

City Of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 18, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #103: STATUS OF CITY RUNNING TRACK

This budget memo is in response to the request by Councilman Gaines on the status of a City running track. First of all, the new rubberized running track at T.C. Williams High School should be completed and opened by August of 2008. This should solve the problem for the high school students and track teams.

The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities staff reviewed City sites to determine where another track might be feasible. As a result, the City is leaving open the possibility of constructing a small, four-lane community track somewhere else in Alexandria. The best location for such a track is around the Braddock athletic fields. The planning process for the new Braddock synthetic fields will probably begin in late FY 2009, and the inclusion of a community track can be considered at that point.

We also studied all of our other park and school areas and concluded that most are either too small or have too many site constraints to install a track. A standard running track is 400 meters in length (National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations and International Amateur Athletic Federation). The T.C. Williams High School track is a 400 meter track. It may be possible to add a 200-meter track at Minnie Howard, but it would take an additional \$500,000-\$600,000 in funding to do so. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities plans to submit this option as a stand-alone project for funding consideration in the FY 2010 – FY 2015 CIP process.

With respect to the concerns raised by Mr. Carr about the upper track adjacent to Francis Hammond Middle School, this was an ACPS project. Apparently, the crown slope on the field and walking track was not adequate. The area has settled and there is a portion where water ponds after heavy rain. Our staff will see that T&ES engineering staff works with ACPS staff to identify solutions to this problem. In a future CIP project, the overall drainage could be improved when the field is renovated. This is not a currently funded ACPS CIP project.

