



**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

James B. Spengler
Director

Phone 703.746.4343

Fax 703.838.6344

December 21, 2016

Mayor Allison Silberberg
Vice Mayor Justin M. Wilson
Councilman Willie F. Bailey, Sr.
Councilman John Taylor Chapman
Councilman Timothy B. Lovain
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg

Park & Recreation Commission:
Cameron Run Planning Process

Dear Mayor Silberberg and City Council Members:

The Park and Recreation Commission appreciates your leadership last June in directing staff to develop a public planning process for Cameron Run Regional Park. We have reviewed a draft of the proposed Cameron Run Parks Planning Process. We are pleased to provide our endorsement of the proposed process, subject to your consideration of certain matters on the record.

It is important to the Commission that the process be about needs rather than desires. Many people (and departments) may have a wish list for these parcels. The process will be of greatest value if it inventories existing city needs in priority then matches the needs to the actual possibilities of the site. We appreciate that the proposed process includes public education about the various constraints on the site such as the Resource Protection Area as well as mechanisms for all stakeholder groups and members of the public to participate.

With that practical concern in mind, we ask that in your discussion on the record, you:

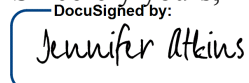
- Clarify whether city entities (for example, ACPS) should or should not be identified as stakeholders in the planning process, which is currently scoped to focus on recreational needs and not other city needs.
- Consider giving express guidance that public meetings occur at a variety of locations and at at least one time other than a weekday evening so as to ensure participation by a variety of citizens, not just those who can make weekday evening meetings at city hall.
- Emphasize, as the Commission has done, the importance of straight talk about finances, including not only budget constraints but also the constraints imposed by essentially rent-

free lease terms.

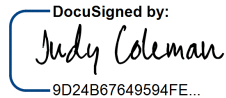
- Consider giving express guidance that the planning document review implementation options, such as phasing, co-location, and partnerships with private and non-profit organizations.

We look forward to participating in this much-needed public planning process. We urge your approval of the proposed process so that it can move forward with appropriate speed.

Sincerely yours,

DocuSigned by:

D3424C109181499...

Jennifer Atkins, Chair, and Judy Coleman, Vice-Chair, on behalf of the
Park and Recreation Commission

DocuSigned by:

9D24B67649594FE...