

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 11, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 35: CAMERON STATION TOT LOT COSTS AND FUNDING OPTIONS

This memo responds to a request made by Councilman Gaines and Vice Mayor Pepper for information on the costs of a tot lot at Cameron Station and potential funding options.

Construction of a tot lot at Cameron Station comparable to others in the City would cost approximately \$120,000, broken down as follows:

Subsurface and surface work -	\$50,000
Equipment -	\$30,000
Installation -	\$30,000
Landscaping -	\$6,000
Fence -	<u>\$4,000</u>
 Total	 \$120,000

There are currently no public-private partnerships in place that provide funding for this tot lot. Neighborhood Partnership Program projects are limited in cost, size and scope to projects much smaller than this (\$5,000 City funding limit). If City Council wishes to pursue a public-private funding initiative (such as a 50% public/50% private), staff recommends that Council consider a community fundraising effort and matching challenge similar to those approved by Council in the past for the Apothecary, Lee-Fendel House, Vola Lawson Animal Shelter and MetroStage.

While there has been support from various members of the community for a tot lot in the park, Recreation staff has also received several e-mails and phone calls against placing a tot lot in the park. Given that this addition to the park would require an SUP and public input on the proposal, if Council were interested in providing funding, it could add funding as a contingent. Then Recreation staff would develop a concept design and siting in conjunction with users, as well as formally gauge overall community opinion in conjunction with the neighborhood civic association. The process would provide feedback as to how much support is in the community for such an amenity in Ben Brenman Park (with the proposal coming formally to Council if the conclusion is that sufficient need and support is present for a new tot-lot at Cameron Station).