

## Memorandum

To: Bill Murray, Chairman, Field Fund Advisory Committee

From: Ken Bass, President, Arlington Soccer Association

Date: December 20, 2011

***Re: Proposed use of Field Fund payments for rectangular fields***

At your request, the Arlington Soccer Association makes the following proposal for use of the funds accumulated in the Field Fund for rectangular fields.

It is ASA's understanding that approximately \$200,000 is currently available from the Field Fund (based on player fee collections in the 2010-11 fiscal year and projected payments in the 2011-12 fiscal year) for use on rectangular fields.

ASA proposes to use this entire amount as a downpayment on a new lighted synthetic turf rectangular field on the grounds at Kenmore Middle School, in the space between the school parking lot along Carlin Springs Rd. and the tennis courts.

Earlier this year, the Sports Commission, following community input, identified the Kenmore space as the best place in the County for putting in a new rectangular field.

ASA anticipates that it will have an additional 1000-1200 players in its primary programs (recreational and travel soccer) by 2016 based on APS projections for increased school enrollment. This growth would follow similar growth of 1000 additional players in those ASA programs in the five year period from 2007-2011.

ASA projects that it will need four new full-sized soccer fields by 2016 to accommodate this new growth. (This is over and above the three new fields that recently opened at Long Bridge Park.) Putting in a new field at Kenmore will be a good start, and will demonstrate to the Arlington soccer community that the player fees being collected by the County are being used where the need is greatest. Kenmore is centrally located and convenient to a large percentage of ASA's scholarship players who often face difficult transportation challenges when trying to participate in youth sports. Reaching out to underserved communities is a high priority for ASA. The field would also benefit students at Kenmore Middle School, who would have access to it for physical education classes during the school day, and for sports activities after school up to 4:30 p.m.

ASA expects that the cost of a new field at Kenmore will be in the range of \$800,000-\$1 million. ASA proposes that this cost be paid by a combination of (1) the existing funds in the Field Fund; (2) future payments from the Field Fund; (3) one or more contributions from ASA; and (4) fundraising to be conducted and coordinated by ASA in the community with cooperation, assistance and support from the County and APS.

ASA proposes that the new field be configured like two of the new fields at Long Bridge Park to provide for both full-sized games and side-by-side small-sided games.

In addition, ASA proposes that the field at Kenmore be developed to accommodate a seasonal air dome to create much needed indoor soccer (and other sports) space in Arlington during the winter months (November through March). (Alternatively, the air dome could be placed over a different, existing synthetic turf field in Arlington, such as Virginia Highlands.) ASA would fund the cost of the seasonal air dome (estimated at \$750,000-\$900,000), provided that the County enter an MOU permitting ASA to program the space during the winter months, including an indoor recreational soccer league. ASA would propose to share revenue from such programming with Arlington's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. ASA would have to develop an MOU with APS concerning school use of the facility during the period the dome is in use—it is likely that there would be some programmed activities during school hours.

This proposal would result in a state of the art new field and indoor facility in the heart of Arlington County, and would provide for maximization of a key space that is currently unutilized. It would also provide a new model for field development in Arlington County.