

SPEAKER'S FORM

DOCKET ITEM NO. 2

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE IT TO THE CITY CLERK
BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON A DOCKET ITEM

PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

1. NAME: RHETT BUER

2. ADDRESS: 3014 COLVIN STREET

TELEPHONE NO. 703 836 2500 E-MAIL ADDRESS: RHETT@TUXPOLYHOMEWORKS.COM

3. WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF? AMC

4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?
FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____ OTHER: X

5. NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY, LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):
#2 - TAX & TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

6. ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL?
YES ✓ NO _____
EMPLOYED BY AMC

This form shall be kept as a part of the permanent record in those instances where financial interest or compensation is indicated by the speaker.

A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for your presentation, except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard on a docket item shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation. If you have a prepared statement, please leave a copy with the Clerk.

Additional time not to exceed 15 minutes may be obtained with the consent of the majority of the council present; provided notice requesting additional time with reasons stated is filed with the City Clerk in writing before 5:00 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting.

The public normally may speak on docket items only at public hearing meetings, and not at regular legislative meetings. Public hearing meetings are usually held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in each month; regular legislative meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. The rule with respect to when a person may speak to a docket item at a legislative meeting can be waived by a majority vote of council members present but such a waiver is not normal practice. When a speaker is recognized, the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply. If an item is docketed *for public hearing* at a regular legislative meeting, the public may speak to that item, and the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply.

In addition, the public may speak on matters which are not on the docket during the Public Discussion Period at public hearing meetings. The mayor may grant permission to a person, who is unable to participate in public discussion at a public hearing meeting for medical, religious, family emergency or other similarly substantial reasons, to speak at a regular legislative meeting. When such permission is granted, the rules of procedures for public discussion at public hearing meetings shall apply.

Guidelines for the Public Discussion Period

(a) All speaker request forms for the public discussion period must be submitted by the time the item is called by the city clerk.

(b) No speaker will be allowed more than three minutes; except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard during the public discussion period shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation.

(c) If more speakers are signed up than would be allotted for in 30 minutes, the mayor will organize speaker requests by subject or position, and allocated appropriate times, trying to ensure that speakers on unrelated subjects will also be allowed to speak during the 30 minute public discussion period.

(d) If speakers seeking to address council on the same subject cannot agree on a particular order or method that they would like the speakers to be called on, the speakers shall be called in the chronological order of their request forms' submission.

(e) Any speakers not called during the public discussion period will have the option to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, after all docketed items have been heard.

Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations
February 24, 2010

2
9-25-10
Keeler

RESOLUTION: TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

The Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC) is an incomparably important cultural resource for the City of Alexandria. It is one of the original models for art centers in America. It is one of the few such centers in the country where visitors can engage with working artists in the process of creation. It contributes to Alexandria's ranking as one of the most important arts destinations in the nation. It is one of the most widely recognized and appreciated features of Alexandria's cultural heritage. It draws some 400,000 visitors annually from throughout the United States and the world. Its contribution to the quality of life in Alexandria is unique within the metropolitan area. It is responsible for a major contribution, both directly and indirectly, to the public and private economy of the City.

The City commissioned a "productivity and efficiency study" (conducted from October through December 2009) and has now received the consultant's report and recommendations, with a view toward "improving the economic contribution" of the Center, enhancing its role in the City's economic development, "improving its sales focus," "improving operational efficiency," and involving "external stakeholders as active partners in its governance and continuous improvement."

The City Council held a "work session" on the report on February 16, 2010, and is considering its recommendations with the goal of acting as expeditiously as possible.

Fundamental changes to the policy and management of institutions of such importance to Alexandria and its citizens should not be undertaken without full, fair, informed and open deliberation, through a transparent public process, in which interested citizens and organizations have the opportunity to be fully informed of the nature of the proposed actions, and to comment thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations calls on the City Council not to enact, adopt, endorse, direct or require any fundamental changes to the structure, management, operation, financing or governance of the Torpedo Factory Art Center or the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association without first affording all interested parties due notice and the opportunity to comment on any such proposals in a public hearing.

2
9-25-10

VOICE Alexandria's Victory with Displaced Public Housing Tenants

Over the last year VOICE Alexandria has pushed determinedly with James Bland public housing residents that are being relocated during the redevelopment of the property. James Bland is a public housing complex comprised of 192 two-story town houses and is in the heart of old-town Alexandria, minutes from the Braddock Metro station. The complex is managed by the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) with city and federal funding. Over the next 5 years, the property will undergo a phased redevelopment into a mixed-use complex with condos and public housing apartments.



Between November '09 and January '10 the first phase of the relocation included 32 families and an additional 20 families that were "transferred" to smaller units. Despite VOICE's action with the tenants, most residents were rushed out during the holidays and had no choice in where they would be relocated to; only an ultimatum. The housing authority classified some tenants as "transfers" because they needed to be relocated to smaller units (ex - from a 2 bedroom to a 1 bedroom). Although these moves were initiated by the housing authority, the housing authority decided that their policies did not require them to move "transfers" under the same rules as other tenants. "Transferred" tenants were given as little as 72 hours to get their new keys, move their things and return the keys from the old unit under threat of eviction, were not given relocation payments, and were charged fees if they left furniture (that may have been too cumbersome to move in 72 hours) on the property.

After a year-long public fight, VOICE Alexandria is celebrating a victory. The Alexandria redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) has agreed to most of our demands including making relocation payments of \$500 for each family that didn't receive them last year and committing to 5 demands on how they will treat the 150 families that still have to move.

VOICE's Actions to Remedy the Relocation Problems at James Bland

- Community walks and listening sessions with tenants to craft demands (August – November 2009)
- Had initial meetings with ARHA to raise our concerns (August – December 2009)
- Political Meetings with the Mayor and City Council (December 2009 – April 2010)
- Walk-outs at unsuccessful action with Mayor, City Council & ARHA Board members and unsuccessful negotiation with ARHA Board (early April 2010)
- Re-worked our Power Analysis (April 2010)
- Research Actions with VA Housing & Development Authority (VHDA) Board Members and VA Delegate, Letter to US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) (April – June 2010)
- Action at VHDA Board meeting in Richmond (June 7th 2010)
- Successful Negotiation with ARHA, VHDA & City (July 22nd 2010)
- Celebratory Action – September 25th 2010

VOICE Demands of ARHA and Results

For James Bland residents that were transferred into smaller units last winter

- Reimbursements for transferred residents at Old Dominion Blvd - ARHA will reimburse transferred residents \$500 per family or up to \$750 per family if they have receipts, in total up to \$25,000
- Extra move fees for transferred at Old Dominion Blvd. Fees are labeled as "Balance forward" - ARHA has rescinded the fees from 3 tenants' bills. ARHA maintains that the remaining charges represent damages done to the property sometime during the term of their tenancy. ARHA will notify VOICE of the final amount rescinded from the 3 tenants' bills
- Return resident with Alzheimer's disease that was relocated out of the neighborhood against the doctor's recommendation back into a later phase of James Bland at no cost to her or her family - ARHA has agreed to relocate Mrs. Crump but still has not committed to a deadline

For residents in phases 2 – 5 of the relocation

- ARHA has agreed to the following points and included them in their new relocation plan. They will be distributed to tenants on Oct 6th 2010.
- Each resident receives, in writing, an address and specific date at least 30 days before they are expected to move. In that time, they may visit the unit and appeal if it does not fit the needs of their family.
 - Each resident gets options for units they can move into that will fit their family's needs:
 - Families with children get options in their current school zone. If a parent is okay with moving to another school zone, ARHA negotiates with ACPS an arrangement that students are allowed to stay at their current school and are provided with transportation.
 - Upon moving into a new unit, ARHA inspects the unit with the residents and puts in work order for any maintenance or other concerns about the unit. All repairs are made within 30 days.
 - Allow residents who chose to accept housing choice voucher to relocate to public housing if they are unable to secure housing with their voucher
 - First right of refusal for Bland residents to get back into the newly developed property



Some of the tenants that were "transferred" from James Bland in the Fall of 2009 worked with VOICE to demand their relocation payments. The payments were won almost a year later in September 2010. (L-R: Vernell Townes, Mary Simms, Luther, Mia Jones, Cheryl Reynolds, Charlene Walker)

**Rev. Ann Herlin, Associate Pastor of Old Presbyterian Meeting House & VOICE leader
Remarks for City Council Hearing – September 25, 2010**

Good morning. I'm the Rev. Ann Herlin, a pastor at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Old Town. Our congregation is one of several Alexandria congregations involved in VOICE -- Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement. This is a group committed to organizing within our faith communities and within this broader community to work toward all people being treated with justice and respect.

For the past year, as you know, we have been working with residents of the Bland neighborhood as they have gone through the first phase of relocations for its planned redevelopment. We joined with the residents to bring their concerns to the ARHA staff and board and to city officials.

We have met individually with many of you on city council, testified before you in February, and you probably remember the last time we were here -- in April -- when over 100 Bland residents and community members attended the joint Council - ARHA Board work session, where we had hoped to hear the concerns and issues we'd been raising for months be resolved. At that meeting, frankly, it felt like we were hearing more of the same (lots of talk and no action), and since we weren't permitted to speak and no progress was being made, we walked out.

This morning we are back to report on our progress. Following that work session, we had an *unsuccessful* meeting with the ARHA Board. But we are persistent! We raised our concerns with the Virginia Housing and Development Authority, and asked them to convene a meeting with VOICE, ARHA, and city housing officials. At that meeting, on July 22nd, VOICE and ARHA were able to reach agreement on all but one issue. The very next week, the ARHA Board took action on that remaining issue. So, we are delighted today to report that ARHA has agreed to all of our demands.

In sum:

- The Board changed its policy so that all residents forced to move during Phase I are eligible to have their moving expenses reimbursed. Several residents have now received their checks.
- ARHA has removed all bulk trash removal fees charged to first phase residents who had moved on as little as three days notice.
- Arrangements have been made for an elderly resident with Alzheimer's to return for as long as possible to this neighborhood she knows as home.
- Finally, ARHA has made specific commitments to VOICE and residents for future phases of relocation, (found on your handout), including adequate notification, options for relocation, and the right to return to the redeveloped property, unless they elect otherwise in writing.

As we celebrate this resolution, two residents are here to testify about their experience pressing these demands over the last year, and Rev. Kay will finish by recognizing those who helped make this agreement possible.

Barbara Crowder, ARHA Tenant and VOICE leader
Remarks for City Council Hearing – September 25, 2010

Good morning, I'm Barbara Crowder. I have lived in the James Bland Public Housing Development for 7 years with my 20 year old daughter and 18-month old granddaughter.

I got involved with VOICE about two years ago when we were working on utility bill issues. I live in phase 3 of James Bland. I wasn't scheduled to move until 2011 but I stood with the tenants that were moved last winter because I knew soon it would be my turn and I would want someone to stand with me if I had problems.

Through this push and my two years of engagement with VOICE I learned a lot about community leadership.

The first thing I've learned is about the importance of tension. There were many tense moments as we worked diligently to hold our public officials accountable and get resolution to our problems. In the words of Fredrick Douglas, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will". In this campaign I stood up for myself and my fellow tenants. We've tried to be respectful, but stern around our demands. Looking back, I think the tension that I've inserted has been productive and needed for change to come about. Change is usually uncomfortable and creates friction. But it's necessary.

I've also learned the need to be persistent. It's taken a long year to resolve these issues. At times I wasn't sure if we would prevail, but I've learned something about my own strength and the strength of my fellow VOICE leaders by sticking it out.

Mostly from this work, I've learned that there are amazing, caring just people all around me. I truly value the relationships I've built.

I am now in the process of preparing for my own move out of James Bland. I'll be utilizing a housing choice voucher to move to Woodbridge. So far my move is going well. I'm packing and looking at potential housing in Woodbridge daily. When I get to Woodbridge, I've already committed to figuring out how I can be a leader in my community there. I wish the best of luck to my fellow tenants. I encourage the progress that ARHA is making. And I'll see you VOICE leaders at the next action.

**Charlene Walker, ARHA Tenant and VOICE leader
Remarks for City Council Hearing – September 25, 2010**

I'm Charlene Walker. I've lived in Alexandria for 30 years and now live in public housing of Old Dominion Blvd.

I am one of the tenants that was transferred from Bland to Old Dominion Blvd last winter. To be frank, last winter the move was extremely trying for me and my family. I felt like I was rushed out of my home and given an ultimatum on where I would end up. I spent Thanksgiving of 2009 surrounded by boxes. The most frustrating part was that all my neighbors at Bland got relocation payments to help cover the expenses and I didn't. I strongly felt that it was unfair that ARHA's policies didn't reimburse transfers and only required that they get 3 days notice of the move.

But I didn't just pout; I used my anger about the situation as fuel to do something about it. I talked with other tenants about how I felt and asked them to act with me. With the other VOICE clergy, lay and tenant leaders, I traveled to meetings all over the city of Alexandria, DC, out to Oakton and even down to Richmond VA to tell my testimony and ask my public officials to act. After a long year of pressing, I'm proud that our team was able to get a resolution.

I've been living on Old Dominion Blvd for almost a year now. It's been an adjustment for me and my family, but I'm doing just fine. I got my long overdue reimbursement of \$500 on September 1st, 10 months after I moved. It's late but it goes a long way in creating closure for me and my family on last year's move. I want to recognize Mr. Priest and the ARHA Board for passing resolution 484 which granted relocation payments to my family and the other tenants that were transferred from James Bland due to the relocation. There are still many challenges between tenants and ARHA staff, but this helps establish a relationship where we can raise our concerns and expect ARHA to act to resolve them. I've learned that by organizing I can make effective change.

VOICE

VIRGINIANS ORGANIZED FOR INTERFAITH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

www.voice-iaf.org

V.O.I.C.E., founded in 2008, is a broad-based multi-racial, multi-faith, multi-issue, multi-county, strictly non-partisan citizens' power organization dedicated to making change on social justice issues (immigration, affordable housing, healthcare, etc) affecting the lives of low- and middle income residents in 4 Northern Virginia jurisdictions: Prince William, Fairfax, and Arlington counties as well as the City of Alexandria. VOICE is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF)—the oldest and largest citizens' organizing network in the United States. For more information on the IAF, visit www.industrialareasfoundation.org. VOICE's 47 member institutions represent 125,000+ persons:

Alexandria

Beth El Hebrew
Ebenezer Baptist
Grace Episcopal
Shiloh Baptist
St. Joseph's RC
Old Presbyterian
Trinity UMC

Arlington

Arlington Presbyterian
Lomax AME Zion
Macedonia Baptist
NOVA Catholic Community
Our Lady Queen of Peace RC
Rock Spring UCC*
St. Charles RC
St. Mary's Episcopal
Unitarian Universalist

Fairfax

Bethlehem Baptist
Burke Presbyterian*
Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center
Fairfax Presbyterian
First Christian
Good Shepherd RC
Heritage Presbyterian
Nativity RC
Rising Hope UMC
St. Anthony's RC
St. John Neuman RC
St. Mark's RC*
St. Stephen's UMC
St. Thomas a Becket RC
Temple Rodef Shalom
Voice of Mt. Vernon
Accotink Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist of Fairfax
Unitarian Universalist of Reston

Prince William

All Saints RC
Bull Run Unitarian
Ebenezer Baptist
First Baptist Manassas
First Mt. Zion Baptist
Mt. Olive Baptist
Sacred Heart RC
St. Francis RC
St. Paul UMC
St. Thomas UMC-Haymarket*
Little Union Baptist*
Word Alive International*

**Exploratory*

VOICE 2010-2011 Organizing Priorities:

Increase Access to Dental Care for Low-Income Adults: a) press VA to secure \$5 million in Emergency TANF Funding from Federal Stimulus, b) organize state & local officials to put bi-partisan pressure on NOVA's Federal delegation to extend the TANF Emergency Fund to 2012; c) secure \$125,000 from Prince William County's FY 2011 budget for low-income dental.

Address Affordable Housing & Homelessness: a) undertake jurisdictional actions around specific opportunities to preserve and develop affordable housing (e.g. North Hill, Columbia Pike); b) continue to research available public land and incentives for future development of affordable housing; c) analyze and develop foreclosure strategy for Prince William County.

Organize for Immigration Justice Locally & Nationally: a) secure meetings with Secretary Napolitano and USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas on Immigration Processing Backlog; b) continue Listening Sessions in at least 10 V.O.I.C.E. institutions to develop priorities and seek meetings with VA Congressional Delegation in order to position V.O.I.C.E. to weigh in on comprehensive immigration reform.

Local Action: Engage in local action to build core teams, develop leaders, secure local wins that build loyalty to VOICE, & provide opportunities for prospective member institutions to see VOICE in action. Priority opportunities include: a) Arlington Columbia Pike; b) Georgetown South—Manassas; c) Homeless in woods in Dale City/Woodbridge; Fairfax/South Rt. 1 Minority Student Achievement & Affordable Housing.

Recruit 10 new Institutions to Build VOICE's Power: Target the following areas/constituencies—A) Fairfax County: Springfield, Annandale, Herndon, Centerville; B) Prince William County: African-American/Immigrant institutions; C) Alexandria: African-American/Immigrant Institutions.

January—June 2010 Summary Accomplishments

Dental:

- Organized 300+ leader action in Richmond with 18 Virginia Senate and House leaders including 3 from the budget conference that helped preserve \$9 million+ for the VA dental safety net in the FY 2011 budget, insuring that thousands of low-income children and adults in the Commonwealth will have access to critical dental care services.
- Organized with Virginia Senate and House leaders and pressed the Commonwealth of Virginia to secure \$79 million in TANF Emergency Funds available through the Federal Recovery program, including \$5 million for the Virginia Health Care Foundation to provide emergency dental care to 7,000 low-income Virginia adults who lack it. The Federal government approved the VA Health Care Foundation Emergency Dental Pilot on June 16th.
- Secured \$100,000 in renewal funding in FY 2011 budgets from Arlington and Fairfax counties as well as Alexandria City to continue the provision of dental services to 2,000 low-income adults through the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic.
- Organized 150 person public action in Prince William County at a key FY 2011 County Board of Supervisors budget hearing that led to the County Board restoring the proposed 15% cuts to non-profit health and human services providers and the allocation of \$20,000 in new funding for the Prince William Free Health Clinic to provide expanded health services to low-income adults.

Immigration:

- Secured commitment from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Assistant Secretary Esther Olavarria to address 200 backlogged immigration applications from VOICE members at Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church. Ms. Olavarria promised a full accounting on 200 backlog cases and a meeting for VOICE leaders with new US Customs Immigration Services Director USCIS Director Alejandro N. Mayorkas in August 2010.
- Began organizing VOICE members and other allies to press for just and realistic comprehensive immigration reform. Started by building relationships in VOICE institutions with leaders across the divides of culture, religion, ethnicity, race, etc that can so easily polarize the immigration issue. Held 25+ listening sessions between non-citizen immigrants and American citizens at 10 VOICE congregations to build solidarity for comprehensive immigration reform.
- Turned out 1,150 leaders from 14 VOICE congregations to March for America (March 21st)—the national comprehensive immigration reform rally. Held solidarity action on April 25 for 4 undocumented immigrant youth walking from Florida to DC to bring attention to the plight of undocumented students and to demand President Obama issue an executive order to halt the deportation of Dream Act eligible students. 125 leaders from 12 VOICE congregations attended.

Affordable Housing:

- Identified all foreclosures over recent years in Prince William County, Manassas City and Manassas Park which had the highest foreclosure rate in VA. Working with The Reinvestment Fund from Philadelphia, VOICE linked these foreclosures back to the originating lenders and analyzed the data to identify lenders whose loans failed at the highest rates (e.g., between 2004 and 2008, one lender in Prince William County had a "failure rate" of 16.8%.
- Held 125+ person action to challenge Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Board of Commissioners and Alexandria City Council to meet VOICE and tenant demands on relocation and redevelopment issues that shortchanged residents financially and treated them with disrespect. Took 5 leaders to Richmond, VA for testimony at Virginia Housing and Development Authority Board Meeting that lead to investigation of ARHA relocation policies & actions.

Local Action:

- Organized 50 residents in Georgetown South, a 850 townhome community hit hard by the foreclosure crisis, and secured agreement with Manassas City Police Chief to (1) have officers walk beats in Georgetown South, (2) provide incentives (results-based overtime) for officers to spend additional time in Georgetown South, (3) create and promote an anonymous tip line in Spanish for residents to report crimes without fear of being identified by police or criminals.

Recruitment and Leadership Development:

- Recruited 3 new members: Temple Rodef Shalom, St. Mark's RC, Accotink Unitarian Universalist
- Sent 60+ VOICE leaders to Metro IAF national, regional, and local organizing/leadership training.

2

9-25-10

City Council of Alexandria, Virginia
Public Hearing Meeting
Saturday, September 25, 2010

Docket Item #2
Public Discussion – Beauregard Corridor Plan

Nancy Jennings
on behalf of
Seminary Hill Association, Inc.

Good Morning
Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, Members of City Council:

My name is Nancy Jennings and I live at 2115 Marlboro Drive. I am President of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc., and will speak on its behalf today.

Seminary Hill residents agree unanimously that

The Beauregard Corridor Plan process should be halted until the City has funded a shovel-ready rapid-transit project in the Beauregard corridor.

We fear more gridlock like that which the Mark Center has created on Seminary Road and Beauregard and don't believe there is a simple solution that a developer can implement while increasing density that would not result in total failure and the destruction of the quality of life and property values of current owners.

Thank you.

2
9-28-10

Statement of John Gosling on behalf of the Old Town Civic Association
to
City Council
September 25th, 2010
Request To Hold a Public Hearing on the Make-up of the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board
(TFACB)

Thank you Mayor Euille and members of the City Council, my name is John Gosling and I am the President of the Old Town Civic Association and I am here today to share our views regarding the make-up of the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board.

Late last year the City hired a consultant to study and make recommendations to change the operations of the Torpedo Factory. The consultant's report was published in January. Two of the key recommendations were to extend its hours of operations through events and other functions, and to take responsibility for management of the Center away from the **Torpedo Factory Artists Association**.

The irony in all of this is that at the time of the study, the Artist Association had already recognized the need to implement strategies for change. And, in fact, had achieved some measure of success being a key factor in raising the City of Alexandria's ranking from 11th to third in *AmericanStyle* magazine's annual list of the top 25 arts destinations in the nation.

The Council, based in some part on the recommendations of that study, passed the resolution to create the Board in July, but in a way that has left many of our citizens concerned about lack of due process or meaningful public input.

- The City Council held work sessions on the report in February and May. A "work session," is not cablecast and there is no opportunity for public comment.
- The Commission on the Arts did have a public hearing meeting in May—but the Arts Commission's authority is advisory only.
- The City Council, which has the decision making authority, has yet to hold a public hearing. The Council meeting in July that passed the resolution to create the TFACB was a legislative meeting, not a public hearing.
- That there was legitimate confusion about the term "ex officio" resulting in the proposed make-up of the Board leaving the Artist Association with very minor representation.

We all recognize that the Art Center is responsible for a major contribution, both directly and indirectly, to the public and private economy of the City. It is an example of a sustainable "workplace" and school, successfully managed and operated by professional practitioners for more than 30 years. To dilute their voice on the Board seems short sighted. Their experience of the art market and day-to-day operations of the Torpedo Factory can provide an invaluable contribution. For these reasons, I make this request to the Council to defer action on the final composition of the Board until Old Town Civic Association and all other interested parties have had an opportunity to be fully informed on the Boards function, goals and objectives, and to present their considered recommendations before the Council at a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Gosling President, OTCA Board of Directors

2
9-25-10

Statement to the Alexandria City Council, September 25, 2010, by Gary J. Carr

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Manager, Members of Council, my name is Gary Carr. I am, by now, well known to you as a persistent advocate of running tracks in the City of Alexandria. Combating childhood obesity, as was expressed in the recent proclamation by the Mayor in support of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, should be a national health priority and is a moral imperative. Unhealthy over-weight children is an indictment to all of us, as parents, citizens and you as leaders. Alexandria has one of the highest obesity rates in the metropolitan area. It has everyone looking for an answer. I view running tracks as an important part of the solution to the problem. The answer to childhood obesity is vigorous physical activity, instilled at a young age. This activity should be available to all children, at all times. The answer is running. And children need a track to run on.

Let me pose a question. How many running tracks are maintained by the Department Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities? I will come back to that. How about fields? Three have been built recently, with more new synthetic surface fields on the drawing board, none of which have running tracks. At the most recent additions, Ben Brenman Park and Potomac Yards, the lack of running tracks has them serve a small and exclusive portion of the population, and I will explain why.

First, I feel compelled to object to the supposed "community meeting" held on the proposed fields at Potomac Yard. It was held in the middle of July, with less than one week notice, which hampered public awareness. If it wasn't the intent, it certainly leaves the impression, that it was held at such a time to prevent community input. Also, minutes of the meeting are not easily assessable on-line. If all the children of Alexandria get out of the Potomac Yard development is no new school, no running tracks and an isolated field, it is time to have another community meeting on exactly how the children of this community are benefiting from Potomac Yard. All city departments should be advised that community meetings should have a minimum of two weeks notice, and if at all possible during times when council is in regular session. To do otherwise is to undermine the spirit, if not the letter of the law.

Secondly, I must disabuse you of the notion that fields serve the entire community. Fields are locked-up or off-limits to the majority children. Why? Because they necessitate being on a team, and also requiring a permit. There is no time when the field are open and free for use by anyone who so desires. That should change. The city should institute a “free play time” at all artificial turf field where you can just show-up with your kids and play. If the fields are truly for everyone, you could make this change immediately. Furthermore, what percentage of the population does a field serve? The answer is at the most 20%, and these are by definition the healthiest of our citizenry. I am not against fields. I support the fields. But it is time to include to other 80% of the population by constructing running tracks when we build fields. A track would be used day and night, rain or shine, of this you can be assured. How much does it add to the cost to build a field? It a half-mile of road, asphalt and paint, that's what it is, not what it ain't Start saying “yes, we can”, don't accept “no we can't”.

The correct response to how many running tracks are maintained by the Department Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities? The answer is none. And when school is in session the the one public running track we do have in the city is closed to the public from 7:30am to 4:30pm; when daylight savings time starts, at the only high school in the state (if not the country)without lights, we have *none*. If we are serious about the fight against childhood obesity. If we are to as the Mayor stated in he address introducing the Proclamation on Childhood Obesity Month “Do everything we can” then we must build theses running tracks whenever we build a field. That is my case and here is my motto- If you build it, we will run.

[for more information see wewillrun.org]

Addendum to Statement by Gary J. Carr regarding Potomac Yard Field

QUESTION? Why was the community meeting with less than one week notice and in the middle of July? Is there one field's or two? What about the school? Where is that site? How are children to get to the field directly after school. Where is the parking. Who is this field meant to serve. Do you feel that the city received fair value in exchange for the placement of this field? Why are Park and Recreation Commission meeting held on the same day and time as the school Board's Public Hearing? Is it time to consider term limits at the Parks and Recreation Commission?)

*From the City's Website: Date Jul 16, 2010
Public Invited to Attend Community Meeting on
Potomac Yard Replacement Fields at 600 East Monroe Ave.*

The public is invited to attend a community meeting for a project update on the approved replacement fields' plan for Potomac Yard located at 600 East Monroe Ave. (adjacent to Simpson Park). The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22, at 7 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Avenue.

City staff and the developer will address recent public comments and answer questions on the project. Persons who are unable to attend the community meeting can send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Roger Blakeley, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or e-mail roger.blakeley@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. For additional information regarding the meeting and to request a reasonable accommodation or materials in an alternative format, call Roger Blakeley at 703.746.5495 (TTY 703.838.4902) or e-mail roger.blakeley@alexandriava.gov.

Excerpts from the Proclamation by the City of Alexandria recognizing National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month that Directly Support Running Tracks.

WHEREAS, participating in physical activity is important to children and teens...
and...

“WHEREASOrganizations...are working to decrease childhood obesity... through a range of efforts, including...greater opportunities for physical activity.”

City organization who should , but have not, spoken out about the need for a running track in the City of Alexandria: Youth Policy Commission, Commission on Aging, Commission on Persons With Disabilities, Commission for Women, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Early Childhood Commission, Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, Public Health Advisory Commission,

Statement to the Alexandria City Council, September 25, 2010, by Gary J. Carr

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Manager, Members of Council, my name is Gary Carr. I am, by now, well known to you as a persistent advocate of running tracks in the City of Alexandria. Combating childhood obesity, as was expressed in the recent proclamation by the Mayor in support of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, should be a national health priority and is a moral imperative. Unhealthy over-weight children is an indictment to all of us, as parents, citizens and you as leaders. Alexandria has one of the highest obesity rates in the metropolitan area. It has everyone looking for an answer. I view running tracks as an important part of the solution to the problem. The answer to childhood obesity is vigorous physical activity, instilled at a young age. This activity should be available to all children, at all times. The answer is running. And children need a track to run on.

Let me pose a question. How many running tracks are maintained by the Department Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities? I will come back to that. How about fields? Three have been built recently, with more new synthetic surface fields on the drawing board, none of which have running tracks. At the most recent additions, Ben Brenman Park and Potomac Yards, the lack of running tracks has them serve a small and exclusive portion of the population, and I will explain why.

First, I feel compelled to object to the supposed "community meeting" held on the proposed fields at Potomac Yard. It was held in the middle of July, with less than one week notice, which hampered public awareness. If it wasn't the intent, it certainly leaves the impression, that it was held at such a time to prevent community input. Also, minutes of the meeting are not easily assessable on-line. If all the children of Alexandria get out of the Potomac Yard development is no new school, no running tracks and an isolated field, it is time to have another community meeting on exactly how the children of this community are benefiting from Potomac Yard. All city departments should be advised that community meetings should have a minimum of two weeks notice, and if at all possible during times when council is in regular session. To do otherwise is to undermine the spirit, if not the letter of the law.

Secondly, I must disabuse you of the notion that fields serve the entire community. Fields are locked-up or off-limits to the majority children. Why? Because they necessitate being on a team, and also requiring a permit. There is no time when the field are open and free for use by anyone who so desires. That should change. The city should institute a “free play time” at all artificial turf field where you can just show-up with your kids and play. If the fields are truly for everyone, you could make this change immediately. Furthermore, what percentage of the population does a field serve? The answer is at the most 20%, and these are by definition the healthiest of our citizenry. I am not against fields. I support the fields. But it is time to include to other 80% of the population by constructing running tracks when we build fields. A track would be used day and night, rain or shine, of this you can be assured. How much does it add to the cost to build a field? It a half-mile of road, asphalt and paint, that's what it is, not what it ain't Start saying “yes, we can”, don't accept “no we can't”.

The correct response to how many running tracks are maintained by the Department Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities? The answer is none. And when school is in session the the one public running track we do have in the city is closed to the public from 7:30am to 4:30pm; when daylight savings time starts, at the only high school in the state (if not the country)without lights, we have *none*. If we are serious about the fight against childhood obesity. If we are to as the Mayor stated in he address introducing the Proclamation on Childhood Obesity Month “Do everything we can” then we must build theses running tracks whenever we build a field. That is my case and here is my motto- If you build it, we will run.

[for more information see wewillrun.org]

Addendum to Statement by Gary J. Carr regarding Potomac Yard Field

QUESTION? Why was the community meeting with less than one week notice and in the middle of July? Is there one field's or two? What about the school? Where is that site? How are children to get to the field directly after school. Where is the parking. Who is this field meant to serve. Do you feel that the city received fair value in exchange for the placement of this field? Why are Park and Recreation Commission meeting held on the same day and time as the school Board's Public Hearing? Is it time to consider term limits at the Parks and Recreation Commission?)

*From the City's Website: Date Jul 16, 2010
Public Invited to Attend Community Meeting on
Potomac Yard Replacement Fields at 600 East Monroe Ave.*

The public is invited to attend a community meeting for a project update on the approved replacement fields' plan for Potomac Yard located at 600 East Monroe Ave. (adjacent to Simpson Park). The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22, at 7 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Avenue.

City staff and the developer will address recent public comments and answer questions on the project. Persons who are unable to attend the community meeting can send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Roger Blakeley, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or e-mail roger.blakeley@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. For additional information regarding the meeting and to request a reasonable accommodation or materials in an alternative format, call Roger Blakeley at 703.746.5495 (TTY 703.838.4902) or e-mail roger.blakeley@alexandriava.gov.

Excerpts from the Proclamation by the City of Alexandria recognizing National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month that Directly Support Running Tracks.

WHEREAS, participating in physical activity is important to children and teens...
and...

“WHEREASOrganizations...are working to decrease childhood obesity... through a range of efforts, including...greater opportunities for physical activity.”

City organization who should , but have not, spoken out about the need for a running track in the City of Alexandria: Youth Policy Commission, Commission on Aging, Commission on Persons With Disabilities, Commission for Women, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Early Childhood Commission, Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, Public Health Advisory Commission,

Statement to the Alexandria City School Board Public Hearing, 9-23-2010, by Gary J. Carr

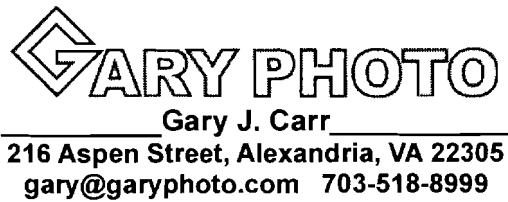
The persistent rise in childhood obesity is national disgrace, and should be a health and moral priority. My request is basic and simple- pull a rabbit out of the hat, and somehow leverage available dollars to repair the historic running track at George Washington Middle School. Over a thousand children can't afford to wait years for us to figure this out. Nothing fancy. Some grading here, fill there and level here. Pave it as simple as a street, and draw some lines. No rubberized surface. Keep it simple and cheap.

As for how to fund this idea, my answer is simple- ask. Many local corporation's are looking for a good idea and a request. There are bunches of organization that are looking for an answer to childhood obesity. Running is the answer. How could you get a whole public school, of 500 children, to get meaningful exercise all at the same time, in an hour or less? The answer is running.

It's half mile of road, asphalt and paint- that's it is, not what it ain't.
If you can't fix the field, then the field can wait. A track serves more children, there is no debate.
It is what you do, that determines your fate. Say "yes we can", not "no we can't".

On the the road fixing the track and field at Hammond Middle School, I had and epiphany. Not only should we restore tracks at our middle schools, but every middle school in the country (many are former high schools) should have a running tracks. Children need a safe place the run free. In elementary school its too early, by high school its too late. Middle school is where the battle for obesity is to be lost or won, and running is the key to victory. Running tracks are the not-so-secret weapon. I could talk basal metabolism, diet and activity levels, but it's this simple. If a child can run 2 miles in twenty minutes or less, and do it three times a week, they're healthy. Most children can't. I'm not talking hop-scotch or double-dutch, I'm talking running. It can be measured and documented, the 2 mile parameter is well established and it takes less than an hour. This change should start here, and we should start now.

Met a woman who was trying to loose weight, eat better, lower her cholesterol and blood pressure, to stop smoking, and have more energy. I suggested to start running. She said of running "I'm not feeling it". I said honey-child, you need to be feeling it. Running helps with it all that ail you.. For sometime soon the day will come, call it half-work or call it half-fun. You will build it, we will run.



First Lady Michelle Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Madame First Lady,

I am writing this letter to to both you and the President with a suggestion that will provide jobs, spur local economic activity, and enhance health and fitness of our youth *all at the same time*. This idea is a national effort to refurbish running tracks at our middle and high schools. The concept is fairly simple- many of the running tracks at our public schools have fallen into disrepair. If a national effort was made to repair these facilities, it would have many direct and indirect benefits. Specifically I think it could play a major positive role in your leadership in the fight to combat childhood obesity. Running could play a critical part.

Running is a activity that all can participate in, and all who participate will benefit. I will not attempt to relate the many benefits of the simple act of running. Needless to say it has a positive impact not only on our youth, but on every member of our community. Though the repair and expansion of running facilities, we will greatly expand the opportunities for all Americans to "Get Moving". It will also permanently improve the infrastructure of schools across the nation.

Having seen you speak many times, I will confess to being a great admirer of yours. I believe as you do, that the fight against childhood obesity is a fight for the future of America. It is a worthy and noble cause. I wish you all the best in your efforts

Respectfully yours,

Gary J. Carr

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 8, 2010

Mr. Gary J. Carr
Gary Photo
216 Aspen Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22305-1812

Dear Gary:

Thank you for writing to me. It has been heartening to hear from people who are interested in helping to combat childhood obesity, and I thank you for taking the time to share your ideas with me. We launched an initiative here at the White House called *Let's Move!* to address this growing concern, and we need ideas like yours for this initiative to be successful.

As you know, children all across this country are afflicted by poor health and a lack of nutrition in increasingly devastating numbers. Childhood obesity rates in America have tripled over the past three decades, and for the first time in our Nation's history, the current generation may be on track to have a shorter lifespan than their parents. These trends are startling, but I am encouraged because I know that individuals and organizations are already hard at work to combat this issue.

We launched *Let's Move!* with an ambitious national goal of solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation, so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight. *Let's Move!* will engage every sector impacting the health of children to achieve this national goal, and will provide schools, families, and communities simple tools to help kids be more active, eat better, and get healthy. This initiative is comprehensive, collaborative, and community-oriented, and it will specifically address the various factors that lead to childhood obesity by helping parents make healthier choices for their families, providing healthier food in schools, increasing physical activity, and improving access to affordable food in all communities.

We are going to need everyone working together to achieve our goal, and so I urge you to join us online at www.LetsMove.gov, where you can stay updated on news and connect with our efforts. Our strength as a Nation and our ability to responsibly shape our future depends upon tackling this issue, and I hope you stay active in the fight against obesity in your home community. We need your ideas, your hands, and your heart to lead us to a brighter, healthier tomorrow.

Thank you again for writing. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Obama". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during the past four decades, obesity rates have soared among all age groups, increasing more than fourfold among children ages 6 to 11; and

WHEREAS, 31.8 percent or 23,000,000 children and teenagers ages 2 to 19 are obese or overweight, a statistic that health and medical experts consider an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, significant disparities exist among the obesity rates of children based on race and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the financial implications of childhood obesity pose a tremendous financial threat to our economy and health care system, carrying up to \$14,000,000,000 per year in direct healthcare cost, with people in the United States spending about 9 percent of their total medical costs on obesity-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, obese young people have an 80 percent chance of being obese adults and are more likely than children of normal weight to become overweight or obese adults, and therefore more at risk for associated adult health problems, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, stroke, several types of cancer, and osteoarthritis; and

WHEREAS, in part due to the childhood obesity epidemic, 1 in 3 children (and nearly 1 in 2 minority children) born in the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes at some point in their lifetime if current trends continue; and

WHEREAS, some consequences of childhood and adolescent obesity are psychosocial and obese children and adolescents are targets of early and systematic social discrimination, leading to low self-esteem, which, in turn, can hinder academic and social functioning and persist into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, participating in physical activity is important for children and teens as it may have beneficial effects not only on body weight, but also on blood pressure and bone strength; and

WHEREAS, proper nutrition is important for children before birth and through their life-span as nutrition has beneficial effects for health and body weight, and is key in the prevention of various chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is preventable yet does not appear to be declining; and

WHEREAS, public, community-based, and private sector organizations and individuals throughout the United States, including First Lady Michelle Obama, are working to decrease childhood obesity rates for people in the United States of all races through a range of efforts, including educational presentation, media campaigns, websites, policies, healthier food options, and greater opportunities for physical activity; and

WHEREAS, Mayors across this nation have championed cause of childhood obesity prevention by raising awareness and implementing local programs and policies to address the issue of childhood obesity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do support the designation of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month to raise public awareness and mobilize the country to address childhood obesity; recognizes the importance of preventing childhood obesity and decreasing its prevalence in the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of September 2010.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk

A Concept Design for George Washington Middle School Alexandria Virginia by GaryPhoto.com



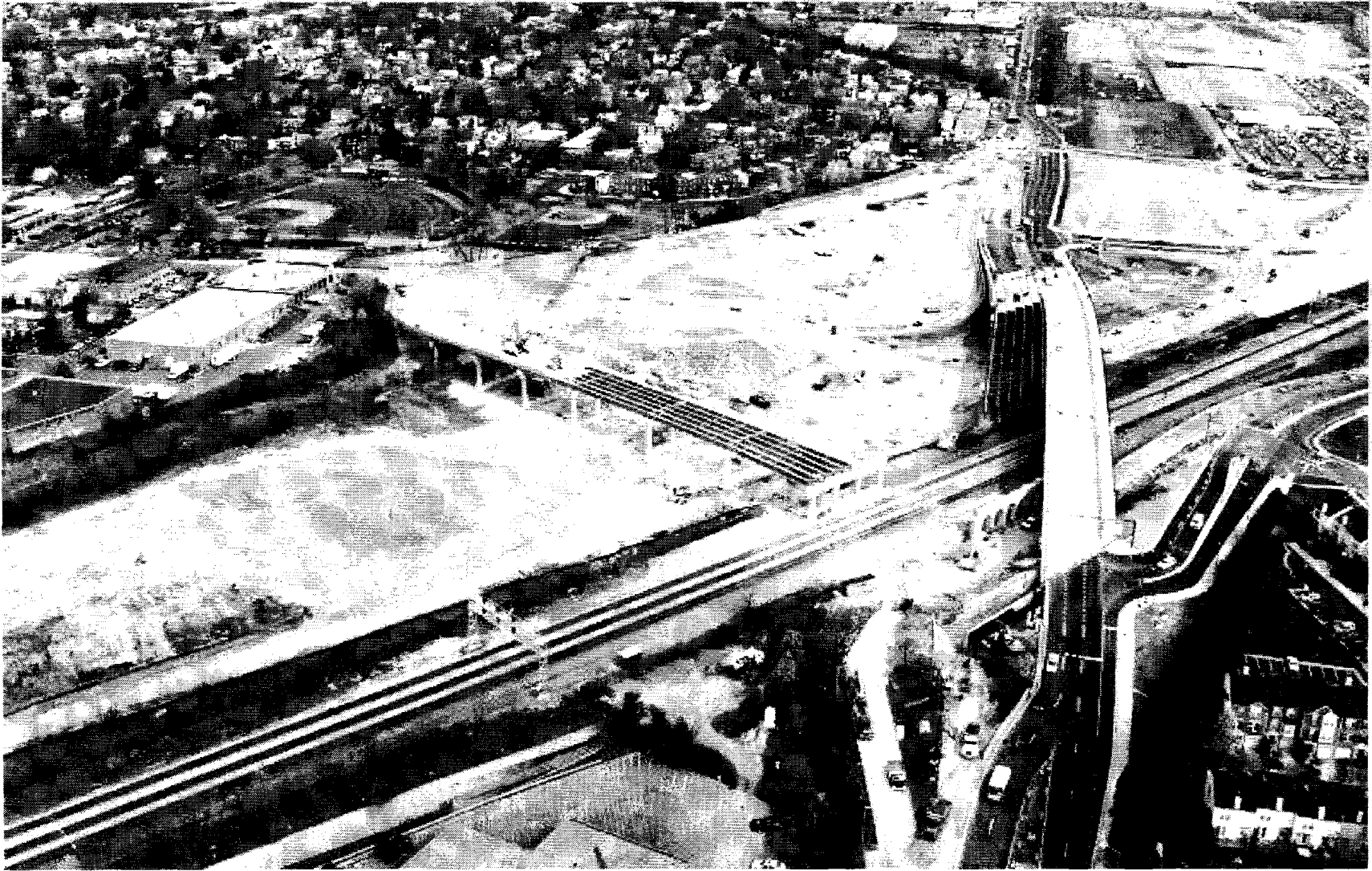
Community Meeting

July 22, 2010



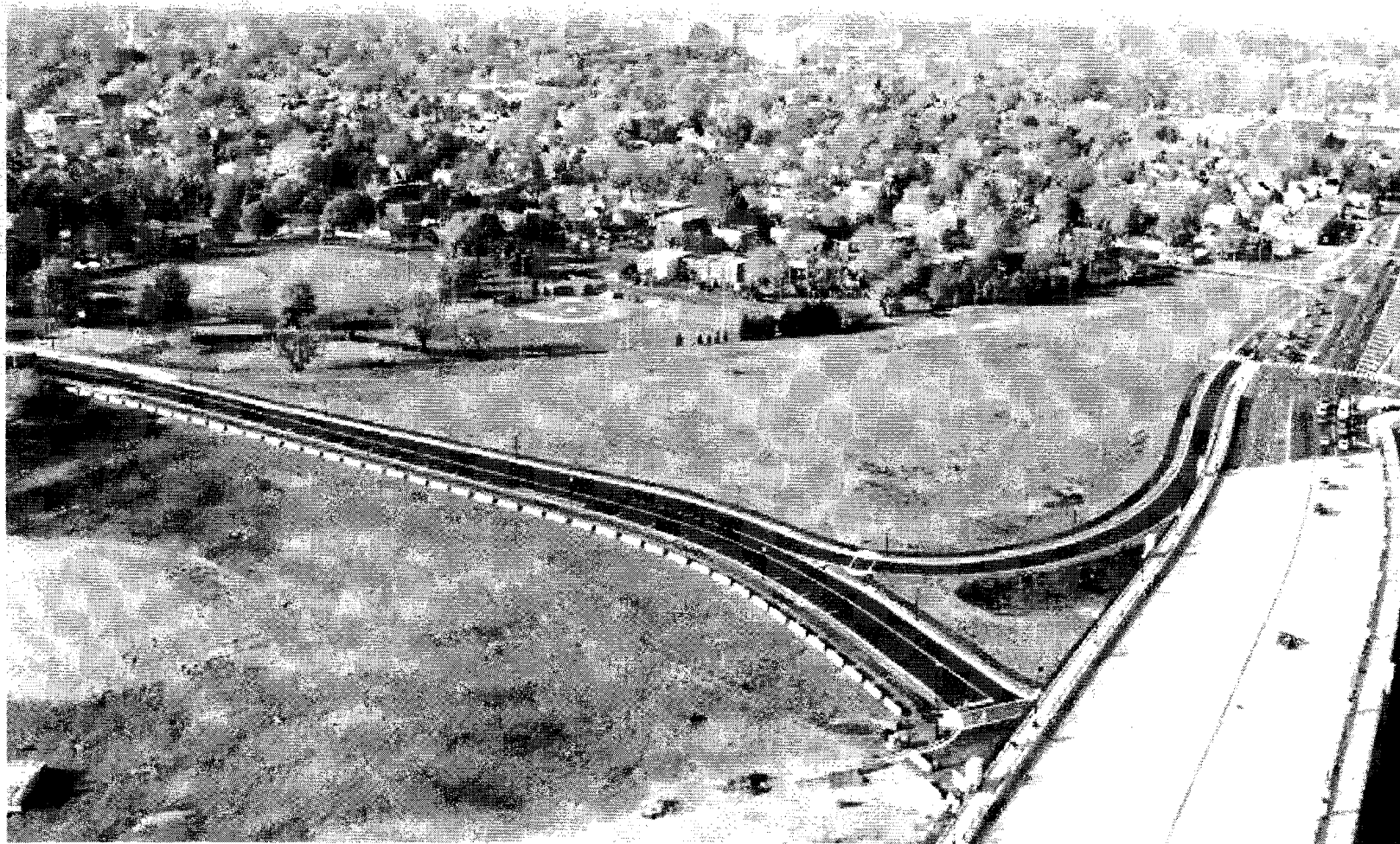
City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields



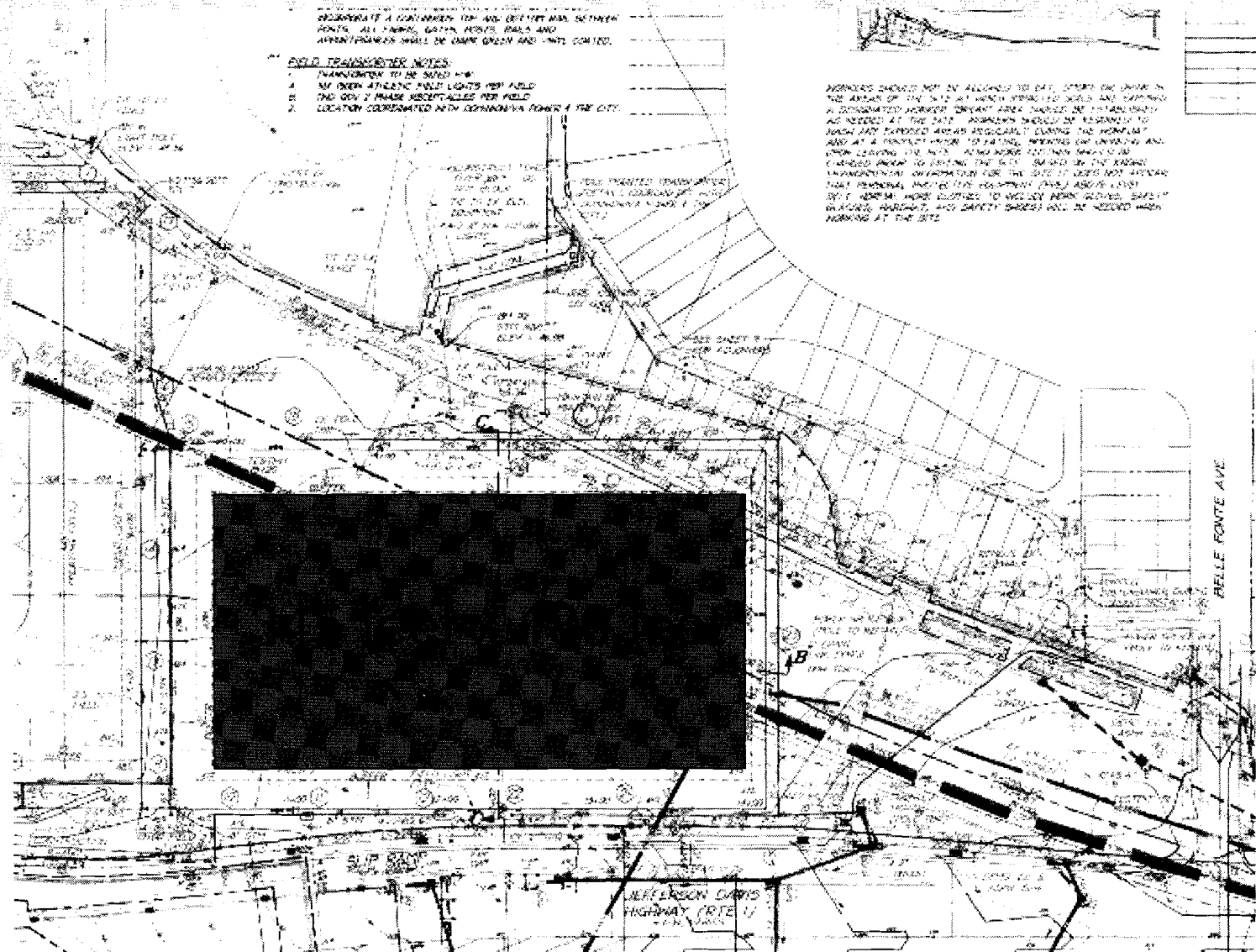
City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields



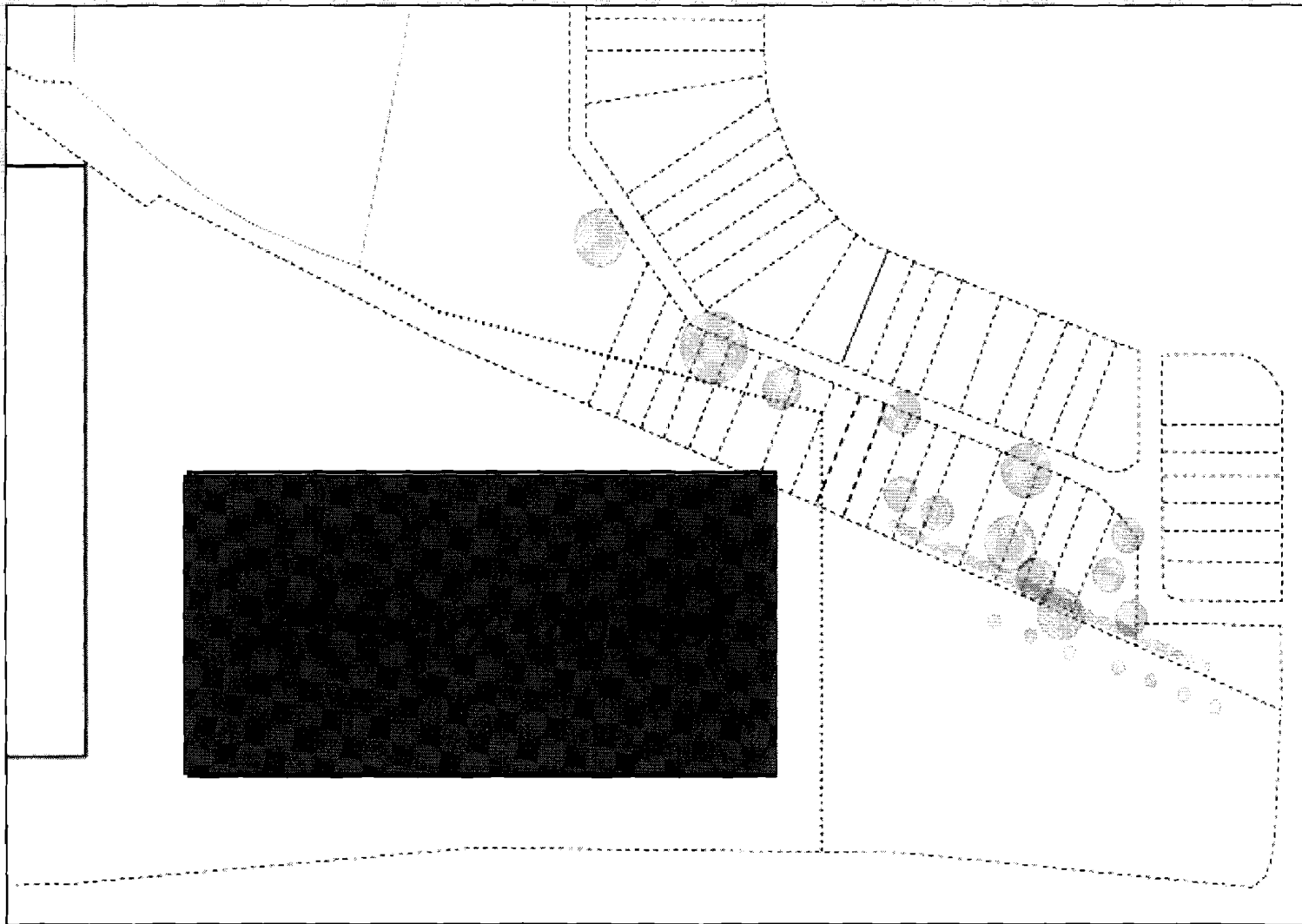
City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields



City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields

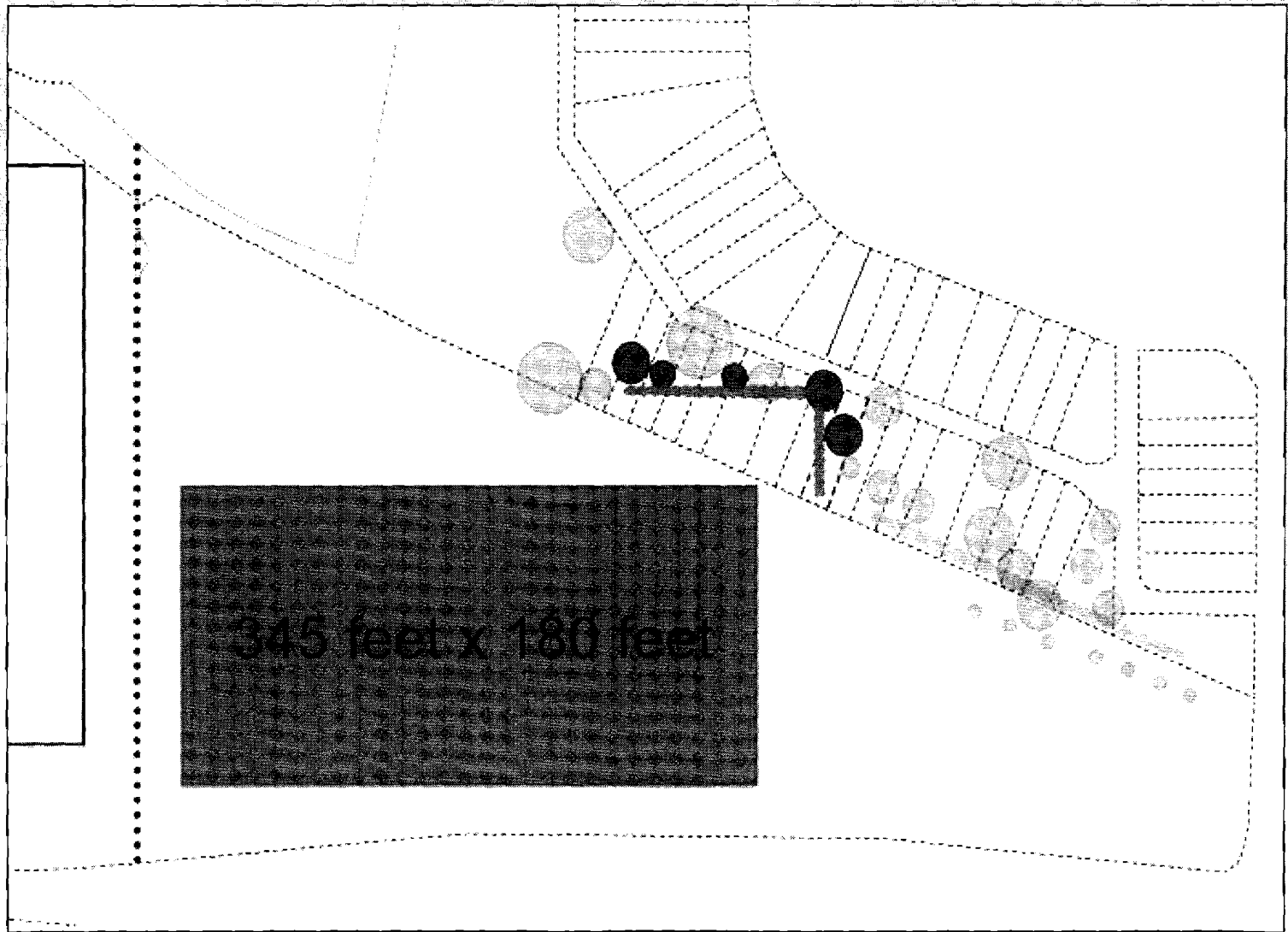


City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields

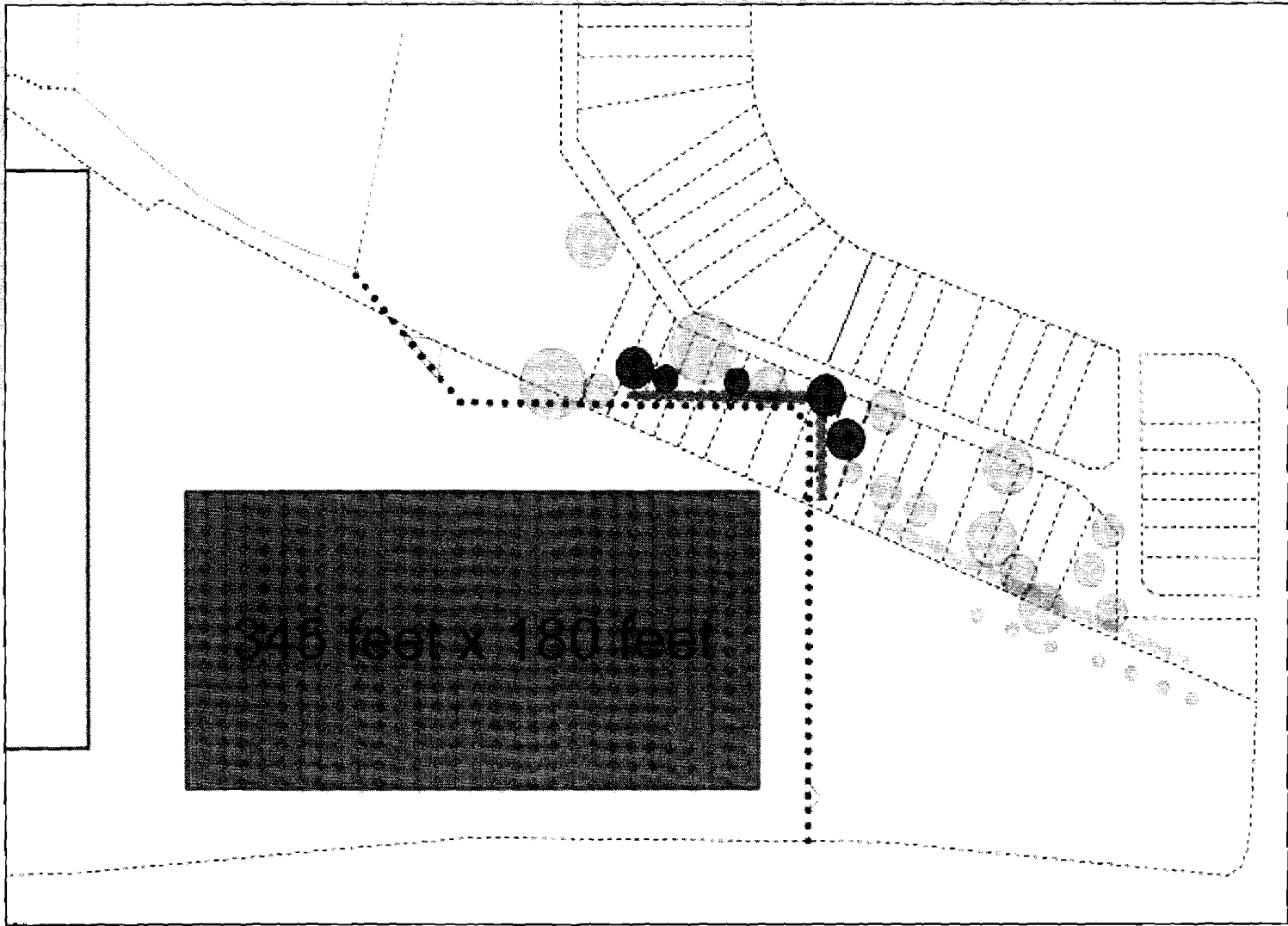
- **The approved conditions for Potomac Yard Park (Landbay K) list a dimension range for the fields.**
- **The fields may be a maximum of 380 x 230 feet**
- **The fields must at minimum meet the National Federation of State High School Association requirements for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey – 330 x 180 feet**
- **Replacement of the Interim Fields – 345 x 180 feet**





City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields



City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields



City of Alexandria

Community Meeting – Potomac Yard Fields