# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

## M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Chairman and Members

Park Authority Board

VIA: Jai Cole, Executive Director

**FROM:** Kurt Louis, Division Director

Park Operations Division

**DATE:** June 3, 2022

### Agenda

Park Operations Committee (Committee of the Whole) Wednesday, June 8, 2022 – 6:50 pm Virtual

Chairman: Linwood Gorham Vice Chair: Mike Thompson

1. Approval – Name the Future Amphitheater in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, the Adler Amphitheater – Action\*

\*Enclosures



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#### ACTION - 1

<u>Approval – Name the future amphitheater in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, the Adler Amphitheater (Sully District)</u>

#### ISSUE:

Naming of the amphitheater as the Adler Amphitheater in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park for The Adler Family's generous support of the new amphitheater construction and other needs of the Sully Woodlands Stewardship Education Center.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Park Authority Executive Director recommends approval of the naming of a new amphitheater in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, the Adler Amphitheater. Mutually agreeable commemorative signage would be installed when the amphitheater construction is complete. This major feature composed of stone walls and surfaced tiers will be used for seating with a capacity of 90 during FCPA programming and events.

#### TIMING:

Board action is requested on June 8, 2022. The Adler Foundation pledged \$100,000 that must be distributed to the Park Foundation prior to June 30, 2022. The Park Foundation will expedite the transfer of funds to the Park Authority.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Adler Foundation was established in 2004 by Len Adler, a successful real estate entrepreneur in the Northern Virginia region who believes in ensuring the Adler Family will continue to positively impact the surrounding community. Mr. Adler's real estate career began in 1957 with the purchase of a rental townhouse in Alexandria, Virginia. He continued buying rental properties and in 1968, pivoted, and opened his first retail franchise, a Ben Franklin variety store. He continued to manage and grow this chain until its sale and has since devoted his time to the Adler Financial Group, a full-service real estate management and development office.

In addition to his devotion to Adler Financial Group, Mr. Adler has served on corporate and non-profit boards in the Northern Virginia area. He continues to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Adler Financial Group in partnership with his son, Dan Adler, in Fairfax, Virginia.

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Len and the Adler Family believe in hard work and win-win partnerships. The Adler Foundation was created to promote these values across the Northern Virginia region through its support of vocational education and many other organizations serving this community.

The Adler Family has been based in the Northern Virginia region since the 1950s and has watched the area grow and transform into the major international metropolitan locale that it is today. They remain committed to conducting business and giving philanthropically within the area that they've called home for so long.

The Adler Family supports organizations that are truly committed to helping individuals, the community, and the environment around them. They have supported hospice care, programs that assist the elderly, organizations that support active military and veteran families, and other activities that allow our communities to prosper. The Adler Center for Caring in Aldie, Virginia was named after generous gifts from Len and Dale Adler.

The Adler Family has enjoyed Fairfax County parks including Riverbend Park. Dan Adler was introduced to the Park Foundation as The Adler Foundation became a sponsor of the Hunter Mill Melodies Summer Entertainment Series in 2021, which continued in 2022. The Adler Foundation also pledged to sponsor two Chessie's Carousel horses at Lee District Park. The pledge of \$100,000 to support the amphitheater may be used for construction with the flexibility of supporting program and other needs of the Sully Woodlands Stewardship Education Center. All four of The Adler Foundation board members met with Bobbi Longworth and Eric Inman to learn about the project. They made a site visit led by John Shafer which solidified their interest in supporting this important environmental education project within a beautiful park.

Len Adler wants to identify a long-term community partner through which the family may leave a significant legacy in Northern Virginia beyond his lifetime. He hopes that these and future investments from the Adler Family will also serve as an example to other family foundations and organizations to support Fairfax County parks through the Park Foundation.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Adler Foundation has pledged \$100,000 that must be distributed from the Foundation to the Fairfax County Park Foundation prior to June 30, 2022.

#### **ENCLOSED DOCUMENT:**

Attachment 1: Plan Section Graphic of the future Amphitheater at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

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### STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director, Park Authority
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Kurt Louis, Director, Park Operations Division
Laura Grape, Director, Resource Management Division
John Shafer, Park Manager, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer
Roberta Longworth, Executive Director, Park Foundation

