

Question Report		
8-Jun-22		
Topic: Proposed Athletic Field Lighting Community Meeting #1		
#	Question	Answer
1	Why is the city pushing this in an area that is a neighborhood and has seen nothing but adults play at the Hammond Field after hours, running around shirtless, leaving beer bottles all over, cursing, fighting. Lights will negatively impact the families that live around the field? Nobody from the City notified the people that live in the Hammond neighborhood. This is not how things should be done.	The City is providing for expanded program opportunities for youth and adults. The Seminary Hill Civic Association was notified of the meeting and proposal for the installation of athletic field lighting at this location; notices sent via City eNews; and web postings.
2	The city is reducing police services, garbage and recycle services, has more than 4000 kids in one HS, but we have money to put lights in that will hurt the neighborhood. The city just tore up a field, you've created the problem. Stop using equity as an excuse, that is a lie—you do not know how to plan.	The City is providing for expanded program opportunities for youth and adults and to meet current and future athletic needs.
3	also, as a soccer mom here and adult soccer player here, synthetic fields contribute to bacterial infections and more injuries. so you're hurting the youth and adults that play here. If you really care.	Information on the health and safety of synthetic turf may be found by visiting <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/basic-page/synthetic-turf-use-in-the-city-of-alexandria">https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/basic-page/synthetic-turf-use-in-the-city-of-alexandria</a>
4	what is SUP approval?	A Special Use Permit to receive authorization to install athletic field lighting.
5	Why did community outreach not reach out to our neighborhood? This was already rejected by the courts.	The Seminary Hill Civic Association was notified of the meeting and proposal for the installation of athletic field lighting at this location; notices sent via City eNews; and web postings. The previous proposal to add lights at Hammond was withdrawn by the City and no court action prohibited the installation.
6	Has someone looked at how the various neighborhoods will be impacted by additional traffic? Who would be using these fields? Only Alexandria or other communities as well?	No formal traffic studies were performed and are not required. The fields will be used in a manner consistent with approved permits and open use by the community as appropriate.
7	Demand for full-size rectangular field use is increasing. Is there a way to add field capacity without lights and artificial turf?	Space is limited in the City to add full size rectangular fields and the installation of new fields is significantly more expensive than adding lights to existing synthetic turf fields.
8	How is it that the ACPS and City are proposing artificial turf in our neighborhoods without any outreach from the city. This is an unacceptable effort of coordination and community engagement. The lack of coordination does not allow for the valued input of neighbors in the area.	ACPS has proposed for the conversion of GW to synthetic Turf. The City is proposing the installation of lighting at five locations, six fields, and contacted 14 Civic Association's, City eNews and web posting. A suggestion was to add signs at the fields and the City posted signs as recommended.
9	The field at Hammond due to the current use is already in poor condition. How is adding additional usage going to impact the current field?	The synthetic turf field meets all safety standards and is scheduled for new turf in 2023/2024 by ACPS.
10	Our house is within 50 feet of the field, we have had continued trash and noise. There is no way that there will not be light impact to our house. The school has not been able to manage the current use of the field so why would we expect things to improve with additional use.	The addition of lighting will be used by permit only. Additional staffing and support will be available.
11	Also hearing from folks around the area that people will be able to hit a button after the 10 p.m. cut off for 15 minute intervals. And that the city will remove the noise violation ordinance in our neighborhood so we can't legally complain of noise violations. Are either of these true?	The lights will automatically be turned off, if in use, at 10 pm per City Code. No noise ordinance changes are required or proposed.
12	Am I correct, that most of these facilities have substantial parking resources already, including GWMS and Hammond?	Yes, considerable off street parking is available at each of these locations.
13	Why is there no information on the turf fields on the ACPS website?	Staff will consult with ACPS
14	Is it possible to limit use of the fields to 8:30 or 9 p,m?	Per code, fields are open until 10 pm.
15	Are the lights certified or otherwise approved by a dark sky group?	Yes. Each site has been certified Dark Skys.
16	A lot of those opposed to turf and/or lights are suggesting that turf is bad for athletes. Appreciate everyone has a view, but does Alexandria City have a view on this as opposed to community opinion?	Information on the health and safety of synthetic turf may be found by visiting <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/basic-page/synthetic-turf-use-in-the-city-of-alexandria">https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/basic-page/synthetic-turf-use-in-the-city-of-alexandria</a>
17	Follow up since it was mentioned. At Hammond they park in the street and crowd the street, they do not use the lots.	Field users may use all available parking - front lot, street, and back lot. Cars parked illegally should be reported to Parking Enforcement at 703.746.4444.
18	Is installing a tree for every light something that might alleviate concerns for those opposed to expanding lighted options for our community?	The City has an active tree planting program.
19	You're doing a great job, Jack.	Thank you for your comment.
20	What time and where is the June 9th meeting with Seminary Hill Association that you mentioned to discuss potential lights at Hammond?	Information was provided by the Civic Association representative that was present in the meeting.
21	I am very supportive of this initiative. The cost-effectiveness of the lighting project to expand field capacity far surpasses any other option to create access to field space.	Thank you for your comment.