# MEMORANDUM 

DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2007
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE NAMING COMMITTEE

ISSUE: Report of the City Naming Committee
RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:
(1) receive the report from the Naming Committee;
(2) set for public hearing and consideration on Tuesday, February 27 the proposal to name the new soccer field behind George Washington Middle School in honor of the Swanson family; and
(3) postpone action on the request by the Ballyshaners to name Waterfront Park in honor of Colonel John Firzgerald until after the Waterfront Plan has been completed.

DISCUSSION: The City Naming Committee, which includes Councilman Lovain, Councilwoman Pepper (Chair) and City Manager Jim Hartmann, met on January 29, 2007, to discuss requests to name the new City soccer filed behind George Washington Middle School in honor of the Swanson family and to name Waterfront Park in honor of the late Colonel John Fitzgerald.

On December 7, 2006, Dana Lawhorne, Kerry Donley, and Frank Shafroth wrote to City Council and requested that the Naming Committee be asked to consider naming the new City soccer field behind GW Middle School Swanson Field to recognize the contributions that the Swanson family has made to the Alexandria soccer program (Attachment 1).

Sandy Swanson, a T.C. Williams High School graduate served the Alexandria Soccer Association for more than a decade and has had over 30 years of involvement in Alexandria soccer activities. He was a leader in developing the Alexandria Soccer Association partnership with the City. Mr. Swanson was also involved in helping to diversify soccer participation. His wife Mimi Swanson has been as assistant coach and TC soccer fundraiser.

Tragically, Kelly Swanson died last June. She and her twin sister were very involved in soccer and also worked with children with disabilities. Attachment 1 provides additional details about the contributions of the Swanson family to Alexandria soccer.

The Naming Committee reviewed this request and determined that it is worthy of consideration by City Council. The Committee recommends that Council hold a public hearing on the request and make a determination on the naming of the field in honor of the Swanson family.

On November 28,2006 , City Council received a letter from Ballyshaners Chairman Pat Troy, President Michael Tiddy, and Secretary J.J.Kelly requesting that the City Council name
Waterfront Park in honor of Colonel John Fitzgerald (Attachment 2). The Naming Committee considered this request at its January 29 meeting.

According to the request Colonel Fitzgerald came to Alexandria in 1769 and purchased land on the south side of the 200 block of King Street in 1788. He later established a wharf at King and Water (Lee) Streets, where he constructed three warehouses. He was a colonel in the Virginia militia, an aide-de-camp to General George Washington and mayor of the City.

The Naming Committee discussed this request. They determined that since the development of the Waterfront Plan was about to get underway, it might be best to wait until the plan was completed. At that time there might be other opportunities to honor Colonel Fitzgerald.

The Naming Committee recommends that Council defer this request until the Waterfront Plan is complete.

## ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment l. December 7, 2006 Letter from Dana Lawhorne, Kerry Donley and Frank Shafroth
Attachment 2. November 28, 2006, Letter from Pat Troy, Michael Tiddy and J.J. Kelly

## STAFF:

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

# To: The tractable theaters of Council city manager 

December 7, 2006
The Honorable Bill Exile
Members of the Alexandria City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers:
We are writing to formally request that the City convene its nominating committee to act favorably in naming the new soccer field behind George Washington Middle School Swanson Field in recognition of the enduring contributions this unique Alexandria family has made through soccer to our community. The broad public recognition and affection for this family and its commitment to our community was clearly evidenced at the dedication of the new Therapeutic Recreation room last month. We believe they have been instrumental over the last 20 years in making soccer in our city the most inclusive activity outside of our public. school system, so we ask you to take this formal action to honor the Swanson spirit, so that a little bit of its Irish magic can be a part of us and Alexandria forever. We would request that you act quickly, as we would like to officially name the field this spring before the commencement of TC William's and ASA's Spring seasons.

There is no family that has done as much for the soccer community as the Swansons. Dad Swanson, Sandy, a T.C. graduate, devoted more than a decade of service to the Alexandria Soccer Association, where he became an essential architect in creating a new partnership with the City, from everything to working with the Council to enact ordinances to fence and protect existing fields, to setting in play a series of new fields-like Brenman Park, and vastly improved maintenance of existing fields. He oversaw the largest expansion, with the greatest diversity ever achieved, through an extraordinary outreach effort, clinics, and significant increases in the scholarship program. His wife, Mimi, has been an assistant coach, a T.C. soccer fundraiser, and a mother to a half team who have all not only played in ASA and varsity soccer at T.C., but made their own ongoing contributions to expanding opportunities in our city.

Kelley Swanson embodied the unique values this family has brought and continues to give to our community. A graduate of T.C. a year ago last June with her twin sister, she was the epitome of the very best of what our city is about-a commitment to help be a bridge to bring people together irrespective of ability or disability, race or income, age, or skill. Like A.E. Houseman's poem "To An Athlete Dying Young," Kelley has left an indelible mark on Alexandria-and, knowing Kelley, a challenge to all of us to enrich and further the dreams she sought. Or, as Kelley also wrote: "my ultimate rush for soccer is not restricted to my own games. Others may have severe disabilities. I intend to give my best to all of them, because I have learned that young people, given the chance, deserve to experience the adrenaline rush."

Between us, we have played, coached, refed, or been spectators at soccer events at fields at George Washington for over 30 years, and the fields have never had a name. Today, thanks to families like the Swansons, some 2000 kids of every age and with the greatest diversity of any non-school activity in the city play this global game. They come from every Alexandria neighborhood, from every school, from every physical ability and disability, and from various countries to play together. They are young enough to find delight in looking for four leaf clovers during the game and old enough to demonstrate extraordinary skills. None of that would have been possible without the leadership of Mimi, Sandy, and their kids-they have created a legacy,
and endowed the rest of us-and our city-with the opportunity to be stewards of their gifts, commitments, and contributions for the years ahead. We ask for your support and would be pleased to meet with you or respond to any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Cc: The Honorable Del Pepper
The Honorable Tim Lovain Mr. Jim Hartmann

## the Ballyshaners, inc.

November 28, 2006
The Honorable William D. Exile
Mayor, City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Dear Mayor Exile,
The Ballyshaners, Inc., a non-profit organization, has for over 25 years been actively involved in co-sponsoring, along with the City of Alexandria, the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Irish Festival. Our mission and purpose has been, and continues to be, the promotion of our Irish culture and history here in the City of Alexandria.

For the past several years we have been actively trying to get formal recognition of one of the famous early leaders of this great city, Colonel John Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald moved to Alexandria in 1769 and purchased the south side of the 200 block of King Street in 1788. The town council granted him the sunken ground to the east of this lot. Mr. Fitzgerald banked out 400 feet from the shoreline at King and Water (Lee) Streets, creating "Fitzgerald's Wharf." On the wharf, he constructed three brick warehouses.

As you may also know, John Fitzgerald served as colonel of the Virginia militia and an aide-de-camp to General George Washington. He also served as Mayor of the City of Alexandria and collector of the port.

Due to his many contributions to the City and the Commonwealth of Virginia, we believe the City should formally recognize Colonel Fitzgerald by naming Waterfront Park in his honor. We, therefore, ask that the City Council hold a public hearing so that additional facts and circumstances regarding Colonel Fitzgerald's contributions to Alexandria can be presented and a vote on this matter can be held.


Pat Troy
Chairman
The Ballyshaners


Michael Tiddy
President
The Ballyshaners


Secretary
The Ballyshaners

## CF:

Vice Mayor
City Council Members
City Manager

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[billw@iadb.org](mailto:billw@iadb.org)
02/05/2007 01:07 PM
Please respond to [billw@iadb.org](mailto:billw@iadb.org)

To [alexvamayor@aol.com](mailto:alexvamayor@aol.com), [macdonaldcouncil@msn.com](mailto:macdonaldcouncil@msn.com), [timothylovain@aol.com](mailto:timothylovain@aol.com), [councilmangaines@aol.com](mailto:councilmangaines@aol.com), [council@krupicka.com](mailto:council@krupicka.com), [delpepper@aol.com](mailto:delpepper@aol.com), cc
bee

Subject COA Contact Us: Naming of Swanson Filed

## Time: [Mon Feb 05, 2007 13:07:12] IP Address: [199.79.165.12]

Response requested: []

| First Name: | Bill |
| ---: | :--- |
| Last Name: | Watts |
| Street Address: | 1200 Bayliss Drive |
| City: | Alexandria |
| State: | Va |
| Zip: | 22302 |
| Phone: | $703-683-0938$ |
| Email Address: | billw@iadb.org |
| Subject: | Naming of Swanson Filed |
|  | I sent you all an e-mail regarding the above action |
|  | on November 13,2006. Since then, the Naming |
|  | Committee has unanimously reported out the |
|  | proposal to name the new field between GW and |
| the Braddock Road Metro station Swanson Field. |  |
|  | I am urging you to please take prompt action on |
| this proposal so that the field can be "named" |  |
| before the first TCW soccer game for the 2007 |  |
|  | season is played (3/12/07 for the boys and |
|  | 3/14/07 for the girls). This would be a great and <br> well deserved honor for the City, Alexandria <br> Comments <br> soccer and, of course, for the Swanson Family. |
|  | I thank you for you time and consideration, |
|  | Bill Watts |

To [alexvamayor@aol.com](mailto:alexvamayor@aol.com), [macdonaldcouncil@msn.com](mailto:macdonaldcouncil@msn.com), [timothylovain@aol.com](mailto:timothylovain@aol.com), [councilmangaines@aol.com](mailto:councilmangaines@aol.com), [council@krupicka.com](mailto:council@krupicka.com), [delpepper@aol.com](mailto:delpepper@aol.com),
bcc
Subject COA Contact Us: Swanson Field

## Time: [Thu Mar 01, 2007 14:59:58] IP Address: [199.79.165.11]

Response requested: []

First Name: Bill
Last Name: Watts
Street Address: 1200 Bayliss Drive
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-683-0938
Email Address: billw@iadb.org
Subject: Swanson Field
I just wanted to thank you all for taking the time to honor one of Alexandria's families by naming the new soccer field at GW Middle School for the
Comments: Swanson family. It was a very nice and justly deserved honor for this family who have done so much for the children of Alexandria.
Thank you, Bill Watts



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2-27-07
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[billw@iadb.org](mailto:billw@iadb.org)
11/13/2006 01:36 PM
Please respond to
[billw@iadb.org](mailto:billw@iadb.org)

To [alexvamayor@aol.com](mailto:alexvamayor@aol.com), [macdonaldcounci@msn.com](mailto:macdonaldcounci@msn.com), [timothylovain@aol.com](mailto:timothylovain@aol.com), [councilmangaines@aol.com](mailto:councilmangaines@aol.com), [council@krupicka.com](mailto:council@krupicka.com), [delpepper@aol.com](mailto:delpepper@aol.com),
cc
bee
Subject
COA Contact Us: Naming of the new soccer field at GW Middle School

Time: [Mon Nov 13, 2006 13:36:45] IP Address: [199.79.165.12]
Response requested: []

First Name: William<br>Last Name: Watts, Jr.<br>Street Address: 1200 Bayliss Drive<br>City: Alexandria<br>State: Va.<br>Zip: 22302<br>Phone: 703-683-0938<br>Email Address: billw@iadb.org<br>Subject: \(\begin{aligned} \& Naming<br>\& School\end{aligned}\)

November 13,2006
Mr. Mayor, I am writing to urge that you and the Council act to name the new soccer field at George Washington Middle School for the Swanson family in recognition of their more than two decades of service and commitment to the City-but especially for their leadership to ensure that all kids, irrespective of income, disability, or race are encouraged and enabled to participate and be part of the single largest out-of-school program for kids in our community. While I know you have personally supported this appropriate recognition of their enormous and sustained contributions, I am writing to ask that you ask the Council to act-and act so that this measure can be adopted before the T.C. Williams Soccer season begins.

I have been acquainted with the Swanson Family since 1991, especially Sandy through his activities with the Alexandria Soccer Association. 1991 was the year I first coached in ASA for my son Will. Sandy was tireless as a Director, President, Field

Director, Field Liner, Field Acquirer (Brenman Field) for ASA and the children of Alexandria, of all backgrounds and race. The entire Swanson family, Sandy, Mimi, Lindsay, Ryan, Andrew, Kelley and Katey were all involved with soccer in Alexandria for most of the kids' lives.

When Andrew "finally" joined our team in 2001, as ours was the only one remaining for his age group in ASA and the SFL, his mother and father were tireless in their attendance at the games. But,

## Comments:

 more importantly, in making sure that all teammates who needed a ride to the games received one. There was many a game when Mimi or Sandy would show up in their van, "Swanson7", with half the team. This was a huge help for the children who would not otherwise be able to participate, and to me as a coach. This continued through the Spring 2004 when both our sons graduated from T.C. Williams High School.In addition, Kelley and Katey Swanson excelled at soccer at T.C. Williams for many years, being elected co-captains their senior year. Kelley also coached kids with disabilities through the Rec. Department for over three years.

After Kelley's untimely death in 2005, the Swanson family thought about what they could do to honor her memory. The 5k Kelly Cares Road Race was born and raised over $\$ 40,000$ for a Rec. Dept. Fitness and Therapy Room in its first year (2006). In her death, she and her family still continue to help the children of Alexandria, especially the ones in need of the most help.

It is for all the above reasons, the impact on soccer in Alexandria since the late 1980s, the impact on the children of all race and class, that I propose naming the future T.C. Williams Soccer Field at the GW Middle School, Swanson Field, to honor this worthy family.

Sincerely,
William W. Watts, Jr.

