



City of Alexandria, Virginia

*301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314*

ECO-CITY  **ALEXANDRIA**

Rob Krupicka
Member of Council

(703) 838-4500
Fax: (703) 838-6433
council@krupicka.com

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

FROM: COUNCILMAN K. ROB KRUPICKA

CC: KIRK KINCANNON, DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
ALEXNADIRA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA'S LARGE PARKS

I have had the opportunity to meet recently with residents who live near Ft. Ward Park as well as residents and businesses in Cameron Station. Both discussions involved issues relevant to the programming and planning of the major parks in their neighborhood. Ft. Ward Park area residents have indicated they are looking for greater predictability and reduced noise with regard to uses of their park. Cameron Station residents and businesses informed me they would like to see Ben Brenman Park used as an economic development engine for their community with the goal of bringing people to the shops in Cameron Station. Based on these and other discussions, I'd like to request staff feedback on the following:

- 1) Can we re-locate the Ft. Ward Jazz Festival to Ben Brenman Park? What are the policy issues or other obstacles that must be overcome to make such a move? Movies at Ben Brenman have been a great success, and the Jazz Festival could be another fantastic event to hold at this large community park. The goal would be that patrons of the Jazz Festival would also take advantage of the restaurants and shops in Cameron Station.
- 2) What do we need to do to develop a citizen advisory group to start planning for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War? Alexandria should play an active role in this event. A group dedicated to this planning should start soon and should include stakeholders from the greater community, tourism and economic development groups, surrounding neighborhood associations including Ft. Ward Park neighbors and users.
- 3) Can we develop a parks and recreation, economic development (ACVA) and community task force to evaluate current uses and to suggest the best future uses for Alexandria's large parks – Ft. Ward, Ben Brenman, Chinquapin and Oronoco Bay? Our community only has these few large, programmable parks. It would be beneficial to evaluate their current uses and to discuss whether those uses are consistent with our community needs, economic development goals as well as to evaluate whether there are changes to uses or new uses that should be considered for these parks (e.g. holiday programming at Ben Brenman) that would enhance economic and community vitality.

"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"