conner Company _____

City 1344 Chetworth Court Area Code 703 Phone 548-5126

Telephoned Please return the call Returned your call Will call again Came in See me

Message 22314
She is against dog run at Chetworth Park.

Date 3/12 Time 12:33 Taken by bc

Action Wanted _____

Action Taken _____

PHONE-O-GRAM[®]

for Mayor & Council ¹⁷
3-12-02

From Gretchen Carswell Company _____

City 3461 Martha Custis Dr. Area Code _____ Phone _____

Telephoned Please return the call Returned your call Will call again Came in See me

Message 22302
She opposes the closing of Chetworth Park.

Date 3/12 Time 12:55 Taken by bc

Action Wanted _____

Action Taken _____

17
3-12-02

DENNIS A. DETLEF
1335 Chetworth Court
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

March 8, 2002

Mayor Kerry Donley
Vice Mayor William Cleveland
Councilman William Euille
Councilwoman Clare Eberwein
Councilwoman Redella Pepper
Councilman David Speck
Councilwoman Joyce Woodson

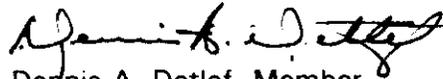
Dear Alexandria City Council Members:

Attached is a resolution concerning the designation of Chetworth Park that was unanimously approved by the Old North Port Community Association Board of Directors.

There are thirty-eight households comprising the ONPCA. The resolution was adopted because occupants of 76% of the households have indicated that they would like Chetworth Park to be returned to its original use as a regular City of Alexandria park, where dogs are welcome, but are required by city ordinance to be on leashes.

The ONPCA Board of Directors trusts that you will take our resolution under advisement when you consider this docket item in your March 12th City Council Meeting.

Sincerely,



Dennis A. Detlef, Member
ONPCA Board of Directors



OLD NORTH PORT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Board of Directors
February 28, 2002

RESOLUTION

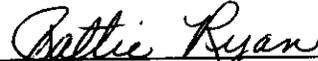
- WHEREAS:** The utilization of Chetworth Park as an "off-leash" dog run is currently being reviewed by the Alexandria City Council, and
- WHEREAS:** It has been observed that as many as forty (40) dogs per day have used the park and some of the dog handlers are arriving in vehicles with as many as three dogs, and
- WHEREAS:** Several ONPCA townhouse units directly border on or are in close proximity to the and the occupants thereof can attest to the noise and noxious odors that emanate from the park, particularly in the spring, summer and fall months, and
- WHEREAS:** Chetworth Park as it is now utilized is not conducive to greater usage by adults and children in the immediate neighborhood and may constitute a health hazard, and
- WHEREAS:** It is the belief of the ONPCA Board of Directors that Chetworth Park was designated as a dog run by the City Council two years ago without due process and does not meet the established City of Alexandria guidelines for an off-leash dog run, and
- WHEREAS:** Twenty-nine (29) of the thirty-eight (38) or 76.3% of the households comprising the Old North Port Community Association have signed a petition supporting Chetworth Park as a "dogs on leash" park and requesting the city to find a more appropriate place for an off-leash dog run.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors of the Old North Port Community Association, Inc. opposes the continued use of Chetworth Park as an off-leash dog run and supports returning the park to its status of a regular City of Alexandria park where dogs are welcome, but kept on leashes.

Above is a true and correct copy of a resolution unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Old North Port Community Association, Inc. on February 28, 2002 at which a quorum was present.

ONPCA Board of Directors



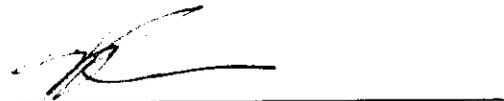
Pattie Ryan, President



Deanna Sibbald, Treasurer



Barbara Smith, Director



Kevin Reis, Vice-President



Claudia Casey, Secretary



Dennis A. Detlef, Director

17
3-12-02

March 11, 2002

Mayor Kerry J. Donley, Mayor
City of Alexandria
City Hall, Room 2300
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Donley:

I am sending this information in reference to Docket Item #17 for the City Council Meeting scheduled for March 12, 2002, CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDING THE STATUS OF CHETWORTH PARK IN THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS.

Attached you will find two separate items:

1. A map of the homes immediately adjacent to Chetworth Park, indicating (in red) overwhelming support by these residents for the current shared use status of the park, with dogs permitted off-leash in the designated area.
2. A 12-page petition that includes the signatures of 131 citizens of Northeast Alexandria that **SUPPORT THE CURRENT MIXED-USE STATUS OF CHETWORTH PARK – that is, as both a children's playground area and a dog exercise area (dogs off-leash).** These 131 citizens live in the immediate vicinity of the park. (Please note that signatures that have been marked through are repeat signatures, and are not counted in the total of 131.)

These items should give you sufficient evidence that there is overwhelming support in Northeast Alexandria for the retention of use of Chetworth Park as a shared, mixed-use space, and for the Department of Parks and Recreation to move forward to make long-needed changes (a higher fence and separate children's entrance) that would address existing concerns.

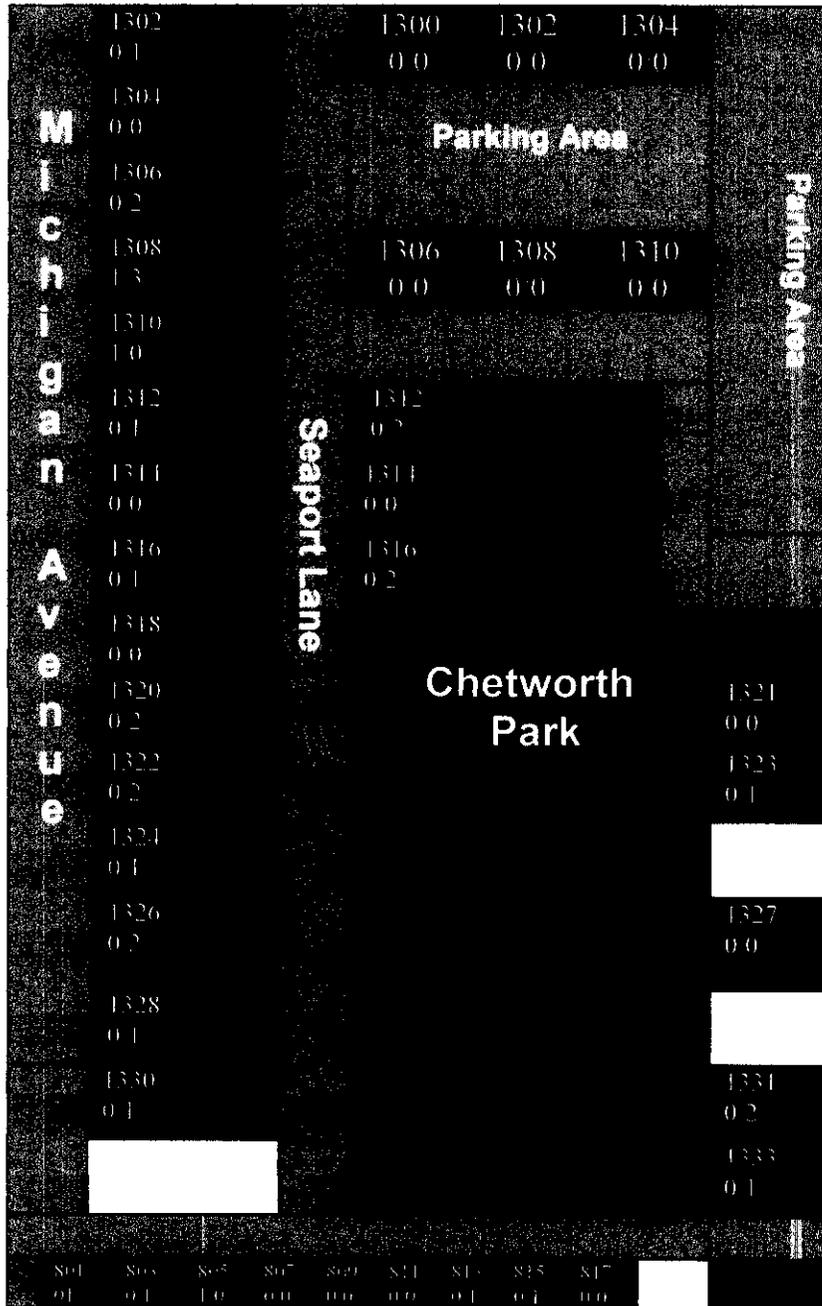
If you have any questions regarding these items, please feel free to contact me at 202-547-7424 (work) or 703-684-7054 (home).

Sincerely,



Theresa M. Forster
702 Avon Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22314





Legend

	Support
	Neutral
	Not home
	Opposed
0/0	Kids (under 10)/dogs per household

I support the current use of Chetworth Park as both a children's playground area and a dog exercise area (dogs off leash).

I support the plan put forth by the Department of Parks and Recreation that would create a higher fence for the children's area and a separate entrance.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Christine Gilbert	1316 Chetworth Ct, Alexandria, VA
Tate Chaenant	1312 Chetworth Ct Alexandria VA
Matt Hogan	1306 Chetworth Ct Alexandria VA
Heather Quarlesi (neutral)	1310 Chetworth Ct.
Leslie Ann Quillen	1302 Chetworth Court
Meridith Quillen	1302 Chetworth Court Alexandria, VA
Donald Woolfolk	1304 Chetworth Ct; Alex, VA
Stacy Morley	1352 Chetworth Ct. ALEXVA.
Lisa Webster	1320 Chetworth Ct.
Todd Webster	1320 Chetworth Ct.
Allen Raymond	1331 Chetworth Court Alex Va
Billie R.H. Morris	1331 Chetworth Court Alex, VA
Ram Mulgahy / Dave Battaglini	709 Devon Place Alexandria VA
Jalena J. Strayer	731 Burward St Alexandria 22314
Att 12/13	709 CHETWORTH PL. AL. 22314
Shani Kennedy	808 Bashford lane AL 22314
Jonathan Kennedy	808 Bashford lane AL 22314
Peter Dehn	817 Devon PL Alex
Janice Bermanke	Chetworth Pl.

We fully support the reinstitution of a dog park in the neighborhood. However we feel strongly that ~~the~~ the neighborhood is not considering all available options. Patty Ryan's park is sorely underutilized, and should be given serious consideration as either a kid or dog park. Ultimately this will resolve the conflict of usage of Chetworth Park. Patty Ryan's park is PUBLIC LAND-

Why are you not using it?

~~Eric DeWitt~~
514 Devon Place

✓
Jasper K. Twombly
514 Devon Place

~~Eric DeWitt~~
~~514 Devon Place~~

I support the current use of Chetworth Park as both a children's playground area and a dog exercise area (dogs off-leash).

I support the plan put forth by the Department of Parks and Recreation that would create a higher fence for the children's area and a separate entrance.

Name

Address

Christina Lynn	1316 Seaport Lane
Justine Hudel	1312 Michigan Ave
Jonathan Hudel	1312 Michigan Ave.
Criska O'Hara	1320 Michigan Ave
Jonathan B. Keough	1316 Seaport Lane
Robert H. Mills	1333 Chetworth Ct.
Theresa Mills	1333 Chetworth CT
Margaret Steele	815 Chetworth Park
Danna S. McGoncho	815 Chetworth PL.
Annalill Cal	817 Chetworth Pl
Barbara Brademan	1314 Michigan Ave
Jan	1322 Michigan Ave.
Geri Micek	1323 Chetworth Ct
Russ Hellyar	1318 MICHIGAN AVE
Camille Fleenor	1308 Michigan Ave
Joe Hunkley	1328 Michigan Ave.
B. Hopper Harris	1331 Chetworth Court
Alvin Lee	1331 Chetworth Court
Alvin Lee	1312 SEAPORT LANE
Winn Lee	1312 Seaport Lane

Gloria J. Vestal 1325 Michigan Ave.

Scott and Debbie Sparks 811 Chetworth Place

Pat LeDanne 1324 Michigan Ave.

RALPH EBEID 1302 MICHIGAN AVE.

K. Sumner 1310 SCARPOVA LN

~~Stephen K. Kainell~~ 1306 Michigan Avenue

Magdalena R. Ziegler 1304 Michigan Avenue

Patrick Hecox 1308 Michigan Ave

January 2002

I support the current use of Chetworth Park as both a children's playground area and a dog exercise area (dogs off leash).

I support the plan put forth by the Department of Parks and Recreation that would create a higher fence for the children's area and a separate entrance.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Ketty & Frank Conner	700 Avon Pl.
Theresa Forster	702 Avon Pl.
Kevin Huest	833 Bashford #301
KAREN BACON	813 Chetworth Place
Christian Heltnie	813 Chetworth Place
BURKE LEE	902 PARTNER PL
Perianne Matthews	831 Bashford Lane B2
Valmi & George Stuteville - may	1326 Michigan Ave.
LOUI BERTIN	964 N. WASHINGTON ST.
JANET BERTIN	964 N. WASHINGTON ST.
Jocana & Tony Onorato	800 Bashford Ln.
Karen Heinle	706 Avon Place
Lee Coyle	706 Avon Place
Penelope Roberts	704 Avon Place

I support the status quo at Chetworth Park.

Name	Address
Tom Waters	1220 Portner RD Alexandria, VA
Jon & Kim Douglas	1200 Portner Rd. Alexandria, VA 22314

I support the current use of Chetworth Park as both a children's playground area and a dog exercise area (dogs off leash).

I support the plan put forth by the Department of Parks and Recreation that would create a higher fence for the children's area and a separate entrance.

Name	Address
Jay & Deacy Heimbach	1125 Powhatan
Maquelin Simons	1111 Powhatan
St. A. Snelby & Weyers	1113 Powhatan
Jeanne Stunel	1127 POWHATAN AVE
Walter Leland	1131 Powhatan St
FARRON SONS	1205 Powhatan St.
Regina & Mark Hallisey	1211 Powhatan St
Robert & John Quinn	1213 Powhatan St.
Jack H. Silver	1107 Powhatan St.

I support the current use of Chetworth Park as both a children's playground area and a dog exercise area (dogs off leash).

I support the plan put forth by the Department of Parks and Recreation that would create a higher fence for the children's area and a separate entrance.

Name	Address
Frank Murchum	Hester F Meachum 831 Bashford Ln #303
Vicki	Patrick Lawver 831 Bashford Ln #203
Andrea Harbin	Andrea Harbin 831 Bashford #304
Dawn	Bea - Ac Hub. same
Anne Waters	831 Bashford Ln #301 Alex Va
Katherine Shaw	831 BASHFORD LANE #204 ALEXANDRIA, VA
Dana Kay	Dana Kay 831 Bashford Lane #201, Alexandria, VA
Beth Milberg	831 Bashford Lane Alexandria Beth Milberg
Dini Lynn	831 Bashford Lane Alexandria, Va #2314
Ann Farnadits	833 Bashford Lane #301 Alexandria VA 22314
Dei West	833 Bashford Ln. #301 Alexandria, VA 22314
Dany Eby	837 Bashford Ln #302 Alexandria VA 22314
Kim BATTE	" " " #3-2 " " "

17
3-12-02

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Beverly Jett
(beverly.jett@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Mon Mar 11, 2002 10:40:19] **IP Address:** [204.246.230.3]

First Name: Erin
Last Name: Lee
Street Address: 1312 Seaport Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Email Address: els51@yahoo.com
Comments: Dear Ms. Jett:

I would like to go on record with the City Clerk and City Council regarding Docket Item #17, Status of Chetworth Park, before Council on Tuesday, March 12th.

I do not support the proposed recommendation before that recommends the designation of Chetworth Park as a dog exercise area be rescinded effective March 31st.

I do support City Council voting in favor of developing a temporary fenced dog park at Slater's and Powhatan Street. My neighbors who are concerned about this issue are more than willing to donate funds to the development of this site. Alexandria Dogs which represents 500 members and Del Ray Dogs are also willing to help in fundraising.

Thank you for voting not to eliminate Chetworth Park as an off-leash dog park until the Slater's and Powhatan site can be developed.

Sincerely,

Erin Lee
1312 Seaport Lane

#17 3/12/02

Sent to CC, CM,

Recreation

#15 2/12/02

future

Concerned Fairlington Residents
PO Box 6914
Shirlington Station
Arlington, VA 22206-0914

February 11, 2002

Alexandria City Council
City Hall
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Docket Item 15, Chetworth Park's fenced dog exercise area.

Concerned Fairlington Residents is a citizens group dedicated to improving the quality of life in Fairlington, Arlington and Alexandria. We are an historic community, located in both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

CFR encourages the siting of dog exercise areas in commercial and industrial zoned locations where they will bother no one. We encourage municipalities to move DEAs from residential neighborhoods and public parks to locations zoned industrial and commercial (e.g., the former Potomac Yards) whenever possible.

Many of Arlington County's dog exercise areas have been constant problems since they opened. We estimate that dog exercise areas in Arlington's parks and residential areas have cost taxpayers at least \$1 million for unanticipated staff time to resolve problems over the past 5 years. At least two Arlington DEAs will need hundreds more hours of staff time to resolve ongoing problems.

We ask Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to find sites zoned industrial and commercial for dog exercise areas, as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Beth Davis

Beth Davis



17 3/12/02

Sent to CC, CM,
Recreation
15 2/12/02
future

Concerned Fairlington Residents
PO Box 6914
Shirlington Station
Arlington, VA 22206-0914

February 11, 2002

Alexandria City Council
City Hall
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

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We ask Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to find sites zoned industrial and commercial for dog exercise areas, as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Beth Davis

Beth Davis



#17 3/12/02

Oral (c)
1-22-02

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

future: 2/12/02 RM

DATE: JANUARY 31, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

FROM: SANDRA WHITMORE, DIRECTOR *SW/CS for*
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT REGARDING CHETWORTH DOG PARK AND THE
PLANS FOR A TEMPORARY DOG PARK AT RAIL PARK



This memorandum is in response to Mayor Donley's request from the January 22, 2002, City Council meeting that staff provide a status report regarding Chetworth dog park and the plans for a fenced dog park at Rail Park in Potomac Yard.

Staff prepared a status report in December regarding an analysis of alternative sites for a fenced dog park near Chetworth Park, which concluded that we would proceed with Crescent Resources to develop one acre of the three acre Rail Park as a fenced dog park site as rapidly as possible (Attachment 1).

Since the December 4 report to City Council, staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities have held a series of meetings related to the development of a fenced dog park at Rail Park.

- The first meeting was held on December 6, 2001 at Charles Houston Recreation Center to brief the residents of the Chetworth Park area on alternate sites and the staff recommendation to develop a fenced dog park at Rail Park in Potomac Yard. Twenty-six people attended this meeting, including Councilman Euille and Councilman Speck. Attendees were divided between accepting this plan or leaving the fenced dog park at Chetworth.
- On December 8, 2001, twenty-five people toured the Rail Park site with staff and gave input. Comments ranged from possible parking problems, safety concerns, and the lack of a playground in the Old Town Greens area¹ to enthusiasm for a such a large dog park.

¹Staff held a follow up meeting with residents of Old Town Greens and members of Northeast Citizens' Association to address this concern on January 14, 2002. Representatives from both Crescent Resources and Eakin Youngentob, the contract purchaser of the Potomac Greens site, were in attendance. Residents voiced their concern that the City was moving ahead on a dog park before addressing the issue of a children's tot-lot in the Old Town Greens and Potomac Greens area. After a discussion of the development process for Potomac Yard, which includes the fenced dog park as a component of the concept plan, and the Old Town Greens development, which did not include a tot-lot in the initial design, both Eakin Youngentob and Crescent Resources, as good neighbors, agreed to explore with the residents possible solutions to their lack of a playground.

- A third meeting was held on December 13, 2001, at Lee Center for citizens that were interested in contributing ideas for the initial one-acre dog park at Rail Park, as well as for the three-acre permanent dog park. Twenty-seven people were in attendance, including Councilwoman Pepper. Ideas ranged from drinking water for both dogs and people, double-gated entrances, shade and benches, safe crossing across Slater's Lane, lighting for night use, bulletin boards, pick-up bag stations and hard surfaces beyond the entrance gates and around the drinking fountains.

In accordance with the time line presented in the December status report, the Planning Commission will consider Crescent Resources' application for a special use permit (SUP) to make initial improvements for a public fenced dog park on the one-acre southern portion of Rail Park at its February 5th meeting. This SUP will be docketed for public hearing and consideration at Council's February 23 public hearing meeting. Amenities in the initial plan incorporate several of the suggestions from the citizen input process during December, include fencing around the perimeter of the dog park, fenced de-leashing pens at the dog park entry, park seating and benches, ground surface material for the park such as blue stone dust, screening of the fence area that faces the Old Town Greens tennis courts, an asphalt trail that connects the dog park entry and the street, covered trash receptacles, pick-up bag stations and a bulletin board for posting park regulations.

City staff will also work with neighbors to make a safe route from the Chetworth neighborhood to this site. At this time, the dog park at Rail Park will not be lighted. It should be noted that the City does not currently light any of our existing fenced dog parks.

If the Planning Commission and City Council approve the SUP for the initial fenced dog park at Rail Park, Crescent Resources intends to begin work as soon as possible with a target date of late May 2002 to complete the project. It is the recommendation of staff that, at the time the initial one-acre dog park at Rail Park is completed, the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area be eliminated and that the City allow only dogs on-leash at Chetworth Park. We will be docketing this recommendation for Council's consideration at the February 12 legislative meeting.

Attachment 1: December 4, 2001 Memorandum - Status Report Regarding Alternative Sites for a Fenced Dog Park Near Chetworth Park

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT REGARDING ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR A FENCED DOG PARK NEAR CHETWORTH PARK

BACKGROUND: At the October 13, 2001 public hearing, City Council received comments from a number of citizens regarding the fenced dog park and the children's playground uses at Chetworth Park. Following Council discussion on these issues, Council unanimously voted that staff proceed with the playground changes¹ in Chetworth Park, and look for alternative sites for the fenced dog park by the end of year.

DISCUSSION: Staff reviewed five sites as possible locations for a fenced dog park near Chetworth Park, including the site identified by Councilwoman Pepper that is immediately west of and adjacent to Domino's Pizza on Slater's Lane. In reviewing these sites, staff took into consideration location, property ownership, and the potential cost to the City of developing the site for a fenced dog park. Of these five sites, the three acre site at Potomac Yard, called Rail Park, is currently designated to be a fenced dog park as part of the approved Potomac Yard plan.

Crescent Resources has agreed to accelerate the development of this fenced dog park by starting immediately to develop one acre of this three acre site for use by May 2002, with the remaining two acres to be developed later in 2002. I have directed staff to work with Crescent Resources to facilitate the development of this dog park as soon as possible. Crescent Resources will make application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a temporary fenced dog park in December, have it heard by the Planning Commission and City Council in February, and begin construction in March with completion planned by May, 2002. After receiving additional community input from potential users of the entire dog park site Crescent Resources will complete the remaining two acres in late fall of 2002. Crescent Resources will pay for the development of the site, with no cost to the City. A meeting for all City residents to provide input into the design of the dog park is scheduled with the architects from Crescent Resources on Thursday, December 13, 2001, at 7 p.m. at the Lee Center. Residents from the Chetworth Park area will be invited to this meeting, but they will also be briefed prior to December 13 at a separate meeting on December 6 as discussed below.

¹ The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities had been working with Northeast Civic Association for several months regarding improvements to Chetworth Park. At the October 3 meeting of the civic association, the association approved the playground improvement plans recommended by the Department of Recreation, which include removing and replacing the playground equipment, and modifying the fence and gate so children can enter the playground area directly without going through the dog exercise area.

The following is a summary of the other four sites reviewed by staff, including why these sites are not recommended as sites for a fenced dog park.

- 1) The parcel identified by Councilwoman Pepper that is immediately west of and adjacent to Domino's Pizza on Slater's Lane: this property is owned by Crescent Resources and would only serve as a temporary park until Crescent develops the property. The City would bear the expense of developing the site. I do not believe it is fiscally prudent to expend monies for the temporary development of this site as a fenced dog park, and I do not recommend that the City acquire this site from Crescent for permanent use as a fenced dog park.
- 2) The City-owned property at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street: this property is seen as a gateway for people entering Old Town Greens and, in the future, Potomac Yard. A fenced dog park would not be seen as an aesthetically pleasing gateway to these communities. The City would bear the expense to develop the site. This site is not recommended for development as a fenced dog park.
- 3) The property at Slater's Lane and Portner Road, adjacent to the City-owned parcel: this property is privately owned. If it were made available for a temporary dog park, the City would bear the expense of developing the site. I do not believe it is prudent to expend monies for the temporary development of this site as a fenced dog park, and I do not recommend that the City acquire this site.
- 4) The property at the corner of Bashford Lane and Powhatan Street: this property is owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the site is too small for consideration as a fenced dog park.

Staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will hold a meeting on December 6, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. to brief residents of the Chetworth Park area on these efforts to identify an alternative site, the plan to proceed with the development of Rail Park as the alternative site, and the time line for the playground improvements at Chetworth Park. This meeting will be held at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

While the one-acre portion of Rail Park is under development, Chetworth Park will remain both an off-leash dog area and a park for children and passive users. Once the one-acre fenced dog park at Rail Park is completed in the Spring 2002, I will docket the reevaluation of the fenced dog park at Chetworth Park for City Council's consideration, as required under the approved Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

cc: Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Lori Godwin, Assistant City Manager