

May 31, 2006

Ms. Lynn S. Tadlock
Director, Planning & Development Division
Fairfax County Park Authority
12055 Government Center Parkway
Suite 421
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

RE: Lee District Park Master Plan Revision (Revised Draft 1/30/06)

Dear Ms. Tadlock:

I am writing on behalf of the Stoneybrooke Citizens Association of Fairfax County, to offer comments to the above referenced Master Plan Revision.

The Stoneybrooke subdivision consists of nearly 230 single-family residential homes located off South Kings Highway in the Lee Supervisory District. Stoneybrooke lies southeast of Lee District Park directly across South Kings Highway.

As you know, initial public meetings and review in late 2005 of the proposed master plan changes to Lee District Park revealed the county's desire to light **ONE** athletic field. The Stoneybrooke Citizens Association had no opinion on this matter, as we did not believe that one field with lights would impact our quality of life. However, upon review of the proposed plan changes after that meeting, we learned of the county's desire to light not one field, but **SIX**. We do not agree with this change and ask directly that the Fairfax County Park Authority return to the original plan of one lighted field.

Ms. Tadlock, you may or may not know that traffic on South Kings Highway and Telegraph Road is becoming more and more difficult. Upon the closing of Woodlawn Road after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, traffic was forced to use Telegraph Road and South Kings Highway as alternate routes to Fort Belvoir. These roads have not recovered from this increased use and continue to thicken with traffic as more and more development finds its way to the Lee and Mount Vernon Districts. Now, with six lighted fields potentially in use well into the evening, we believe that traffic on our neighboring secondary arteries will significantly increase well into the night.

If the master plan revision is approved and additional lighted fields are added to Lee District Park, we believe the following traffic increases are likely:

3. If games begin at 6:00 p.m., we estimate at least 144 additional vehicles arriving for games between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 pm.
4. Beginning every hour thereafter, the number of vehicles doubles per hour for players, parents, and spectators both arriving for the next scheduled game and departing games just completed.
5. These estimates are based on 12 players per team, times 2 teams, times 6 fields.

Another concern is the annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration at the park. Thousands of local residents walk to the park (a rarity these days) to enjoy an excellent Fourth of July celebration. Having worked with local youth soccer leagues as a coach, I know the pride and tenaciousness the leagues display in assisting the county in caring for its athletic fields. Will the leagues insist that the county cease this annual celebration to protect the fields?

We also believe that there will be significant light pollution with the additional lighting of six fields. Already we can see the lights for the driving ranges on South Van Dorn Street and the Telegraph Road near Hilltop Golf Course. As you may be aware light pollution obliterates the evening and night sky and greatly reduces the visible celestial objects. While some municipalities use lighting designed to decrease the effect of light pollution, we are unaware of any efforts to mitigate the increased light pollution.

Finally, we must ask about noise. A small park, Stoneybrooke Park that includes a historic property, the Stone Mansion, borders Stoneybrooke. The Mansion is regularly rented for

weddings and parties and regularly, I find myself calling on the Historic Property Rental personnel to ask them to have the facility renters turn down their music. On Saturdays, we hear the noise emanating from the small field adjacent to Groveton Elementary School with hourly soccer games. If six fields are lit at Lee, playing into the evening when noise carries further and more clearly, we are fearful that we will be surrounded by noise problems.

We hope that the County will take these concerns into account in going forward with any revisions to the Master Plan. We are hopeful that revisions to the Plan will be implemented in such a way as to minimize impacts on not only Stoneybrooke but also all neighborhoods bordering and adjacent to the Lee District Park. We feel this minimal impact can be accomplished by the Fairfax County Park Authority returning to the original plan of **ONE** lighted field at Lee District Park.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Jurkowski, Chairman
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