

## **Public Discussion**

Last year, City Staff worked to develop an administrative sup process designed to reduce the paperwork and hurdles that a business had to go through to get started. Many of us who worked with staff on this process thought that we had a process to facilitate the establishment of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses. However, we were wrong.

A few weeks ago, Councilman Krupika and Vice Mayor Pepper met with business owners and some residents of Cameron Station to talk about needs of the local retail businesses during these challenging times. One of the first suggestions was signage near the entrances to Cameron Station. All participants in the meeting agreed that this would be a good start, but here we are faced with City codes and have been told that it might take a few months for approval and signs. In my view, by the time we get through the process another business or two might have closed.

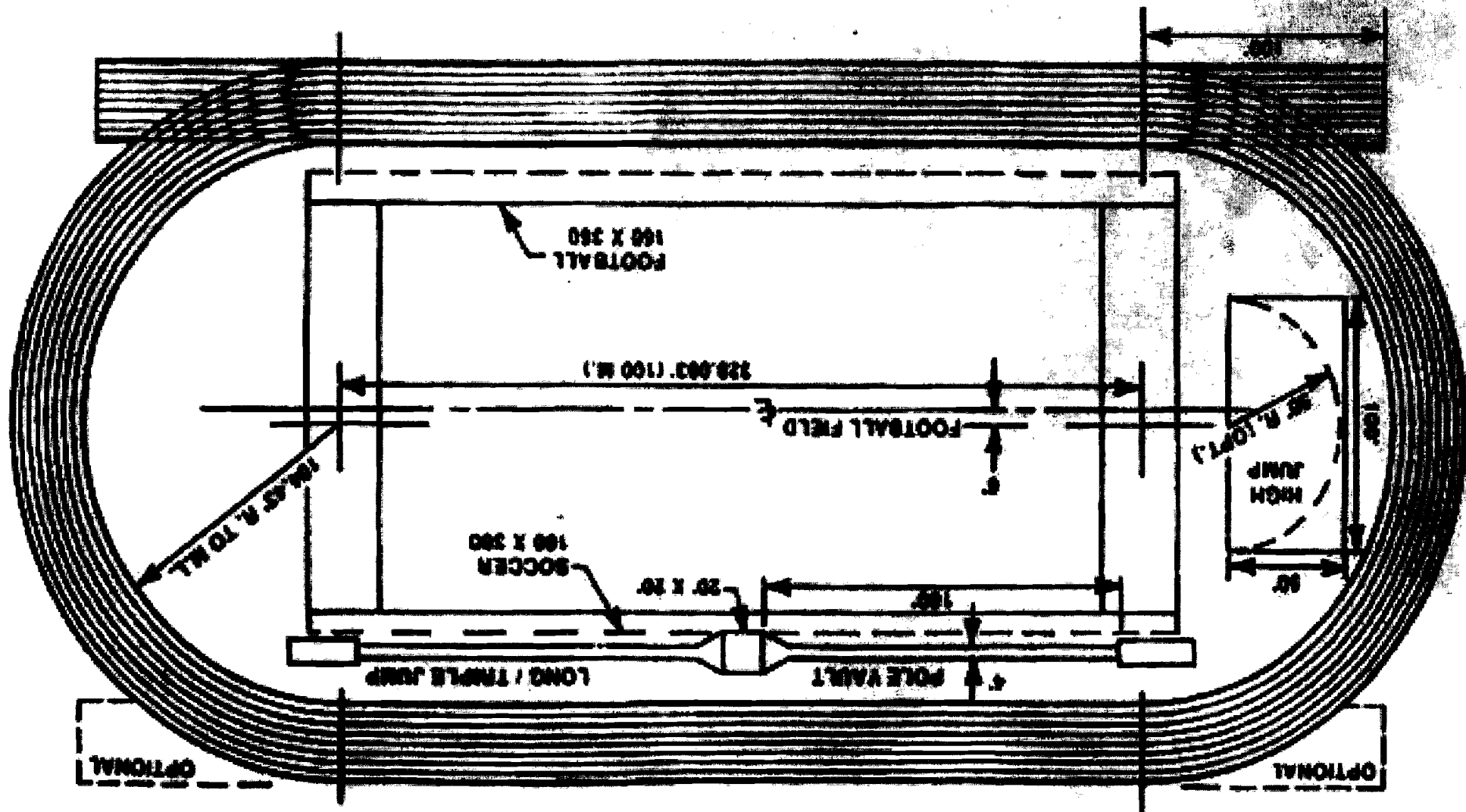
During the course of this meeting we also learned that Bright Start Day Care and Food Matters are both trying to expand. Bright Start has a one year waiting list so they would be leasing vacant space on the main street and Food Matters would like to expand the number of seats by 22 within their current space. Although both have SUP's in place and both should fall into the "administrative sup category" neither business does. They will both have to go through the full SUP process yet again. Not only does this cost money and time, but the business is put on hold for expansion plans that would contribute to the City tax base. According to staff, they both fall through one of the holes in the process.

While a sex shop can open up on King Street without any one being the wiser, businesses in certain categories continue to jump through hoops just for their day to day existence. Something has to be done to make Alexandria more business friendly. Please review the administrative sup process and other codes that continue to hurt businesses in these challenging times and find revisions that make the City regulations and codes friendly to small businesses.

Mindy Lyle  
Cameron Station Civic Association



FRANCIS HAMMOND SCHOOL



An aerial photograph of a large industrial facility, possibly a power plant or refinery. The image shows a complex network of pipes, walkways, and large storage tanks. In the upper right, there are several tall, vertical structures that could be chimneys or distillation columns. The overall layout is highly organized and dense with industrial equipment. The image is in black and white, with some areas appearing overexposed or washed out.



MINNIE HOWARD SCHOOL

TRACK

20' X 10' TRACK, 10' X 10' X 10' FIELD  
(APPROX. 10' X 10' X 10')