


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 15, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: APPROPRIATION FROM FISCAL YEAR 2008 CONTINGENCY FUND FOR KING STREET GARDENS PARK LIGHTING ENHANCEMENTS

**ISSUE:** Appropriation from Fiscal Year 2008 contingency fund for King Street Gardens Park lighting enhancements.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Accept the recommendation from the King Street Gardens Park Foundation for lighting enhancements at the King Street Gardens Park.
- (2) Approve the appropriation of \$25,000 from the City's Fiscal Year 2008 General Fund Contingent Reserve to support these lighting enhancements; and
- (3) Authorize staff to proceed with lighting design and implementation.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2003, the King Street Gardens Park Foundation, Inc. (KSGPF) was created to help enhance and maintain the King Street Gardens Park. Expertise of the Board of Directors includes: Architect, artists, neighborhood residents and business representatives, real estate agents and civic activists. The KSGPF's role is to provide a vehicle to obtain contributions (commemorative and non-commemorative) for the further enhancements and beautification of the park. The KSGPF works with the City and other non-profits to help organize arts, community celebrations and other activities at the park.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2008 deliberations, the KSGPF brought to City Council's attention the request for additional funds to add enhancements for King Street Gardens Park. At the City Council's May 7, 2007 meeting, Council designated \$25,000 from the Fiscal Year 2008 General Fund Contingent Reserve to support that effort. Council requested that KSGPF work with staff to prioritize and develop a recommendation for the park improvements, and once determined, bring these recommendations back to City Council for approval and authorization of the \$25,000.

After holding a series of meetings in the Fall of 2007, the KSGPF voted for the following priorities:

- 1) To fulfill the desires of the artists' original plan as it relates to enhanced lighting of the park. This is anticipated to include up lighting on the large frontal tri-corner poles and hanging of lights from the trellis columns to cast lighting by the seating area. The KSGPF wishes to have these lights be energy efficient and have as little maintenance required as possible, and
- 2) To improve the landscaping and irrigation for the park.

**DISCUSSION:** Based on a study of the two priorities, enhancing the park lighting is in accordance with the original design of the park. It was determined that there is enough power using the existing electrical box, and staff is recommending the \$25,000 be appropriated to enhance the lighting. The KSGPF board submitted a letter of support for this recommendation (Attachment). Bids and proposals will be received this Summer with implementation and completion to occur in the Fall.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** In order to begin the process for the creation of a lighting design and implementation, \$25,000 from the Fiscal Year 2008 General Fund Contingent Reserve is recommended to be appropriated to the RPCA budget.

**ATTACHMENT:** King Street Gardens Park Foundation Letter of Support

**STAFF:**

Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities  
Aimee Vosper, Division Chief, Park Planning, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities  
Cheryl Anne Colton, Cultural Arts Administrator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

# KING STREET GARDENS PARK FOUNDATION, INC.

Attachment

2002 Mt Vernon Ave, Suite 11, PO Box 2778 Alexandria, VA 22301

Ph: 703-836-2724 Fx: 703-836-4382

www.kingstreetgardenspark.org

## Board of Directors

Chet Avery, Chair  
Rodger Diglio, Vice Chair  
Lois Walker, Secretary  
Marlin Lord, Treasurer  
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Mark Higgins  
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David Martin  
Ashley Spencer  
Pam St. Clair  
Jesse Suber  
Cheryl Anne Colton, ex officio  
Staff liaison for Recreation,  
Parks and Cultural Activities

Nina Tisara  
Member Emeritus

April 7, 2008

The Hon. William D Euille  
Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

Last year, when Council passed the current (FY 2008) budget, it voted to invest \$25,000 in needed improvements to King Street Gardens Park to enhance this important portal in the City. After careful and detailed study of the Park's needs, the King Street Gardens Park Foundation has determined that the best use for this initial investment to make this park more welcoming and secure is to improve the lighting in the Park. We are requesting that the City of Alexandria move now to implement this priority component of the Foundation's Capital improvement plan.

With the opening of National Harbor and the anticipated increase in visitors to Alexandria the City needs to encourage the maximum use of public transportation from the King Street Metro and the King Street Trolley especially along King Street, it becomes even more critical to improve the lighting at the park. Since the King Street Gardens Park is an important anchor to this historic Alexandria "main street" we hope to get this project completed as quickly as possible so that a bright, beautifully landscaped Park can welcome the expected guests arriving in the City by subway.

On behalf of the members of the Foundation's Board of Directors, I want to thank Council for its continued attention to this matter and its commitment to fulfilling the promise of the park and its importance as a gateway to Alexandria.

Sincerely,



Chet Avery,  
President

Cc: City Manager James Hartmann

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4-22-08



"Pam St. Clair"  
<pamstc@aol.com>

04/22/2008 09:21 PM

Please respond to  
"Pam St. Clair"  
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To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>,  
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,  
<delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: King Street Gardens Park



Time: [Tue Apr 22, 2008 21:21:57] IP Address: [71.178.103.53]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Pam  
**Last Name:** St. Clair  
**Street Address:** 10 W. Linden Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** pamstc@aol.com  
**Subject:** King Street Gardens Park  
I regret that family concerns kept me from attending the meeting tonight  
**Comments:** with other members of the foundation board. I did  
watch on TV and  
appreciate those who supported the lighting.