



October 16, 2014

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ALEXANDRIA, VA
2014 OCT 21 A 11:59

Mr. James Spengler
Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Jim:

As we indicated at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on October 9th, we want to convey the official position of the Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) regarding Warwick to the City. As you are aware, we have worked closely with your staff, the Warwick Village Citizens Association, the Tenant and Workers United, the City Council, and the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) to evaluate and seek solutions for the deteriorating pool.

We have felt it appropriate to push for the pool to be open the past two summers. We have also sought private-sector funds from VTS to help pay for a new pool. They have now informed us that a decision will be delayed until November and that it is unlikely that they will be able to contribute financially. Consequently, we have taken the liberty of suggesting to them (see enclosed letter) that they donate the land to the City or at least waive the annual lease payment (as they did this year). We have also informed them that any future discussions along these lines should be directly between VTS and the City.

For Warwick:

- We agree with the closure of the pool in the summer of 2015 for safety reasons as long as a new pool will be built in 2016.
- We recommend that the City use \$1.5 million to fund the new pool (actually two pools, the main pool and the kiddie pool). There will be no private sector funds from AAA since VTS is unwilling to commit to any funding. The \$1.5 million will be Warwick's prorated share of the \$5 million set aside for 2018 (but used sooner).
- We do not have a position on the building other than to recommend a renovation of the bathhouse. The meeting room and the second floor are not aquatics related so we have no opinion about them.
- We have written a letter to the Dean of VTS expressing our disappointment on the lack of a contribution, thanking them for their consideration and their waiver of the annual lease payment this year, and recommending that any further communications be between them and the City. However, as we indicated above, we have suggested that they consider working with the City to either transfer the land to the City (first option) or to continue to waive the

Advocates for
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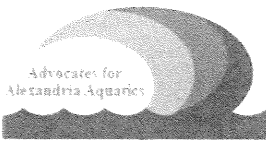
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annual lease payment (second option). Neither has any significant impact on VTS' finances.

- The City should take the necessary steps to make sure that any lease reduction offsets some of the Warwick pool operating costs.
- The City should also ensure that the lease is adjusted to protect the City's investment in a new pool.

From the Commission meeting last week, it was clear that the Warwick Village Citizens Association and the Park and Recreation Commission both support the concept of a new pool at Warwick. You should be hearing from them separately. We have worked closely with the Tenants and Workers United on Warwick and their Executive Director has authorized us to speak on their behalf in support of a new pool at Warwick. Therefore, this letter represents the views of the Tenants and Workers United as well as AAA.

We are pleased with the progress on the new pool at Chinquapin and encourage you to apply the same alacrity to Warwick. While we understand that action cannot start until the City Council has decided on Warwick, the best-case scenario would be to have the new pool ready for the summer of 2016.

As we have done over the past two years, we stand ready to help with anything you need regarding Warwick.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

**Advocates for
Alexandria Aquatics**

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Sincerely,

William Rivers
Chair, Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Rashad Young
City Manager





October 16, 2014

Dean Ian Markham
Virginia Theological Seminary
3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Dear Dean Markham:

Ms. Zdancewicz of your staff has informed us that any decision about aid for the Warwick pool has been deferred until the November meeting of your Board of Trustees. She has also informed us that we should expect no financial contributions to help build a new pool there. We are obviously disappointed by this information, but as we mentioned at our last meeting, we need to move on to solving the Warwick situation immediately.

Alexandria's Park and Recreation Commission adopted a resolution last week to close the pool in 2015 for safety reasons and request that a new pool be built at Warwick as soon as possible. This is in line with what we at the Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA), the Warwick Village Citizens Association, and the Tenants and Workers United have also endorsed. Since City staff will be working now on their budget for the upcoming fiscal year and timing will be crucial, we suggest that any further dealings regarding Warwick be between you and the City directly.

We appreciate the consideration that you and all at VTS have shown in our many meetings on the subject. The Seminary is held in high regard in the community and all of our conversations with you and your staff over the past year have reinforced that positive view. Your gesture to the City of waiving the lease payment for this year is much appreciated.

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We would like to leave you with some suggestions to consider at the November meeting. VTS could consider transferring the property to the City at no cost (first choice) or continuing to waive the annual lease payments (second choice). Either way, we would hope that the City would redirect those savings to help offset the cost of operating the new pool once it is built. Due to the nature of the lease, VTS cannot benefit financially from any other use of the land and the annual lease revenue is negligible considering the overall finances of VTS. Transferring the land to the City is preferable to AAA because it allows the possibility of other private sector fund-raising being done by AAA.

Again we appreciate the courtesy shown by you and your staff and wish you and the Seminary the very best in the future.

Sincerely,

William Rivers
Chair, Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics

