

7/24/2019

Environmental,

Renee Grebe Loftridge HOA resident

- Intrusion: Staff has mentioned there will be no “intrusion” into the Resource Protection Zone. What is the definition of “intrusion” in this case? Does it include physical space infringement, light, and noise impacts?
- Environmental impact of this change: Would staff be supportive of suggesting an environmental impact study given the nature of the adjacent resource protection zone as an ecological resource to animals such as owls and migrating birds (particularly in the spring and fall when lights/noise would be more likely to be used)? Why or why not?
- Tree loss: Would any additional trees be lost to install the lights?

- Field choice: Would it be possible to light only the front two fields? Doing so would minimize the impact to the Resource Protection Zone and further distance the light from the natural area. If use of the larger field is a requirement, this may require reconfiguration of the overall layout to ensure the larger field would move forward to the road. This change would ensure the longer-term protection of the ecological resources we currently have.

- Light pole installation:
 - oWhere exactly will light poles be installed?
 - oIn which direction will lights be angled?
 - oCan the Master Plan designate that no more than two fields can be lit (to minimize light & noise disturbance during evening hours)?
- Control of lights: Will lights be manually controlled? Or will there be an automatic shut off?
- Light poles: Are there any lights/flashing lights on top of the poles (like communication towers have)? These can have a negative impact on birds.

- Lighting direction: Can the Master Plan be updated to include language to specify and ensure lights should always be directed towards the fields only and not into the natural area?

- Field perimeter lighting: Current zoning states “Location and limits of playing fields/courts, to include a perimeter area...For baseball/softball fields, the perimeter area shall extend thirty (30) feet in a direction perpendicular to the foul lines and away from the field.”
 - oDoes that perimeter have to be lighted?
 - ols it possible to add language to the Master Plan which preserves the perimeter as a darker buffer between the lights and the natural/wooded area?

- Parking lot lighting buffer: What is the current planned buffer area? 20’ from the edge of the woods would provide a helpful buffer.

- Time of day lighting: Current zoning states “The use of outdoor playing field/court lighting shall not be permitted between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM”
ols it possible that the Master Plan could designate a more restrictive time constraints to ensure quietness in the neighborhood is ensured at a reasonable time?

- Time of year lighting: Would staff consider stricter lighting restrictions for time of year to minimize the impact of migrating songbirds (in spring and fall) which use this park?

7/23/2019

Lights, Other

Sharon Grimes

I will not be available to attend the meeting on 7/25. However, I live atVirginia 22310; directly across from the park. We have lived here for over 28 years and love our neighborhood.

We fought hard for the current master plan. Especially to make sure that there would be no lights, restriction on PA, and no permanent food service.

The baseball teams have been good neighbors. We enjoy hearing the games across the street. We never complain about the traffic or folks that park overflow in front of our home. We support continuing with the current agreement.

Lights and games that could go on until 11:00 at night would be a disruptive challenge for us. We are concerned about the impact on our ability to enjoy our home and yard. We are also concerned about the impact it would have on our eventual resale.

Please keep the current agreement in place. Perhaps Lee District Park would be a better Location for baseball after dark.

7/26/2019

Facilities, Light

Hugh Haworth

Dear Fairfax County Park Authority, I attended the Master Plan Public Comment Meeting on Revisions to Clermont Park's Plan, yesterday, 7/25/19, at the Franconia Government Center (with my grandson, Sebastian Haworth). Thank you for organizing such an informative meeting.

I have lived in the vicinity of Clermont Park for over four decades: at Penwood Drive off Clermont Drive and currently in Wilton Woods on Locust Lane a few hundred yards away from the Park as the bird flies. I had played soccer at the Clermont Park for decades up to the point the Park was taken over for the baseball fields. Over the decades I have walked fairly often through Clermont and Loftridge Parks to enjoy the lovely nature of these County sites. All told I have had a long emotional tie to the Park(s).

Three issues stand out in my mind as to why lighting should not be added to Clermont Park.

First, the traffic will increase later into the evening at the Park's entrance creating more problems than already exist. Franconia Road is only two lanes wide at the Park. Drivers approaching the Park from the west going east usually have to wait for oncoming traffic to clear before they can enter the Park. This leads to back ups and frustration on the part of some drivers willing to take risks to skirt around the jam.

Second, the additional lighting in the evening, even though it is technologically far more focused and environment friendly, will still create ambient lighting for those a ground level that will be an eyesore well into the evening.

Third is the additional noise that will carry on until 9 or 9:30 pm on many days. It is a real nuisance.

I do favor more fields for all sports including baseball and lighting for evening games. There surely are better locations not too far from Clermont Park to accommodate youth baseball into the evening. Such a sight will provide for better and safer traffic movement. Other locations can also have greater set backs from housing to minimize noise and light disturbances.

One location that could accommodate such an expansion is Lee District Park, which I use several times every week. There is at least one existing baseball field there along with a large lighted multipurpose field that is super popular with many youth leagues. Lee District Park has room for expansion and can accommodate traffic, lighting, parking and concession stands far better than Clermont Park.

There probably are a few more sites that are better suited than Clermont Park that are central to youth sports in Lee District and Mount Vernon Districts. These should be explored and offered to the County residents for their consideration.

7/29/2019

Lights, Other

Walt J. Wierwille

I am writing to voice my support for the installation of lights for the baseball fields at Clermont Park. There are very limited options in this area for nighttime games for our youth. It gets very hot for the kids during the daytime during baseball season, and playing night games on lighted fields will help keep the kids safe and allow for the season to continue into the hotter summer months. Baseball and softball are constructive activities for kids in the area, and our kids need as much encouragement and opportunity for such constructive activities as we can give them. Without constructive goals like playing in big games under the lights, you'll see kids turn to other less favorable activities. There are indoor private fields in Springfield, but those are expensive to participate in and they are not very close to this area. The objections I have seen from neighbors (I also live nearby) to having lights installed seem purely selfish so that they can maximize their home values. It is a misguided argument anyway because this isn't going to lower any property values.

7/28/2019

Lights, Other

Joe Teipe

I am writing to object to the possible authorization by the county of adding lighting and night time games to the Clermont baseball fields.

These baseball fields have functioned in their current state for years and have satisfied the Lee District sports program without fail. I write to you as a father of three sons who play/ed baseball and can say without hesitation that these fields serve their purpose.

I truly hope that Supervisor McKay and the county do not bend to the whims of a few when the masses and most importantly neighbors who've invested in their homes and neighborhoods do NOT want to see this action move forward.

Please don't do something regrettable in the end...especially if politics are at play and you know what I mean.

Thank you.

Joe Teipe/on behalf of neighbors in the Wilton Woods community #Keep Clermont Fields Daytime

7/28/2019

Environmental,

Dilia and Thomas Caballero

We have lived across the street from Clermont Park since October 2009 and previous to that time, we were residents of 3510 Kings Cross Road and 5701 Gladden Court (in Wellington Green) since 1997. We moved into this neighborhood as a young couple and have since had four children, three boys and a girl, in 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2008. All three of our boys played baseball, soccer and basketball in a variety of recreational leagues. The boys played baseball starting in 1st grade with Alexandria Potomac Little League and continued playing in the spring through at least sixth grade (while also basketball and soccer). Our youngest son played his last season with Pioneer on a rec team as well as a travel team.

As parents of athletes and homeowners, we are opposed to the Clermont Park Master Plan Amendment. As parents, we do not believe that there is a compelling need for children younger than high school age (and the fields are not large enough for games beyond the age of 6th grade or so) to be playing sports beyond 8 pm, particularly during the school week. To permit lighting for Clermont Park inherently will guarantee late night games will take place, not just during the weekend. For working families, there are increasing pressures to balance school, work and family time. Proposals like this simply exacerbate those pressures. We well recall weeknight baseball games where we would not get home before 8:30 (and that involved unlit fields) with kids needing to be fed and complete homework. Even if our children were still playing baseball, we would not support this proposal.

As homeowners, we believe the proposal serves the desires of a few at the expense of many. Don't most parks, particularly those in residential areas, prohibit park activity after dark? They do so for many important reasons, including safety concerns with increased evening activity, noise pollution in the surrounding neighborhoods, light pollution on nearby residents, and negative traffic effects. Adding lighting to Clermont Park will increase evening and nighttime activity and noise, as well as traffic along Franconia Road, causing many of these adverse impacts for residents. Indeed, given the awkward placement of the parking lot entrance/exit on Franconia Road, any change which causes a substantial number of vehicles to be entering and exiting the park at night presents safety concerns sufficient to deny the lighting proposal. When the deed restriction was put in place, the neighborhood was even less densely populated than today, and so that restriction, and the reasons supporting it, are even more necessary now.

It is our belief that most lighted athletic fields in the Alexandria/Franconia community are attached to public schools (such as Lane Elementary, Bucknell Elementary, Bryant Alternative School, West Potomac High School, Edison) or are located in commercial areas (such as Alexandria's fields off Duke Street) or areas that are sufficiently set back and surrounded by buffering land (such as Lee District Park), such that any noise and light pollution have little impact on residences. The proposed lighting at Clermont Park would depart from these conditions and impose the light and noise pollution upon the surrounding residents.

In addition, the lighting will have environmental impacts that do not appear to have been evaluated. The Resource Protection Zone behind the fields has a fair amount of wildlife that would be negatively affected by the light and noise. Lighting the fields will also likely lead to paving the parking lot, increasing even further the amount of impervious paved surfaces in an area that is already prone to water issues.

In sum, the proposal to add lighting to fields and parking in Clermont Park will negatively affect residents in the area surrounding the park, and will do so only to provide lighting so that a single youth baseball league will be able to play games and hold practices for the young players late into the evening. Given the age of the children who would play on the lighted fields with that league, this purported benefit is dubious at best and likely a negative in itself. Accordingly, the negative impacts of the project on county residents surrounding Clermont Park clearly outweigh any marginal benefit from adding lighting to these fields, and so there is no basis for lifting the deed restriction and approving this proposal.

Sincerely,

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Page 6 of 293

7/28/2019

Environmental,

Anne Rieman

1. Recommend the Clermont Park Lighting proposal not be approved. Recommend the park master plan originally approved in March 1975 not be amended to remove the deed restriction that prohibits park activity after daytime.

2. Reasons not to approve the lighting proposal:

- Alternate fields with lighting are available. Many of these fields are not in residential areas.
- Potential negative environmental impact on the resource protection zone adjacent to the fields. (Wildlife in resource protection zone — birds, insects, etc.)
- Potential negative environmental impact due to expansion of the parking lot - flooding.
- Extreme Light pollution in a residential area.
- Increased noise up until 11pm at night in a residential area.
- Potential dangerous driving conditions along Franconia Road due to more traffic leaving the parking lot at night.
- Potential loss of property values in adjacent residential homes surrounding the area due to noise, traffic issues, and noise issues.
- Ball fields are for younger players (under age 13) who may not benefit from playing baseball games ending at 11pm. Better to just have games during the daytime when fields are already available.

3. There has been little outreach to the local community about the environmental impact that the proposed amendment will have. Our home is located within 1,000 feet of the Clermont Park parking area and ball fields along Franconia Road.

4. Recommend the proposal for Clermont Park Lighting not be approved and that the 1975 master plan not be amended.

7/27/2019

Facilities, Light

Laura Clarke, resident

Another reason I OPPOSE the Clermont Park Master Plan Revision, because of the original DEED and its intended LAND USE. I do not support the proposed Lighting plan and its major disruption to the park, the neighbors, the traffic, etc.

The precious resource protection land zone along Franconia Road is already disrupted by the existing four fields and adjacent parking lot. If you want my honest opinion the existing four fields are underutilized the majority of the time, except for the peak spring and fall baseball schedule.

There are clear restrictions which identified and stated that NO permanent lights, NO permanent loudspeakers & NO permanent structures should be allowed on this property!!! Let's stand behind the original intent of the DEED and preserve this land use for our community, the environment and for the peace & quiet we need in life.

Thank you,
Laura Clarke

7/26/2019

Environmental,

Laura Clarke, resident

I OPPOSE the Clermont Park Master Plan Revision, first and foremost because of the original DEED and its clear restrictions which identified and stated that NO permanent lights, NO permanent loudspeakers & NO permanent structures should be allowed on this property!!!

Let's stand behind the original intent of the DEED and preserve this land use for our community, the environment and for the peace & quiet we need in life.

Please and thank you,

Laura Clarke

7/26/2019

Environmental,

Donna Evans, resident

I want to say that I am opposed to the installation of lights, speakers, for the baseball fields at Clermont. The park behind the fields is filled with wildlife that will be affected by this additional light and noise. It's important to remember that the walking paths in those woods are also used by the community to find natural spaces to enjoy near the communities. The use of the baseball fields to daylight hours is reasonable for the summer season especially. The deed specified that these fields would not be lit. Let's stick to the master plan.

Donna Evans
long term county resident

7/29/2019

Lights, Other, T

Jennifer Fisher

No Lighting in Clermont Park

Let's give this project its due diligence before endorsing a big step that would wear away at the fabric of our community and undermine the deed/zoning that keeps our neighborhoods an attractive place to live. Clermont Park is zoned as a 40-acre Protection Zone including daylight use only.

Neighbors live in harmony with the park's use of the fields during the daylight hours. At night, the streets surrounding the field are quiet, dark, and peaceful. The park's design was based on daytime only usage and quiet unlit nights. Installing lighting would disrupt the balance for the many, many families who live within earshot of the park.

Residents surrounding the park clearly hear the baseball games during daylight hours, this level of noise is tolerated during the day, but at night, with lower background noise and an expectation of quiet after dark, the noise would seem even louder. Additionally, we will hear traffic into/out of the park until after 11:00 pm as cars cycle every 2 hours for practices and games on each field, which will interfere with not only our young children's bedtimes but us taxpayers and voters bedtimes as well. Many of us located to this area because of the calm serenity the area affords. Many of us go to bed early and absolutely do not want to have our quiet neighborhoods disrupted.

Glare from the proposed lighting will be seen from many blocks away. Adding lights would create an enormous halo effect as light reflects off the fields, the cars and moisture in the air.

There are limits to a residential neighborhood's capacity to absorb additional traffic, light, and noise. The current deed/zoning restrictions intended to protect our communities and it seems that the FCPA is pushing a well-meaning but shortsighted request from a narrow interest group without considering the harm to the local community. No impact study, community task force, or other reasonable process has been followed. The elections are coming up soon and if you let this happen without due diligence, you will not ever receive my vote.

7/30/2019

Lights, Other, T

Jeff Fisher

Dear Fairfax County Park Authority,
Lighting should not be added to Clermont Park.

First, the traffic will increase later into the evening at the Park's entrance creating more problems than already exist. Franconia Road is only two lanes wide at the Park. Drivers approaching the Park from the west going east usually have to wait for oncoming traffic to clear before they can enter the Park. This leads to back ups and frustration on the part of some drivers willing to take risks to skirt around the jam — and worse using Ridgeview and Wilton Woods neighborhoods to cut through at times when children and families are outside playing — which is a real safety concern.

Second, the additional noise that will carry on until 11 pm on many days will be a nuisance to those of us who go to bed early and have to wake up early for work.

Third, Clermont was zoned not to have lighting in order to protect the surrounding communities from these very same issues we are raising — traffic, noise and light issues.

Surely there are better locations not too far from Clermont Park to accommodate youth baseball into the evening such as Lee District Park. Lee District has room for expansion — it can accommodate the extra traffic, lighting and concession stands far better than Clermont.

Best,

Jeff Fisher

7/30/2019

Traffic

Anita

Traffic jams along Franconia Rd when ball park is used during the day and on weekends is horrific. The road is ONLY 2 lanes with a speed limit of 35MPH! (also no safe sidewalks near the park).

Unless the speed limit is limited to 25 MPH and they have FCPD monitor traffic...that may help, but I doubt it!

DANGER DANGER DANGER!

In my opinion, adding lights, more traffic and dangerous road conditions are UNACCEPTABLE in our already overused speedway called Franconia Rd!

7/31/2019

Traffic

Daniel and Nora Jones

We have lived at 3903 Pine Brook Road in Wilton Woods approximately 3 blocks from Clermont Park for 33 years and we are vehemently OPPOSED to the proposed development of Clermont Park. The noise pollution and traffic congestion would be hugely annoying and most dangerous on that narrow portion of Franconia Road. Our son played baseball in the Pioneer League for 4 years and there was never any lack of baseball playing venues elsewhere. Moreover, the incessant nighttime noise from the proposed development would make backyard barbecues and outdoor entertainment impossible and most definitely effect our property value adversely.

We remain adamantly OPPOSED to the Clermont Park Development Proposal.

7/30/2019

Lights

Connie Anders

I am opposed to adding lights to the park.

7/31/2019

Facilities, Light

Edward Archer, Pioneer Baseball Board member & coach

My name is Edward Archer, and I am a lifelong county resident. Between my parents, and me, my family owns five houses in Fairfax County, all located in the feeder area of Clermont and Lee District Parks. I grew up playing Pioneer Baseball, and shockingly, 39yrs later the baseball fields in the area are much the same as they were when I was 5yo to 12yo. As an adult, with two kids, I have decided to volunteer my time as a Board member, and Coach, in Pioneer Baseball. I currently sit as the Administrative Vice President and Treasurer. I was the person who requested a meeting with Supervisor McKay's office to revisit the restrictions on Clermont Park.

I have encapsulated my thoughts on the matter below. Many of the thoughts I express are a direct counter to a misinformation campaign being waged by the opponents of the changes. Quite simply the opponents are using falsehoods to further their leverage. "Scare" tactics, as it were.

I would also like to use this email to thank the Park Authority for the thoroughness they showed in preparation for all the meetings that were held. Professionalism in your approach, to what must be mundane for your staff, is highly commendable. Both the league, and I, sincerely appreciate your efforts on behalf of the kids of our league.

I also included a few documents that you may, or may not have at your fingertips. I reference the 2006 Lee District Master Plan a few times, and have attached it for ease of reference. Your county site had the original 1975 Clermont Master Plan. I included Google Earth Pro images of Clermont Park from 9/2001 prior to the Halle Improvements, and from 11/2002 after they were completed. The most prominent field there in 2001, despite the anecdotal claims in the meeting, is a well defined baseball diamond. That sort of definition comes from heavy use. I also have included an infographic on Lee District, so that it may be used to remind some other county residents that Clermont does not exist for their use alone.

I can also make myself, or other Board members, available for follow-up questions and inquiries, if those are needed. We would like to give the County as much information as possible to make the change a reality.

My itemized comments; for your consideration:

County Parks are a resource "owned" by the County of Fairfax. Individuals, Leagues, HOA's, Civic Associations, or other legal entities did not "give up" anything to improve Clermont Park. Clermont Park was improved for the good of all its citizens, and paid for by the developers of Kingstowne.

Pioneer Baseball's population is 93%+ composed of Fairfax County Residents. Pioneer Baseball is a blended cross section of neighborhoods that identify Clermont Park as "home".

Pioneer was not a member of the task force, nor a signatory to, the 19 year old deed restriction that governs Clermont Park.

Pioneer believes that there is a better balance to be had in the active recreation enjoyed in Clermont, and the passive recreation offered by the Resource Protected areas of Clermont and Loftridge Parks.

Pioneer has never sought, and would never support, a light cutoff time past 9:30pm.

Pioneer supports a new deed restriction that would discharge lights at 9:30pm, with no exception -- and no overrides.

A deed restriction is enforced by all County branches. FCPA and County Zoning can not decide to override the deed restriction and enable lights until 10pm or later.

Field lighting is controlled by a satellite based central system. The lights can be turned on 1hr prior to sunset. The lights stop receiving electricity based on the permit schedule entered by FCPA Area 3 Maintenance, as received from NCS (Neighborhood Community Services).

Pioneer would support less lights in the parking lot, and also planting of a more significant vegetation buffer between the house on the edge of the parking lot.

Pioneer does not support adding a permanent concession stand to Clermont.

Pioneer does not support the installation or use of permanent loud speakers at Clermont.

By adding lights to Clermont, Pioneer could normalize starting times for practices/games at Clermont to 6:30pm because lights would enable the teams to get their full schedule in, and still leave by 8:30pm.

A huge side benefit of not having four teams of Pioneer parents rushing to Clermont fields at 4:30-5pm for a 5:30pm practice start time in late March - April and late September - October would be a reduction in baseball related traffic during that critical 3:30-5:30pm window known as "rush hour".

The only field that Pioneer is given a permit to use that has lights is Beulah #1. Pioneer shares Beulah #1 with Fairfax Adult Softball, and a few other adult leagues.

Despite being permitted until 8:30pm on Beulah #1, most Pioneer games/practices are usually done before 8:30pm. The kids of our league are 4yo to 15yo, and have homework and sleep they need to balance with baseball.

High School fields are not permitted to Pioneer Baseball. Pioneer has a 13-15yo Babe Ruth team that plays as a part of Springfield Babe Ruth, and is sometimes allowed to play a game at Hayfield Secondary, Lee High, Edison High or South County High.

Lee District's Master Plan calls for the installation of a new 90' lighted field and calls for lighting fields #2 and #3.

Lee District does not currently house a field capable of hosting our Majors or Babe Ruth teams. We have two fields that are 50'/70'. Clermont #4 and Beulah #1.

The 2006 Lee District Master Plan took two baseball fields from Pioneer Baseball, and installed a lighted, and artificial surfaced, soccer pitch.

Pioneer supports a fully funded and completed Lee District 2006 Master Plan -- in addition to lighting Clermont. These active recreation resources enhance the draw of Lee District.

Pioneer supports the deconflicting of rectangular and diamond fields at Lee District, described in the 2006 Lee District Master Plan.

Pioneer loses the permitting for Lee District fields #2 and #3 in the fall to football. It is time to make these diamond fields dedicated spaces, with outfield and perimeter fencing.

Despite Pioneer investing over \$15,000++ every year in maintaining Clermont Park, Pioneer does not hold any more, or less, ownership over the park's resources. Pioneer simply believes a better balance can be struck between active recreation and passive recreation by installing lights for varied usage of field #1 and #4.

Thank you,
Edward Archer

8/1/2019

Lights, Traffic

Ryan Orme

Having lights at Clermont would be a huge benefit to those in the community; less traffic during rush hour, kids will have an opportunity to rest before rushing to practice as soon as they step foot off the bus, protection from the heat, etc. I am all for lights, it would benefit many in the area!

8/1/2019

Environmental,

Diane Lundin

I recently became aware of a desired change to the deed regarding Clermont Park. More specifically the desire to install lights at Clermont Park.

Like my neighbors, I too am concerned about how the installation of lights will impact night time noise and light pollution in our area. Currently, I can hear the train horn sound while in my home. While infrequent, I can still hear it. I also have to deal with the sound helicopters bring at all hours of the day and night. Rep. Don Beyer is looking into curtailing that.

It is my understanding that the County authorizes lighted park use until 11:00 PM seven days per week regardless of the initial planned usage. That is my problem. With the county authorizing the use of lighted parks until 11:00PM I will now have to deal with light pollution from 2 blocks away which I'm sure will have an impact on the animals who live in Mark Twain park, which my home backs up to. Additionally, recreational fields are issued waivers to the noise ordinance for loudspeaker usage between 7am-11p. I do not want to be awoken, have children in my area awoken, or pets in the area startled (which could awaken my or children in the area) by the sounds of crowds cheering after 9am - again 2 blocks away from my home.

It is also my understanding that the lights can be manually overridden. that seems a bit misguided.

It is also my understanding that County staff says that there will be no intrusion into the area, they also concede that light and noise are not included into their definition of intrusion. The definition of intruding is "the act or instance of intruding? Intruding is defined as " to thrust or bring in without invitation, permission, or welcome". Noise and light meet the definition to those in the surrounding area. Not sure why County staff doesn't agree.

In addition, the streets and sidewalks leading to Clermont Park are not currently able to handle the increase in use of the park. the sidewalk is less sidewalk and more a 1 person/1 bicycle path. The Street is 1-lane in each direction. Traffic will back up while awaiting folks to turn into the park. At least Lee District Park has dedicated turn lanes and a wider path.

Please do more research and take into greater consideration the impact of the intrusion on the immediate surrounding areas before moving forward with this plan.

8/1/2019

Facilities, Traffi

Lee Anne Foster

Thank you for encouraging community input as you consider the petition before you to add lighting at Clermont Park. As a concerned and involved citizen who lives nearby, I strongly object and ask that you reject this proposal due to the damage it will do to our community and its families.

I love our community and serve it in many ways from being the current PTA President at Clermont Elementary to working as a preschool teacher at Bush Hill Day School. I share this because I want you to know we are invested in what happens in and along Franconia. As you know, Franconia already has challenges with traffic which make it problematic for cyclists and children to share the road. We all remember the horrors of losing a 10-year-old child on Franconia not far from Clermont Park in August of 2010. We need to be doing more to alleviate the traffic on Franconia, not increasing it with nighttime congestion that would come to accommodate added games.

Please don't mistake our objection as anti-sports. In fact, we believe strongly in the value of children participating in sports and have donated to Pioneer baseball in the past. Though our children are young, they play teams organized through Lee District, Lee-Mt. Vernon and NVGSA. Because of our involvement, we know there are wonderful facilities at Lee District where Pioneer baseball evening games could be hosted with no threat to residential areas as they are under the Clermont Park proposal.

Moreover, we have young children who are entering the second and fourth grades at Clermont Elementary. We chose our area because it was quiet and safe. Our children's bedrooms overlook Clermont Park from directly across the street. The lights and noise would be a disturbance to their critical sleep as well as countless other children who live around the area affected by the bright lights in the proposal. Please don't sacrifice what is best for so many children at the request of a few.

We ask that you reject this proposal and look toward other ways to meet Pioneer's request. This current proposal will usher in major problems for our community and families like ours.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

8/1/2019

Facilities, Light

Jeremy

Recently caught wind that there was a proposal to light up the baseball fields at Clermont Park for evening use. I must say I LOVE this idea. Being able to use these beautiful fields for extended periods of time in the spring and fall will be awesome. Thanks

8/2/2019

Lights

Elizabeth Hoag

Please honor the commitment to NOT install lights at Clermont field.

We need quiet dark space.

Pioneer may be a great organization but quiet naturally dark park space was the commitment and is still a neighborhood requirement.

8/1/2019

Facilities, Light

Robert Hakenson

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Other. Please see text below.

Support Reason #2:
Other. Please see text below.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other

My son has grown up playing in Pioneer and our local schools are at a disadvantage compared to the kids from all other sections in the county. We have no lighted fields. CSLL has lighted fields but pioneer only has Beulah. It's a joke. Our baseball and softball facilities are a joke compared to all other areas in the county. Clermont could be awesome but instead it's a dump and now we are debating on whether the lights for our communities kids are going to negatively impact some wild life or even some parents who have no idea how these impact our kids. No instead of providing the very best let's continue to provide second rate facilities for our kids. Maybe a good dog park is what we need. It's a joke we're even having this discussion. Put lights at Clermont and put lights at Lee district. Why? It's for our kids and providing the very best for them is what they deserve. Pioneer losses it's one lighted field to beer drinking adult softball leagues. Think I'm joking? Go and check it out yourself. Silly discussion.

8/1/2019

Lights, Other

Linda Haupt

As a member of the community around Clermont Park, I am opposed to lighting the fields.

These lights benefit a small community - pioneer baseball- and no one else. Pioneer states they service a large group of 600 youth but that is not even the population of rose hill elementary and consists of almost 100% boys.

The fields are adjacent to a conservation area and no environmental study has been done. There is a lot of nocturnal wildlife in those 30 acres which will be forever impacted by lighting their world.

The park is surrounded by very valuable residential property. Our houses will devalue and particularly those directly adjacent to the fields, with lights and noise pollution into the late hours of the night.

Please do not modify the deed and leave this park dark at night.

8/1/2019

Lights, Traffic

Charles W. McMillan

I oppose the Clermont Park Lighting Project..

Having lights for athletic events at night would be very disruptive to our neighborhood. It would have an immediate negative impact on the value of my property and disrupt the quality of living in the area.

Automobile traffic already is bad due to only a two lane highway on Franconia Road which often has traffic buildup from drivers bypassing back ups on I 95. Additional night time traffic resulting from the lighting of the athletic field would further exacerbate the problem. As an alternative, you should explore improvements at Lee District Park which is not too distant from Clermont Park.

8/1/2019

Lights, Other

Kathy Black

. I oppose the proposed changes to the Clermont Park master plan. I oppose putting lights on the field because I don't think any games or field activities should go so late into the night to require lights. As a parent, the last thing I want is for my child (or for me) is to be out, in the cold and dark, finishing off a game that has already most likely exceeded 2 hours. Lights would just encourage Pioneer to extend games and keep kids out late. The majority of their players are in elementary school.

8/2/2019

Facilities, Light

Teresa Archer

My child has played baseball for Pioneer for over 6 years. I can tell you that lighted fields are desperately needed in Alexandria. My child doesn't get off the bus until 4:40 pm and trying to get home from work and out the door with a snack for a 5:30 practice or game is a challenge even without rush hour traffic. There simply are not enough fields. Let alone enough with lights in the Kingstowne area.

Also the fields for the little kids are not very well maintained. Practices at Rose Hill ES when my kids were little was okay but the field become over run with weeds very quickly and the janitorial staff frequently has to be tracked down in the school to unlock the gates.

Please put lights up at Clermont.

8/4/2019

Facilities, Light

Tom Meyer, NVGSA President

The Northern Virginia Girls' Softball Association (NVGSA) is excited to see that the Park Authority is considering adding lights to two fields at Clermont Park. As one of the largest youth softball organizations in Fairfax County – and the largest in the eastern half of the county – we are quite aware of the lack of diamond fields relative to need and the benefit that lighting fields can bring to children and their families.

We fully support adding lighting to Clermont Park's baseball fields. However, we feel strongly that the proposal should move forward only after adding proposed lighting to the softball fields (fields 2 and 3), as well. Fairfax County has made great gains over the past two decades in developing quality softball fields for girls. However, the reliance on Fairfax County Public Schools fields remains a barrier in achieving true equity for girls. Because the majority of the space we receive on lighted fields is at high schools, our opportunity to use lighted fields in the spring (during the high school season) is extremely limited. The only lighted Park Authority field for girls' softball in Lee District is at Lee High Park, which essentially functions as a high school field during the spring. Lights at Clermont Park would greatly improve our ability to ensure adequate play and practice time for the hundreds of our participants who live in the Franconia/Alexandria part of the county.

We understand residents' concerns about the potential impacts of lighting. However, we believe that the impacts will be minimal:

- Our use of the fields would be more spread out than it is now, but would not include more people, so traffic would not be worsened.
- The new lighting technology, which we have experienced at sites such as Lake Braddock Secondary School, has such minimal spillover that it is often difficult to even tell that the lights are on from a distance. And the contrast between the amount of light on the field of play and the amount just off the field (on the bleachers, for example) is incredible. It is truly dark just steps from the field.
- The fields would be scheduled only for youth practices and games. We would adhere to a strict 9:30 p.m. cutoff time for the lights.

We also would like to request that the Park Authority consider adopting internal procedures that ensure that user groups who are regularly assigned to athletic fields at a given park (such as NVGSA at Clermont) are included in all notifications and communications regarding master planning activities and meetings and other important issues regarding those parks. Outreach directly from the Park Authority could have led to our involvement with the Clermont process at an earlier stage than now.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Meyer
NVGSA President

8/3/2019

Lights, Other

Christian Allen

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other

Pioneer Baseball is a tremendous resource for kids in the area. It does however lag terribly behind other Little League/Ripken Leagues in the surrounding areas. Literally every other organization has lights on multiple fields. Support youth baseball in Alex. Add the lights.

8/4/2019

Facilities, Light

Andrew Su

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

I strongly support the proposal to add lighting to Clermont Park- it is long overdue and would start to bring the fields within the park to the standards set elsewhere in the County for safety, community beautification, and of course, enhanced recreational usage.

As a former Tournament Director for Pioneer Baseball, I cannot understate the benefit of lights that would allow Clermont Park to host baseball and softball teams from across Virginia, and while also allowing increased skill development of youth within the Pioneer boundaries the opportunity to practice/play longer.

Pioneer has repeatedly demonstrated that it can raise funds, attract sponsors, and is a good steward of County park facilities and field maintenance. We strongly urge you to approve the proposal, and bring the fields into the 21st century.

8/2/2019

Lights, Traffic

Diane Lundin

My concern is not about Pioneer Baseball. They have been quite clear and forthcoming with their intended use for the park. They also have on their website what the current use of other parks is. Their games are scheduled to start as early as 10a and end at 8p.

The park will be open to use by other groups aside from Pioneer Baseball - which is my concern.

The athletic parks in Fairfax County have a noise waiver until 11p. For all intents and purposes they will be lit until 11p as well.

Additionally, There is no dedicated turn lane for turning into or out of Clermont Park. I can barely make it off Clermont Drive onto Franconia during the AM/PM commute. The back up at times can be 12-14 cars long full of cars waiting to turn.

The studies that have been done this far were not robust enough. More needs to be researched and the results shared before a decision is made.

8/2/2019

Facilities, Light

Michelle Connor

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

Lights on a baseball field that allow maximizing of Fairfax County Parks and facilities can only benefit the community. As a parent of 3 children that are active in sports year round within this community, I find it imperative to extend as much time and facility usage as is possible to the children and families of our area. Sports, and in this case baseball, provide a healthy, safe, positive activity and environment for hundreds of local children and families.

8/5/2019

Lights, Other

Tracy LaPorte

One of my favorite things about my home is that I can walk outside at night and see all the stars. I also really enjoy the quiet, peaceful nature of my location.

What I won't enjoy? Light spillover from baseballs fields and noise coming from games at night. Also - this is a slippery slope. The fields are supposedly only going to be used for little league games. How can you guarantee that the bigger field won't ever be used for adult games?? Adult games at night bring tailgating in the parking lot and extra concerns about noise.

In short, I do not support the addition of lights to these fields. I have driven by on weekends during the spring/summer and seen the fields empty. Until the fields are consistently full every day after school and all weekend, I am not supportive of adding a feature that will harm residents quality of life.

8/5/2019

Lights, Other

Wes Foster, resident

I am writing to strongly oppose the "Clermont Park Lighting Plan" and ask that you enforce the original Board of Supervisors Task Force Decision regarding "Clermont Park Improvements" dated March 16, 2000.

First, let me say that I am a strong supporter of youth sports. I have two kids that play soccer and softball on county fields nearby, and I grew up in the area playing baseball from tee-ball through high school in the Annandale district. Sports are extremely valuable to the development of children both mentally and physically, and as an adult I get no better joy than watching my kids excel and compete.

My decision to oppose this plan does not come easy and is a direct result of the negative impact that it will have on our community and my family. Our family home is located directly across the street from the Park and the entrance/exit from the parking lot. We have direct sight lines to both and are impacted by the sounds originating from the Park and Franconia Road. While we hear the "CLINK" from the metal bats and the roar from the crowd during the day, it is a pleasant background and often makes me curious who is playing there on a given day. The parking lot is a different story as we can often hear cars tearing in or out of the area and the honking of cars either giving a friendly good-by or the anger of an impatient driver. While I am happy to continue with and support the current use of Clermont Park, I cannot support the plan to extend this type of activity and noise through the night and on a daily basis.

I previously stated that I have two kids. Our kids are elementary-aged, and their rooms are located on the upper floor of our home and face the fields. As you can expect the sound is clearly heard over the trees and would be extremely distracting on a nightly basis. I am sure you can understand as a parent, the importance of providing some resemblance of quiet when settling down your children for a night of restful sleep. Under the current proposal from the Pioneer Baseball League, games could extend until 11pm at night, every night. This is just not acceptable for the residents around Clermont Park.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the lighting plan of Clermont Park as it is currently being proposed. The plan would turn this quiet little park nestled in a community and accessed by a small two-lane road into the next "Braddock Park" with batting cages going all night and weekday tournaments. Clermont Park is not the right location for this nightly activity and the proposal should be rejected.

8/5/2019

Lights

Jack Cutts

I am writing to voice my support for lighting the baseball fields at Clermont Park. As a baseball parent, we desperately need more lighted fields so that we are not always having to scramble home from work to make it to a 5pm or 530pm practice just to beat the sunset. Thanks for your time and consideration.

8/6/2019

Lights, Other, T

Diana Cheang

I oppose the use of Clermont Park for night time baseball and activities. I do not want the noise, light pollution, extra traffic.

8/6/2019

Lights, Other

Wes Foster, resident

I am writing to strongly oppose the Clermont Park Lighting Plan and urge you to enforce the Board of Supervisors Task Force Decision "Clermont Park Improvements – Rules of Use" dated March 16, 2000.

First, let me say that I am a strong supporter of youth sports. I have two kids that play soccer and softball on county fields nearby, and I grew up in the area playing baseball from tee-ball through high school in the Annandale district. Sports are extremely valuable to the development of children both mentally and physically, and as an adult I get no better joy than watching my kids excel and compete.

My decision to oppose this plan does not come easy and is a direct result of the negative impact that it will have on our community and my family. Our family home is located directly across the street from the Park and the entrance/exit from the parking lot. We have direct sightlines to both and the noise originating from the Park and Franconia Road impact us greatly. While we hear the "CLINK" from the metal bats and the roar from the crowd during the day, it is a pleasant background and is acceptable during daylight hours.

The Clermont Park parking lot and resulting traffic is a different story as we can often hear cars tearing in or out of the area, and the honking of cars either giving a friendly good-by or the anger of an impatient driver. While I am happy to continue with and support the current use of Clermont Park, I cannot support the plan to extend this type of activity and noise through the night and on a daily basis. I fear that once we allow lighting at the Park it will be used every night of the week further increasing the already busy traffic on Franconia Road and increasing the decibel levels into the night.

You may not be aware that Franconia Road has become extremely busy in this area. Cars often speed around the slight turn in proximity to the entrance to the Park. I often hear people slamming on the brakes or honking as traffic starts to back up, unfortunately all from the comfort of my house. Also, in the very recent past a child was killed on this stretch of road crossing the street. These traffic incidents are currently happening during the day and I fear if we allow this to extend into the night hours the dangers will only increase.

I previously stated that I have two kids. Our kids are elementary-aged, and their rooms are located on the upper floor of our home, facing Clermont Park. As you can expect, the sound is clearly heard over the trees and would be extremely distracting on a nightly basis. I am sure you can understand, as a parent, the importance of providing some resemblance of quiet when settling down your children for a night of restful sleep. Under the current proposal from the Pioneer Baseball League, games could extend until 11pm at night, every night. The constant sound of a metal bat hitting a ball, twelve hours a day, would literally make anyone's ears ring. This is just not an acceptable environment for the residents around Clermont Park.

Clermont Park is not Lee District Park, not Wakefield Park or even Mason District Park. I grew up playing baseball on these fields, as well as local high school fields. These larger Recreational Parks and their parking lots are clearly offset from the communities they neighbor by trees, land and formal entrances. Clermont Park is a community park that sits a handful of yards away from Franconia Road, and approximately fifty yards from the closest residential home. It is a small community park that meets the current use requirements for Pioneer and should continue to meet them without the addition of lights. Once the County decides to put lights in Clermont Park for Pioneer it will inevitably be opening the gates to further development on this site and increased noise levels that lasts into the late hours of the night.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the lighting plan of Clermont Park as it is currently being proposed. The plan would turn this quiet little park nestled in a community and accessed by a small two-lane road into the next "Braddock Park" with batting cages going all night and weekday tournaments. Clermont Park is not the right location for this nightly activity, and I urge you to reject the proposal to add lights, noise and traffic to this area and enforce the decisions by the Clermont Park Improvements Task Force (March 2000). I continue to believe there are other options to explore at nearby existing community recreational facilities, such as Lee District Park.

8/6/2019

Facilities, Light

Andrew Su

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

I strongly support the proposal to add lighting to Clermont Park- it is long overdue and would start to bring the fields within the park to the standards set elsewhere in the County for safety, community beautification, and of course, enhanced recreational usage.

As a former Tournament Director for Pioneer Baseball, I cannot understate the benefit of lights that would allow Clermont Park to host baseball and softball teams from across Virginia, and while also allowing increased skill development of youth within the Pioneer boundaries the opportunity to practice/play longer.

Pioneer has repeatedly demonstrated that it can raise funds, attract sponsors, and is a good steward of County park facilities and field maintenance. We strongly urge you to approve the proposal, and bring the fields into the 21st century.

8/6/2019

Environmental,

Emily Olhoeft

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the efforts to add lighting to Clermont Park. Sports groups should not be the only constituency to determine park usage. In light of climate deterioration the county should be making all efforts to protect and preserve our natural spaces. The county already has spent enough resources accommodating sports teams. Wildlife and those constituencies that enjoy it should also be considered. Not to mention it is appalling that the county is going back in its promise made years ago not to put in lighting. The county should honor that agreement.

Thank you,
Emily Olhoeft

8/6/2019

Lights

Tina James

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other
I fully support lighting the baseball fields at Clermont Park.

8/6/2019

Environmental,

Michael and Meghan Stuart

Dear Ms. Rosend:

We are writing in response to the Fairfax County Park Authority's ("FCPA") request for public comment regarding the proposed amendment to the Clermont Park Master Plan. As the current owners of the property located at 4010 Franconia Road, directly parallel to Clermont Park (see enclosed property maps), we are strongly opposed to the installation of lighting for the two (2) diamond fields and the parking lot.

We respectfully request that the existing deed restrictions not be modified and the installation of lighting in this park not be permitted. We attended FCPA's Public Meeting on July 25, 2019 and voiced our concerns, and a summary of our comments shared at the meeting are provided below. Additionally, we were told after the Public Meeting by FCPA staff, members of the public in attendance, and even the coaches from Pioneer Baseball who made the initial request for the park lighting, that our property will be negatively impacted more so than any other property in the surrounding area.

Park Lighting Will Negatively Impact Our Home Value and Quality of Life.

In May 2019, we purchased the unique, historic property at 4010 Franconia Road (including the additional parcel at 5812 Cannon Lane) for \$1,100,000. One of the primary reasons we decided to purchase this property was for the privacy and nature provided by Clermont Park directly along the western side of the property. The main home on the property has multiple bedrooms facing Clermont Park and the home is less than 100 feet from the Clermont Park parking lot. Our property's detached garage also includes an upstairs apartment that we use for visiting friends and family members and it is even closer to the parking lot.

If FCPA installs lighting in the park, especially in the parking lot, light trespass and invasion of our privacy will significantly impact our quality of life and our home value. According to the FCPA's own white paper published in July 2010, "Increasingly, such light intrusions are being regarded as trespass violations every bit as serious as physical trespass of a person onto the property of another...when light crosses property lines it can detract from the property value and quality of life of those whose property it is improperly directed. It can be a particularly

objectionable problem when obtrusive recreational or commercial lighting is immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods." We also are concerned that lighting the park will promote increased activity and noise in the parking lot during evening hours.

During the July 25, 2019 Public Meeting, FCPA staff presented high-level information on the proposed recreational LED lighting that claims to "significantly reduce", "minimize", and "greatly decrease" light trespass, glare and sky glow, but acknowledged that they are not able to eliminate it. The proposed lighting plan calls for field-lights to be installed at 70' in height and parking lot lighting to be installed at heights of 25'. Installation of this lighting, especially as proposed in the current plan, will not only significantly disturb our quality of life, but will have a detrimental impact on our desire to live at this special property in Fairfax County. Installation of

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Page 41 of 293

the proposed lighting will also significantly reduce the pool of potential buyers should we decide in the future to sell our property.

Proposed Lighting Directly Violates Existing Deed Restrictions.

The current proposal to add lighting to Clermont Park is in direct violation of the existing deed restrictions. In 2000, a community task force was formed to work with Park Authority staff to redevelop the baseball fields and parking lot. Based on direct input from neighbors of Clermont Park and the local community, athletic field lighting and site lighting, permanent loudspeakers and permanent structures were specifically prohibited. The community task force requested that these restrictions be included in the deed should the property be transferred from the Board of Supervisors to the Park Authority. The Board of Supervisors transferred ownership of the entire parcel to the Park Authority in 2007 with the deed restrictions in place. FCPA should continue to abide by the existing deed restrictions as they were originally established with input from the local community and neighbors of Clermont Park.

Parking Lot Lighting Was Not Included in the Original Request.

Following the July 25, 2019 Public Meeting, leadership and coaches from Pioneer Baseball (the requesting community athletic group) first apologized to us for the impact the lighting would have on our property and shared with us that they never requested lighting be added to the parking lot at Clermont Park. We were told that their request was solely for "lighting to be provided for the baseball diamonds to allow for later practice and game start times and to give approximately 30-60 minutes more time after dark." According to these same individuals, the plan to add additional lighting and expansion to cover the parking lot is being driven solely by the Park Authority staff and is outside of their original request.

Lighting May Negatively Impact Park Wildlife.

To ensure all facts are collected for the proposal and plan, FCPA should conduct a comprehensive analysis and publish a study on the impact to wildlife residing in and around Clermont Park. We have witnessed dozens of species of birds and animals near the park, many

of which are nocturnal, and will likely be impacted by the installation of park lighting.

Appropriate Notice and Transparency Has Not Been Provided to the Public by FCPA.

FCPA staff failed to properly notify Clermont Park's surrounding neighbors and the local community of the original request to add lighting as evidenced by numerous community members who live near the park and spoke during the July 25, 2019 Public Meeting. These neighbors shared that they never received notice of the public information meetings held on April 25, 2018 or September 11, 2018 and were not provided a means to share feedback with FCPA staff. FCPA staff acknowledged that they had only reached out to members of nearby home owners associations and not to the surrounding individual, single-family homeowners. Many of these excluded community members in attendance at the July 25, 2019 Public Meeting said that this was the first time they had been made aware of the proposed plan after it had already been drafted by FCPA. As new residents of Fairfax County, we are incredibly disappointed to see that information was not disseminated appropriately and certain residents were not provided an equal opportunity to voice their opinion before FCPA staff took action to begin development planning. As of the date of this letter, FCPA has also not shared meeting minutes or comments made by concerned community members following the July 25, 2019 Public Meeting.

Furthermore, some members of the FCPA staff appeared to be openly defensive when questioned

during the July 25, 2019 Public Meeting. This meeting was positioned as an opportunity to solicit public comment and engage in open dialogue, yet there was a clear bias from some of the FCPA staff to move forward with the proposed plan and not to listen to feedback from concerned neighbors. We actually were appalled to see one particular FCPA staff member openly laugh at a local member of the community who shared her concerns about the potential impact to wildlife. The staff member's actions were inappropriate, and he should not be permitted to represent the proposed plan or the FCPA in future community settings.

Lighting of Clermont Park Will Create a Roadway Hazard and Danger to Children and Motorists.

Since taking ownership of our property directly parallel to Clermont Park in May 2019, we have witnessed a countless number of motor vehicles traveling in both directions on Franconia Road far in excess of the 35-mph speed limit, particularly at night. Adding lights to Clermont Park will extend the hours of the park and increase the number of children, and their siblings and family members, that visit the park after dark. This creates a deadly combination and poses an unnecessary risk to both pedestrians and drivers. During the July 25, 2019 Public Meeting, our neighbors and community members voiced a similar concern and cited numerous accidents that have occurred near the park due to increased vehicle traffic and lack of vehicle speed enforcement.

Providing "30-60 minutes of practice/game time" with park lighting for children ages 4-15 does not outweigh the existing deed restrictions, the hazards and risks it will create to visitors and animals in the park at night, and the significant and negative impact it will have on our and our neighbors' quality of life and home values.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully urge the FCPA and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to reject the proposed plan at Clermont Park and to uphold and abide by the longstanding deed currently in place that specifically prohibits the installation of lighting.

Sincerely,

Michael and Meghan Stuart

7/29/2019

Lights

Jan Lake

This email is to oppose the Master Plan for lighting at Clermont Park in Alexandria on Franconia Road.

The deed between Fairfax County Park Authority and the district supervisor at the time Dana Kaufman (included) clearly excludes permanent lighting, loud speakers and other such features.

There are existing underused facilities such as Lee District Park that already has 100 percent of it's parking lot areas with existing lighting and permanent sanitary facilities already in place. The soccer/football field already has lights.

As I'm sure you know, Lee district park already has 3 ball fields and multiple batting cages with a 4th field within walking distance at the Virginia Hills administrative building. Lighting until 11pm several days/evenings per week during the baseball season would cause privacy issues to the neighborhood. The homes directly across from the entrance will have a constant stream on headlights into the front windows during game season..... where Lee District is designed to handle the kind of traffic that will be expected for Pioneer Baseball families.

As a 20+ year resident of this area, it is disappointing to see that no opinion was asked at all about the installation of scoreboards from FH Furr and others prominent county business owners prior to the meeting on lighting. It is putting the cart before the horse - and I for one take exception

.
There is room in our area parks for Pioneer Baseball and all the fun that comes with - just not under lights at Clermont. LEAVE CLERMONT PARK ALONE.

Suggest you go onto Next Door for the Clermont Park neighborhoods and see all the negative comments about the prospect of lights at Clermont.

8/31/2019

Lights

Alexis Glen

I am writing in support of adding lights on two diamond fields at Clermont Park.

Lighting for the evening hours is important so the community may safely utilize vital park resources for additional hours. Lighting is critical, especially in the fall and winter when daylight ends as early as 4:30 PM. Please implement lighting at Clermont Park.

Thank you,

7/30/2019

Traffic

Anita Collins

Traffic jams along Franconia Rd when ball park is used during the day and on weekends is horrific. The road is ONLY 2 lanes with a speed limit of 35MPH! (also no safe sidewalks near the park).

Unless the speed limit is limited to 25 MPH and they have FCPD monitor traffic...that may help, but I doubt it!

DANGER DANGER DANGER!

In my opinion, adding lights, more traffic and dangerous road conditions are UNACCEPTABLE in our already overused speedway called Franconia Rd!

7/31/2019

Facilities, Light

Ed Archer, Pioneer Baseball

My name is Edward Archer, and I am a lifelong county resident. Between my parents, and me, my family owns five houses in Fairfax County, all located in the feeder area of Clermont and Lee District Parks. I grew up playing Pioneer Baseball, and shockingly, 39yrs later the baseball fields in the area are much the same as they were when I was 5yo to 12yo. As an adult, with two kids, I have decided to volunteer my time as a Board member, and Coach, in Pioneer Baseball. I currently sit as the Administrative Vice President and Treasurer. I was the person who requested a meeting with Supervisor McKay's office to revisit the restrictions on Clermont Park.

I have encapsulated my thoughts on the matter below. Many of the thoughts I express are a direct counter to a misinformation campaign being waged by the opponents of the changes. Quite simply the opponents are using falsehoods to further their leverage. "Scare" tactics, as it were.

I would also like to use this email to thank the Park Authority for the thoroughness they showed in preparation for all the meetings that were held. Professionalism in your approach, to what must be mundane for your staff, is highly commendable. Both the league, and I, sincerely appreciate your efforts on behalf of the kids of our league.

I also included a few documents that you may, or may not have at your fingertips. I reference the 2006 Lee District Master Plan a few times, and have attached it for ease of reference. Your county site had the original 1975 Clermont Master Plan. I included Google Earth Pro images of Clermont Park from 9/2001 prior to the Halle Improvements, and from 11/2002 after they were completed. The most prominent field there in 2001, despite the anecdotal claims in the meeting, is a well defined baseball diamond. That sort of definition comes from heavy use. I also have included an infographic on Lee District, so that it may be used to remind some other county residents that Clermont does not exist for their use alone.

I can also make myself, or other Board members, available for follow-up questions and inquiries, if those are needed. We would like to give the County as much information as possible to make the change a reality.

My itemized comments; for your consideration:

County Parks are a resource "owned" by the County of Fairfax. Individuals, Leagues, HOA's, Civic Associations, or other legal entities did not "give up" anything to improve Clermont Park. Clermont Park was improved for the good of all its citizens, and paid for by the developers of Kingstowne.

Pioneer Baseball's population is 93%+ composed of Fairfax County Residents. Pioneer Baseball is a blended cross section of neighborhoods that identify Clermont Park as "home".

Pioneer was not a member of the task force, nor a signatory to, the 19 year old deed restriction that governs Clermont Park.

Pioneer believes that there is a better balance to be had in the active recreation enjoyed in Clermont, and the passive recreation offered by the Resource Protected areas of Clermont and Loftridge Parks.

Pioneer has never sought, and would never support, a light cutoff time past 9:30pm.

Pioneer supports a new deed restriction that would discharge lights at 9:30pm, with no exception -- and no overrides.

A deed restriction is enforced by all County branches. FCPA and County Zoning can not decide to override the deed restriction and enable lights until 10pm or later.

Field lighting is controlled by a satellite based central system. The lights can be turned on 1hr prior to sunset. The lights stop receiving electricity based on the permit schedule entered by FCPA Area 3 Maintenance, as received from NCS (Neighborhood Community Services).

Pioneer would support less lights in the parking lot, and also planting of a more significant vegetation buffer between the house on the edge of the parking lot.

Pioneer does not support adding a permanent concession stand to Clermont.

Pioneer does not support the installation or use of permanent loud speakers at Clermont.

By adding lights to Clermont, Pioneer could normalize starting times for practices/games at Clermont to 6:30pm because lights would enable the teams to get their full schedule in, and still leave by 8:30pm.

A huge side benefit of not having four teams of Pioneer parents rushing to Clermont fields at 4:30-5pm for a 5:30pm practice start time in late March - April and late September - October would be a reduction in baseball related traffic during that critical 3:30-5:30pm window known as "rush hour".

The only field that Pioneer is given a permit to use that has lights is Beulah #1. Pioneer shares Beulah #1 with Fairfax Adult Softball, and a few other adult leagues.

Despite being permitted until 8:30pm on Beulah #1, most Pioneer games/practices are usually done before 8:30pm. The kids of our league are 4yo to 15yo, and have homework and sleep they need to balance with baseball.

High School fields are not permitted to Pioneer Baseball. Pioneer has a 13-15yo Babe Ruth team that plays as a part of Springfield Babe Ruth, and is sometimes allowed to play a game at Hayfield Secondary, Lee High, Edison High or South County High.

Lee District's Master Plan calls for the installation of a new 90' lighted field and calls for lighting fields #2 and #3.

Lee District does not currently house a field capable of hosting our Majors or Babe Ruth teams. We have two fields that are 50'/70'. Clermont #4 and Beulah #1.

The 2006 Lee District Master Plan took two baseball fields from Pioneer Baseball, and installed a lighted, and artificial surfaced, soccer pitch.

Pioneer supports a fully funded and completed Lee District 2006 Master Plan -- in addition to lighting Clermont. These active recreation resources enhance the draw of Lee District.

Pioneer supports the deconflicting of rectangular and diamond fields at Lee District, described in the 2006 Lee District Master Plan.

Pioneer loses the permitting for Lee District fields #2 and #3 in the fall to football. It is time to make these diamond fields dedicated spaces, with outfield and perimeter fencing.

Despite Pioneer investing over \$15,000++ every year in maintaining Clermont Park, Pioneer does not hold any more, or less, ownership over the park's resources. Pioneer simply believes a better balance can be struck between active recreation and passive recreation by installing lights for varied usage of field #1 and #4.

8/1/2019

Lights

Jeremy Furtney

Recently caught wind that there was a proposal to light up the baseball fields at Clermont Park for evening use. I must say I LOVE this idea. Being able to use these beautiful fields for extended periods of time in the spring and fall will be awesome. Thanks

8/1/2019

Lights, Other, T

Lee Anne Forster

Thank you for encouraging community input as you consider the petition before you to add lighting at Clermont Park. As a concerned and involved citizen who lives nearby, I strongly object and ask that you reject this proposal due to the damage it will do to our community and its families.

I love our community and serve it in many ways from being the current PTA President at Clermont Elementary to working as a preschool teacher at Bush Hill Day School. I share this because I want you to know we are invested in what happens in and along Franconia. As you know, Franconia already has challenges with traffic which make it problematic for cyclists and children to share the road. We all remember the horrors of losing a 10-year-old child on Franconia not far from Clermont Park in August of 2010. We need to be doing more to alleviate the traffic on Franconia, not increasing it with nighttime congestion that would come to accommodate added games.

Please don't mistake our objection as anti-sports. In fact, we believe strongly in the value of children participating in sports and have donated to Pioneer baseball in the past. Though our children are young, they play teams organized through Lee District, Lee-Mt. Vernon and NVGSA. Because of our involvement, we know there are wonderful facilities at Lee District where Pioneer baseball evening games could be hosted with no threat to residential areas as they are under the Clermont Park proposal.

Moreover, we have young children who are entering the second and fourth grades at Clermont Elementary. We chose our area because it was quiet and safe. Our children's bedrooms overlook Clermont Park from directly across the street. The lights and noise would be a disturbance to their critical sleep as well as countless other children who live around the area affected by the bright lights in the proposal. Please don't sacrifice what is best for so many children at the request of a few.

We ask that you reject this proposal and look toward other ways to meet Pioneer's request. This current proposal will usher in major problems for our community and families like ours.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

8/5/2019

Lights, Other

Ken Clare

Viewing the material, it is still not clear to me:

- what the lumen-spread is on the field and parking lot, much less onto Franconia Road is.,
- what the financial budget for the project (FCPA and/or Pioneer Baseball) is,
- what the legal structure and financial capability of "Pioneer Baseball" are,
- whether VDOT and the Lee District Police station have weighed in on the evening traffic/safety aspects,
- and, incidentally, is/was this a land-use relevant issue given the prior use covenant(s)?

My only personal concern is the traffic and lighting glare on Franconia road during fall, winter, and spring evening commuting and shopping hours on a section of road that has seen the death of one child in recent memory. Which begs the question, have VDOT and the police department been judiciously consulted?

I also tried to do some research on funding for the lighting, as well as, the structure and financials of the "Pioneer Youth League" with no meaningful results?

7/31/2019

Lights, Traffic

Daniel and Nora Jones

We have lived at 3903 Pine Brook Road in Wilton Woods approximately 3 blocks from Clermont Park for 33 years and we are vehemently OPPOSED to the proposed development of Clermont Park. The noise pollution and traffic congestion would be hugely annoying and most dangerous on that narrow portion of Franconia Road. Our son played baseball in the Pioneer League for 4 years and there was never any lack of baseball playing venues elsewhere. Moreover, the incessant nighttime noise from the proposed development would make backyard barbecues and outdoor entertainment impossible and most definitely effect our property value adversely.

We remain adamantly OPPOSED to the Clermont Park Development Proposal.

7/30/2019

Traffic

Anita Collins

Saw this on NextDoor.com regarding installation of lighting at the ballpark!

Joe and I live atand having lived here 32 years. We've seen unbelievable events on this "super highway", many with drastic consequences.

You may remember August 30, 2010, around 4:00 pm when sweet 9 year old Becky Johns was killed in front of my home. She passed away in my arms. I have a vested interest in this part of Franconia Rd. Nothing has changed since that horrific day, yes, we got a sign about turning vehicles. Oh, yes, they moved the bus stops, to only reinstalled them 😞

Adding lighting, more traffic, unsafe sidewalks is a total disregard for those living close to the park, not to mention a disruption to the wildlife!!!

I've supported you for many years, but this issue is a deal breaker!

Warm regards,

Anita Collins

703-244-5465

This was my reply to my neighbors:

"ONLY 1 to 2% potential impact on real estate values ??😞(I'm not sure that's reasonable for the homes directly impacted by adding lights).

Traffic jams along Franconia Rd when ball park is used during the day and on weekends is horrific. The road is ONLY 2 lanes with a speed limit of 35MPH! (also no safe sidewalks near the park).

Unless the speed limit is limited to 25 MPH and they have FCPD monitor traffic...that may help, but I doubt it!

DANGER DANGER DANGER!

In my opinion, adding lights, more traffic and dangerous road conditions are UNACCEPTABLE in our already overused speedway called Franconia Rd!

8/8/2019

Lights, Traffic

Jeff Fisher

Lighting should not be added to Clermont Park.

First, the traffic will increase later into the evening at the Park's entrance creating more problems than already exist. Franconia Road is only two lanes wide at the Park. Drivers approaching the Park from the west going east usually have to wait for oncoming traffic to clear before they can enter the Park. This leads to back ups and frustration on the part of some drivers willing to take risks to skirt around the jam — and worse using Ridgeview and Wilton Woods neighborhoods to cut through at times when children and families are outside playing — which is a real safety concern.

Second, the additional noise that will carry on until 11 pm on many days will be a nuisance to those of us who go to bed early and have to wake up early for work.

Third, Clermont was zoned not to have lighting in order to protect the surrounding communities from these very same issues we are raising — traffic, noise and light issues.

Surely there are better locations not too far from Clermont Park to accommodate youth baseball into the evening such as Lee District Park. Lee District has room for expansion — it can accommodate the extra traffic, lighting and concession stands far better than Clermont.

8/4/2019

Facilities, Light

Tom Meyer, NVGSA President

The Northern Virginia Girls' Softball Association (NVGSA) is excited to see that the Park Authority is considering adding lights to two fields at Clermont Park. As one of the largest youth softball organizations in Fairfax County – and the largest in the eastern half of the county – we are quite aware of the lack of diamond fields relative to need and the benefit that lighting fields can bring to children and their families.

We fully support adding lighting to Clermont Park's baseball fields. However, we feel strongly that the proposal should move forward only after adding proposed lighting to the softball fields (fields 2 and 3), as well. Fairfax County has made great gains over the past two decades in developing quality softball fields for girls. However, the reliance on Fairfax County Public Schools fields remains a barrier in achieving true equity for girls. Because the majority of the space we receive on lighted fields is at high schools, our opportunity to use lighted fields in the spring (during the high school season) is extremely limited. The only lighted Park Authority field for girls' softball in Lee District is at Lee High Park, which essentially functions as a high school field during the spring. Lights at Clermont Park would greatly improve our ability to ensure adequate play and practice time for the hundreds of our participants who live in the Franconia/Alexandria part of the county.

We understand residents' concerns about the potential impacts of lighting. However, we believe that the impacts will be minimal:

- Our use of the fields would be more spread out than it is now, but would not include more people, so traffic would not be worsened.
- The new lighting technology, which we have experienced at sites such as Lake Braddock Secondary School, has such minimal spillover that it is often difficult to even tell that the lights are on from a distance. And the contrast between the amount of light on the field of play and the amount just off the field (on the bleachers, for example) is incredible. It is truly dark just steps from the field.
- The fields would be scheduled only for youth practices and games. We would adhere to a strict 9:30 p.m. cutoff time for the lights.

We also would like to request that the Park Authority consider adopting internal procedures that ensure that user groups who are regularly assigned to athletic fields at a given park (such as NVGSA at Clermont) are included in all notifications and communications regarding master planning activities and meetings and other important issues regarding those parks. Outreach directly from the Park Authority could have led to our involvement with the Clermont process at an earlier stage than now.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Meyer
NVGSA President

8/6/2019

Lights, Other

Michael Acevedo

I am writing to you to register my strong opposition to the proposed changes that would allow activities at the Clermont Park after daytime.

I am a longtime resident of Wilton Woods, and have lived in Locust Lane since 1971 (48 years) and remember fondly activities in the park when it was a multipurpose area in which all could participate regardless of the different interests of the neighbors.

If night time activities are allowed it will impact very negatively in our neighborhood, specifically the noise will be prolonged beyond a reasonable hour, disturbing the quiet evenings that we now enjoy in the after work hours, since the proximity of the park (200-300 feet) makes the sound carry very loudly into our street and homes.

The impact in the traffic on Franconia road will also continue for several more hours in the days of activities since due to a lack of a turning line, the traffic stops when cars enter or leave the parking area, increasing the inconvenience and the possibility of more accidents.

Lastly the lighting of the fields and parking area would be very intrusive and possibly could have a negative effect on the wildlife from the surrounding wooded areas that we now enjoy in our neighborhood.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter

8/4/2019

Traffic

Erin Hawk

As a resident of Wilton Wood and a close neighbor (Pine Brook Rd) to the proposed lighting of the Claremont Park, I oppose this plan. Franconia Road has already been busier than the road was initially designed to handle and lighting the field would increase night time traffic and create more late night noise. Lighting of the field would also have a negative affect on the nearby wildlife.

I believe that this plan was poorly communicated to the residents of this area and hasn't been fully thought-through.

Thank you for your consideration to how the lighting plan would impact the surrounding neighborhoods and the negative impact it would have.

8/7/2019

Lights

Frank James

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other

The time needed in the spring to get my children to, and coach, is difficult with the sun setting before 6:30 or 7pm. Having lights will make practicing much easier for parents and coaches.

8/7/2019

Lights, Softball

Gissell Jimenez

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/7/2019

Environmental,

Erika Stratmann

I live at.....Alexandria, VA 22310. I am writing with comments regarding the plans for Clermont Park.

First, I want to emphasize that the lighting is not needed year-round. Even March - November feels like a stretch. As for the time allotted, 11pm is very late for youth baseball! Games should be scheduled to complete by 9pm, and then an additional hour to ensure all have left the park.

I am concerned about the impact on the wildlife. We have deer and fox, among other animals that migrate through the park. I haven't a clue what resources Fairfax County would provide, should there be an impact of animals seeking shelter in our yards. As of now, annually there is a deer reduction program in place in the park. As part of your planning process, I encourage you to think through the scenarios of this residual impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plans.

8/8/2019

Facilities, Light

Alison Smigel

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/7/2019

Facilities, Light

George kokennis

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

to this i'd also like to add that i've practiced for years at clermont park, and it's been a great facility to practice at but sadly practice time depends on when it gets too dark to be there. if you're going to provide more hours and therefore more opportunity to the boys dedicated to their sport, the girls dedicated to bettering themselves at softball deserve the same

8/7/2019

Facilities, Light

Tonya Kelley

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

I have 2 daughters that love the sport of softball. I have lived in the Fairfax area for about 13 years... I know boys sports bring in lots more money it is evident in their baseball fields.

Asking for 2 lighted fields should be an easy decision. Please support girls sports.

Thank you

8/7/2019

Facilities, Light

Buck Condill

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

Thank you for your consideration.

8/8/2019

Facilities, Light

Michelle Spinello

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/8/2019

Facilities, Light

Carol Pixa

I feel the proposed changes to Clermont Park will have a negative impact on Clermont primarily through:

- 1.increased light pollution impacting both wildlife and neighbors;
- 2.increased noise pollution due to later games, likely increased usage and potentially larger crowds for older age groups.
- 3.increased traffic congestion on an already heavily used road with frequent traffic incidents.

I definitely support athletic opportunities of all types for all people within Fairfax county. But I also believe that development should be proportional to the population, without adverse impact on wildlife, neighborhoods, or traffic congestion.

Some of my concerns regarding the long-term impact of additions to Clermont park:

- 1.If the road were not widened now, how significantly would the changes impact traffic? If it were widened later would the new field developments require changes or be impacted (hence wasted money)?
- 2.Would lighted fields become a distraction for drivers on the road?
- 3.How significant would the negative impact be on wildlife due to increased noise levels (both volume and duration) and the introduction of artificial light. I think there is no doubt it would effect them, the matter is degree. And how do we determine what is acceptable negative impact?
- 4.How would the noise and light pollution impact the neighborhood? Pioneer Board member Doug Clift mentioned loss of 1 to 2% in house value, a loss he found acceptable but would other home owners in the area? Games until 9:30 may be an issue for parents with small children as well, especially on school nights. The Clermont soccer field is approximately .12 miles from our house, with a barrier of trees we can easily hear cheering, even with the doors closed. This isn't a problem, but noise travels farther than some expect. How would the increased field usage, increased duration of usage, and increased level of play, increase the noise volume?

I think it is preferable for team sport fields (which attract a lot of spectators; often require lighting, restrooms and concessions; and have significant traffic, noise & light impact) to be grouped in large area parks such as Lee District, Franconia Park, Manchester Park, South Run etc. All seem to have more space to develop or are already more developed, have less impact on immediate neighbors, have better access either by a major road with intersection lights or a less heavily travelled road. Both Lee district and Franconia park have proposals in their master plans for larger lighted fields. Lee already has existing outdoor lighting and restrooms.

Doug Clift, a Pioneer Board member, commented on Nextdoor that Fairfax county has promised yet postponed development of Lee district baseball diamonds in terms of size, lighting and fencing. Developing Clermont park seems to be a short term solution to this issue rather than a well thought out long term objective.

Fairfax county and various athletic clubs has spent significant funds developing many athletic fields over the years, particularly soccer. Perhaps it is time to find funding to accelerate improvements already in the master plan for Lee and Franconia baseball fields now.

Thank you,

8/9/2019

Facilities, Light

Tracey Brown

As a parent of 2 girls and a boy who attend Edison HS (and alums of Clermont ES and Twain MS), we have enjoyed many hours of watching baseball and softball at Clermont field. I was thrilled to hear that the County is considering approval of the lighting of the baseball fields. I was disappointed, however, when I saw that the plan didn't include the softball fields. After many hours driving back and forth to Wakefield Park (the closest lit softball fields (as far as I know)), I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included in the change to the Master Plan. I support amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, there are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball along with the boys playing baseball. This would be a fair and equitable improvement to our local ball park.

Thanks so much for your attention

8/9/2019

Environmental,

Stephanie Sher

Good morning. I'm a home owner and resident of Ridge View Estates and I would like Pat Rosend and the other members of the Clermont Park Master Plan Revision project to be aware that many of us living here, including myself, oppose the lighting of Clermont Park. My concerns, like those of my neighbors, are multiple and include increased traffic, light pollution, noise pollution, property de-evaluation and the negative effects on the surrounding wildlife. I ask the members of this project and the FCPA as a whole to strongly reconsider their efforts. The area does not support a lighted park at this time. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have on this matter.

8/9/2019

Traffic

Erving Olivas

I live inAnd a lot of pedestrians park on my property to use the park and I do approve of the project to proceed. Perhaps . I would like to request a midblock crossing from my property to the park so far I am the only family that uses the park intensively and that's the whole reason we purchased our property. Please make our citizens safe by adding a middle block crossing, You can use part of my right of way if it is necessary. I'm here approving the project. I am 100% OK

8/13/2019

Lights, Other

Yvonne Johnson

Will the parking lot lights be solar? Can the field lights be solar or are solar lights not bright enough?

8/12/2019

Environmental

Terri Chun

Hello all. I'm writing to ask if an environmental impact study has been done for the areas surrounding Clermont Park. (As it relates to lighting the park) My concern as a local homeowner is that the park is adjacent to a protected area and while no lights or additional hours of sound are being added directly to the protected area, surely the light and sound will be carried there. The wildlife is running out of places to safely live in this area and I'd like to see a study done that will assure me that we won't be pushing the wildlife further out of their own habitat (and likely right into ours).

If a study has previously been done as it relates to the lighting of of the park, could you please share with me where I might find it?

My other concern is additional traffic on Franconia road. Have plans been put in place to address traffic if the park is open and active during evening rush hour?

Thanks for taking the time to read and assist us in being well educated so that we can make better decisions for our neighborhood.

8/12/2019

Facilities, Light

Kim Wilson

Both baseball fields are lighted but neither softball field? Softball is often there playing games and the baseball fields are empty.

It would be really great to have a lighted softball field on this side of the county!

Let's show a little love for the girls!

8/10/2019

Facilities, Light

Erik Pelton

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

This is good for sports and recreation, and for the community. And it is an issue of equity and fairness as well – for every lit baseball field, there should be a light softball field as well.

8/12/2019

Lights

Sharon Shirley

I am a neighbor of Clermont Park and am opposite to putting lights at Clermont Park for several reasons. First the noise that it will bring and the disturbance after dark that will happen. The additional traffic it will bring to the neighborhood. It could cause a devaluation of the homes near the park. Lets keep our family friendly neighbor that we have.

8/9/2019

Facilities, Light

Robert Udowitz

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

If I'm not mistaken, the Title 9 law would be relevant here. Lighting the field for girl's softball is equal to lighting the field for boy's baseball.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

8/11/2019

Lights

Kristi Bachman

Please do NOT add lights to Clermont Park baseball fields and parking lots. If it goes forward anyway, please cut back the time from 11pm to 9:30pm.

8/11/2019

Facilities, Light

Laura Sabo

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting for the softball fields at Clermont Park. To have the opportunity for the softball fields to have lights provides additional athletic services to the softball community, which is a growing part of the Lee District and Fairfax County.

8/10/2019

Facilities, Light

White

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball

8/11/2019

Environmental,

Jarrett Nicolay

Most neighbors I've spoken with agree that the plan for new permanent lighting does not reflect the wishes or needs of the majority of the inhabitants of the surrounding neighborhoods. Especially concerning the invasiveness to the wildlife in the park as well as the general increase noise and light pollution.

8/12/2019

Lights

Jenny Palazzo

I have reviewed the documents related to the proposed changes at Clermont Park. In my mind, it's clear this proposal should NOT move forward. The concept of honoring deed restrictions is paramount. In the case of Clermont Park, there is a perpetual restriction on lighting of any kind.

Let's think long-term - will others be likely to donate lands to the county if they can't rely on deed restrictions to be honored?

Thank you for your consideration.

8/12/2019

Facilities, Light

Jason Smigel

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields at that locations. I feel strongly all of the fields should be lighted including the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – that are not part of the current plan. Lighting all the fields would provide equal opportunity for both boys baseball and girls softball. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball. The lighted fields would allow our daughters teams a greater opportunity to make up rainouts play when the weather is still good but getting dark out.

8/9/2019

Facilities, Light

Caroline Smith

Please allow for lights on the softball fields as well. It's unfortunate that Pioneer baseball didn't ask NVGSA to join them in their request. I'm sure the boys and GIRLS will benefit from lighting.

8/8/2019

Environmental,

Carol Pixa

I feel the proposed changes to Clermont Park will have a negative impact on Clermont primarily through:

- 1.increased light pollution impacting both wildlife and neighbors;
- 2.increased noise pollution due to later games, likely increased usage and potentially larger crowds for older age groups.
- 3.increased traffic congestion on an already heavily used road with frequent traffic incidents.

I definitely support athletic opportunities of all types for all people within Fairfax county. But I also believe that development should be proportional to the population, without adverse impact on wildlife, neighborhoods, or traffic congestion.

Some of my concerns regarding the long-term impact of additions to Clermont park:

- 1.If the road were not widened now, how significantly would the changes impact traffic? If it were widened later would the new field developments require changes or be impacted (hence wasted money)?
- 2.Would lighted fields become a distraction for drivers on the road?
- 3.How significant would the negative impact be on wildlife due to increased noise levels (both volume and duration) and the introduction of artificial light. I think there is no doubt it would effect them, the matter is degree. And how do we determine what is acceptable negative impact?
- 4.How would the noise and light pollution impact the neighborhood? Pioneer Board member Doug Clift mentioned loss of 1 to 2% in house value, a loss he found acceptable but would other home owners in the area? Games until 9:30 may be an issue for parents with small children as well, especially on school nights. The Clermont soccer field is approximately .12 miles from our house, with a barrier of trees we can easily hear cheering, even with the doors closed. This isn't a problem, but noise travels farther than some expect. How would the increased field usage, increased duration of usage, and increased level of play, increase the noise volume?
I think it is preferable for team sport fields (which attract a lot of spectators; often require lighting, restrooms and concessions; and have significant traffic, noise & light impact) to be grouped in large area parks such as Lee District, Franconia Park, Manchester Park, South Run etc. All seem to have more space to develop or are already more developed, have less impact on immediate neighbors, have better access either by a major road with intersection lights or a less heavily travelled road. Both Lee district and Franconia park have proposals in their master plans for larger lighted fields. Lee already has existing outdoor lighting and restrooms.

Doug Clift, a Pioneer Board member, commented on Nextdoor that Fairfax county has promised yet postponed development of Lee district baseball diamonds in terms of size, lighting and fencing. Developing Clermont park seems to be a short term solution to this issue rather than a well thought out long term objective.

Fairfax county and various athletic clubs has spent significant funds developing many athletic fields over the years, particularly soccer. Perhaps it is time to find funding to accelerate improvements already in the master plan for Lee and Franconia baseball fields now.

8/9/2019

Facilities, Light

Tim and Carmen Smith

I am writing to submit my comments on the master plan for lights to be allowed at the Clermont Field ballpark. When I heard through the grapevine that the plan only includes the baseball fields and not the softball fields, I thought surely that was mistaken information.

Sadly, upon examining the map and plan for myself, this appears to be true. In our current-day athletic climate, and definitely in the Metro DC area, softball is an anchor sport for many high schools, not to mention the high level of competition enjoyed in the travel team arena. I cannot for the life of me understand not including the softball fields as well, as these young girls' teams struggle to find field availability just as much as, if not more than, the baseball teams. It is the age of the kids that play on these fields in particular at which their passion for the sport begins to grow, and I would hope that Fairfax County is just as concerned with the girls' needs as with those of the hard-working young baseball players that share this facility.

Our youngest daughter grew up playing the sport of softball so it is a subject that is very personal to our family, and it truly saddens me that the initial plan is to not include these ladies' facilities, which are literally a stone's throw away from the baseball diamonds.

We want to strongly encourage including the softball fields in this plan as well, and we thank you for your time in reading our comments.

8/10/2019

Lights

Chris Reese

I am writing today to support the proposed amendment to add lighting to two fields at Clermont Park.

I live in the Clermont Woods area (near the elementary school) but am not impacted by the noise or lighting of the field. My family, including my wife and three children, often use Loftridge Park for running, walking and geocaching. We use the paved and unpaved trails and enjoy seeing the wildlife of the park.

My youngest child is 9 years old and has grown up playing Pioneer Baseball. Last year I served as an assistant coach as well. I know firsthand how difficult it is to get a full practice completed after school when the sun sets early and the lighting is poor. With baseball, it is too dangerous to throw or hit when the light dims to a certain level.

The lighting at Clermont Park would offer these children and their coaches an opportunity to extend practice and enjoy more flexibility in scheduling games as well.

I hear the concerns of the neighbors impacted by the lighting and noise. I consider Clermont Park under-utilized because it does not have these amenities. The park covenants must change to accommodate the changing nature of the community, and in this case, the growth of Pioneer baseball in the region.

8/10/2019

Facilities, Light

Lea Johnson

Please include lighting on the softball fields in the master plan proposal for Clermont Park.

It is sad that in today's world we are still shorting women in sports and other opportunities

8/10/2019

Lights, Other

Bonnie Dormer

Without the decency to include the people most directly affected by a proposal to amend restrictions on Clermont Park, once again the powers that be in the Lee District part of Fairfax County are bending to the will of one special interest (Pioneer Baseball would be my guess since that is who was behind the original amendment to the Park). In this case, the proposed amendment to Clermont Park to add lighting to two ball fields and the adjacent parking area has not fairly considered the ramifications to the surrounding community. When this park was converted from open field space to dedicated baseball/softball fields several years ago, many of us in the neighborhood did not support this action. At the time, the field space was being regularly used for a much faster growing community sport - soccer. We ended up losing that battle, but in the process, we were promised the land behind the park would be protected from development and there would be NO lights added to the park which would disrupt the surrounding community, add additional traffic at night, disturb adjacent wild life habitats, and in general jeopardize the property values of those homes most closely located to the park. This gives me little confidence that in going back on their word, our elected officials won't go back their word regarding the protected land behind the park as well! Those individuals involved in this action should be ashamed of their lack of representing the concerns of all the citizens in our community, not just a few! I ask you, what assurances and promises going forward should be believed? We will definitely make our voices heard at the next election cycle!

8/11/2019

Facilities, Light

Doug Clift

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

The county has not invested in America's past time at the same level as other sports. Pressure and development actually took fields away from the league and baseball in general. I feel that the limits placed on the use of lights to only 9:30 and limited to a park that is exclusive to baseball is an appropriate balance. Because these fields are adopted by Pioneer exclusively, there is a deed that has not been updated to balance the needs of the community in 20 years, the growing baseball demand, and the fact that the county has not invested to meet the needs of baseball, and the lighting technology has dramatically improved, that this proposal is a healthy compromise to meet the area demand.

8/11/2019

Facilities, Light

Phillip Williams

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball. Please let them play in the failing light!

8/14/2019

Lights, Softball

Mike Solderich

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included.

There are very few Park Authority lighted youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of Fairfax County. My family resides in Hayfield Farm and research indicates that there aren't any lighted youth softball fields in Lee District that are available for community use every day.

My daughters have participated in youth softball for over 10 years, with many practices and games needing to be played elsewhere in the county due to the current light fields limitation.

Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would level the playing field and provide a much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/14/2019

Lights, Softball

Marily Grotz

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

Thank you for your consideration.

8/14/2019

Lights, Softball

Jenna Riggs

As a resident of Lee District, and parent of a two sons who play baseball and a daughter who plays softball, I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/14/2019

Lights, Softball

Alissa Bursey

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/14/2019

Lights, Softball

Amy Despres

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

We live in the Lee district and nearby the Clermont park and athletic fields. This improves our community as a whole.

8/14/2019

Lights, Softball

Jessica Campos

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball. I have lived in the Lee District/ Clermont area all my life and I know the difficulties it is to find a lighted field for the girls to play. Please take this to consideration in adding the two lights at the softball fields.

8/14/2019

Lights, Softball

Christopher yurasko

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/15/2019

Lights, Traffic

Mary Pat Cornett

I am opposed to lights and night games at Clermont Park. I live across from Clermont Elementary whose lights shine brightly into 3 of our 4 bedrooms, our front porch and back deck ALL NIGHT LONG since the school's renovation. It is horrible.

That's a big imposition to force on residents so that others can play sports into the night. The deal was no lights. People bought homes in very close proximity to that land before the ballfields and/or based on that deal. We need to honor it.

Not only that, but Franconia Road is congested, and dangerous for pedestrians and bike-riders. We are not in a good position to add more traffic and congestion.

8/15/2019

Other

Kym Millhouse

I'm reaching out on the Clermont Park Master Plan Revision Process. I was unable to attend the last meeting and reviewed the meeting minutes. I understand that there is a comment period that goes until August 26, 2019. Who is the decision maker on this plan? What factors are they considering in their decision? What information is supposed to be provided during the comment period?

8/15/2019

Lights

Dorothy Palmer

I am strongly opposed to having lights at Clermont Park ball fields. Our house is an end unit on Caprice Ct, #4316. I love to hear the kids play on Saturday and in the early evening, but lights would carry that noise much farther into the evening and once there are lights, the times the fields are in use will go farther and farther into the night. If the restriction against any lighting at Clement Park is removed, then who is to say the restrictions cannot be changed again? My husband goes to bed at 9:00 PM because of his work schedule. Noise and lights from the park would directly affect him.

NO LIGHTS AT CLERMONT PARK.

8/15/2019

Environmental,

Wes Foster

I am writing to oppose the Clermont Park Lighting Plan and urge you to enforce the current Deed Restrictive Covenants agreed upon with the transfer of the land to Fairfax County Park Authority (March 2007).

I am very concerned that your office, and the greater Fairfax County Park Authority, are not listening to the concerns of the residents that live around Clermont Park. Public meetings regarding the issue of installing lights at two fields and the parking lot have not been widely communicated and seemed to have muted the voices from local residents. Therefore, I would like to be clear in my comments that adding nighttime lights to Clermont Park will lead to an increase in traffic and noise pollution, and a decrease in the safety of the public and natural habitat that make the area their home.

I am sure that you know Franconia Road has become extremely busy in this area. Cars often speed around the slight turn in proximity of the entrance to the Park. I often hear people slamming on the brakes or honking as traffic starts to back up, unfortunately all from the comfort of my home that sits directly across from the entrance to the Park. The traffic and resulting noise from impatient and speedy drivers on the road increase daily. Also, it is important to note that in the very recent past a child was killed on this stretch of road crossing the street. These traffic incidents are currently happening during the day and I fear if lights are added to the Park it will create greater congestion and distractions for passing cars, and the dangers will only increase well into the late hours of the night.

The current noise emanating from Clermont Park on a daily basis is heard clearly in the surrounding areas and is acceptable in the daylight hours. All activity at the Park comes to an end as the sunsets and is consistent with the rules of use for the overwhelming majority of Fairfax County Parks. Under the proposal from Pioneer Baseball, activity and noise would extend playing times up to 11pm at night, which is later than noise restrictions at Washington Reagan Airport. The sound of metal bats, cheering crowds and cars pulling in and out of the gravel parking lot will reverberate in the night air for the local community to hear every night of the week. Baseball teams will come from all sections of the county knowing they can practice on the field and in the batting cages until the lights go out. Families in the area like mine who have elementary aged kids will have no answers to reduce the constant noise reverberating off our windows when we try to get them to sleep at 8:00pm on a school night.

If the Board decides to disregard the original deed restrictions for the Park and allow lights, you will be setting in motion the future destruction of the identified resource protection zones and any resemblance of quiet in the area. It is inevitable that once the door is cracked open and you install lights for the two male baseball fields it will be difficult to deny a request to add lights to the other two fields for the female softball league. I know it is not the County's intent to put male athletes over female athletes, but it will have a hard time defending its choice that favors males only. In any event, the neighboring communities will be subject to exponentially higher traffic on Franconia Road and increased noise pollution throughout the area. The plan would turn this quiet little park nestled in a community and accessed by a small two-lane road into the next "Braddock Park" with batting cages going all night and weekday tournaments. Clermont Park is not the right location for this nightly activity.

Please don't turn Clermont Park into Lee District Park, Wakefield Park or even Mason District Park. I grew up playing baseball on these fields, as well as local high school fields. These larger Recreational Parks and their parking lots are clearly offset from the communities they neighbor by trees, land and formal entrances. Clermont Park is a community park that sits a handful of yards away from Franconia Road, and less than fifty yards from the closest residential home. It is a small community park that meets the current use requirements for Pioneer and should continue to meet them without the addition of lights. I continue to believe there are other options to explore at nearby existing community recreational facilities, such as Lee District Park.

In conclusion, I submit my comments to give this issue some much needed balance and reflect the concerns of the community that neighbors Clermont Park, instead of the broader community of Pioneer Baseball parents. I urge you to reject the proposal to add lights, noise and traffic to this area and enforce the current Deed Restrictive Covenants (March 2007) as it relates to Clermont Park.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Page 100 of 293

8/15/2019

Lights, Other, T

Aaron Moats

I'm writing to express my frustration over Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA) plan to install night lighting in Clermont Park. I live within a 1/4 mile of the park and often hear the cheers of fans from the park. I don't mind this during the day, but noise is already an issue in our neighborhood at night. Traffic on Franconia Road is already heavy and noisy for several hours a day; we even had a young girl killed by a motorist a few years ago on this stretch of road. Please do not exacerbate this problem by encouraging more motorists to travel through our neighborhood by extending the hours of the park.

I've lived in the neighborhood for over 16 years and often run, walk or bike through the park and have often wondered why Clermont Park is not set up for a more diverse set of users. Surely local residents would be better served by cheaper, less invasive, and more diverse amenities such as a track with workout stations and/or a community garden.

Clermont Park is too small and close to everything to be fitted with stadium-style lighting and regularly host large groups of people. Surely you will never hear the end of it from residents living on the park's edge if this plan goes forward.

Lastly, I would encourage FCPA to invest in a better method of communication with area residents. A small temporary sign plopped down by the side of a busy road is just not adequate. Digital communication is a must. While community meetings will bring out a certain set of the population, you must employ direct digital communication/polling to reach the majority of area residents. We are simply too busy to attend more meetings - especially meetings we don't know about. The county knows exactly where I live and collects a whole lot of tax money each year, it should know how to communicate directly with me to capture my vote regarding such projects. Surely if this was done, and local residents were polled, I suspect the data would show very strong support against this plan.

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Helena Soprano Drennon

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball. If you provide the amendment to light up the boys' side, the girls' side deserves to be lit as well!

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Alyssa Dichard

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Gaylie Corens

My family lives in the Lee District Area, about .5 miles away from Clermont Park. Our elementary aged daughter plays softball in the NVGSA league. We are asking that you please support the new Master Plan to add lights to the two baseball fields at the park. And specifically ask that the softball fields - fields 2 and 3 also be included in this plan. There are so few Park Authority softball fields for the girls to play on in this part of the county, and there are NONE in Lee District available for community use every day in the Spring which is when the girls have their weekly practices. It is very very frustrating for the parents, kids, and teams.

Adding lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would have a huge impact on the opportunity for the girls to play.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I sincerely hope you can support our daughters and the softball families in this area.

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Amy Duncan

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

Not doing so would mean the baseball fields (used overwhelmingly by boys) would be superior to the softball fields (used only by girls).

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Kimberly Santoro

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

My youngest daughter will join her two older sisters for her first season of NVGSA softball this fall and is excited to do so! Please allow her, and her sisters, a better opportunity to get in all of her games this fall and in the many season of softball that will follow.

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Autumn Strawderman

You should be ashamed that you wouldn't consider allowing lights for the softball fields at Clermont Park.

Why would you propose only lighting the baseball fields and not the softball fields at Clermont Park?

Should young girls not have the same opportunity as young boys regarding their athletic endeavors? Should young girls not be allowed to practice/play later in the evening while young boys are allowed?

So ridiculous that you would even consider counting the young girls in Fairfax County out.

This email is to show my huge support of also including lighting for the softball fields at Clermont Park.

I hope you all think this over thoroughly and understand the implications you are setting by including baseball, not softball in this proposal. It's 2019. It's the time of inclusion. Fairfax County should get on board.

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Matthew Swift

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. My daughter plays House 10u softball in Northern Virginia and there are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/15/2019

Lights, Softball

Frank Sclereth

As a resident within Lee District and father of a softball playing daughter, I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county and there are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is the primary softball season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide a much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball. I appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

8/15/2019

Environmental,

Renee Miller

As a 3-year resident and homeowner who lives within 1/4 mile of Clermont Park, I'm deeply disturbed and upset by Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA) plan to install night lighting in this park for several reasons, most importantly:

- increased vehicular traffic on Franconia Road at night would be detrimental to the safety of cyclists, joggers, and pedestrians, including families with children, whose safety on neighborhood streets at dusk and at night is already at risk because so many drivers now use side roads (Locust Lane, Pine Brook Road, Ivanhoe Lane, Benfield Drive) as alternative routes due to Franconia Road's frequent congestion. Our community tragically suffered one young girl's death several years ago after she was struck by a car, and in spite of a couple of crosswalks installed further down Franconia Road, crossing remains dangerous for anyone. Why exacerbate the problem by bringing more cars and children into the area at night?

- negative environmental impact resulting from increased light pollution, noise pollution and water run-off from paved surfaces to neighborhood residents and wildlife. It would be absolutely wasteful and detrimental to the health of humans and animals alike to light up this park like a shopping center on a nightly basis until 11pm. The pedestrian/bike trail with adjoining woods just behind this park is the only remaining natural refuge for animals in our immediate neighborhood, and nighttime park activity will disrupt the natural circadian rhythms of foxes, deer and other animals—not to mention young people like our kids trying to go to sleep (yes, we can hear noise from games even with windows closed). The increased noise from cheering at games and traffic coming in and out of the parking lot would be impossible to ignore. We don't mind dealing with game-related disturbances during the day but the disturbance at night is a whole other matter. It violates our county noise ordinance of 10pm, for a start! And paving that entire existing gravel parking lot is hugely problematic since we already have water run-off issues whenever it rains.

- this entire plan would benefit only one small constituency—youth baseball players and their families—whereas our entire neighborhood/community would suffer its hugely negative impact on the quality of our daily lives. I'm a teacher dedicated to supporting children's athletic activities but NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT!!!! Go back to the drawing board: put lights on baseball fields at Lee District Park, for instance, which are intended for county-wide use and, if you're going to make "improvements" to Clermont Park MAKE CHANGES THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL TAXPAYERS!!!! For instance, how about a gravel track with exercise stations for people to use instead of having to jog down Franconia Road's sidewalks, most of which are in horrific condition? Or a playground or tennis courts? Community garden? Benches or a dog run? Any of these improvements would be welcomed by neighborhood residents because they would improve our quality of life using our taxpayer \$\$.

Lastly, I am extremely disappointed by FCPA's lack of communication about this plan to the community. Why didn't you send letters to people who live within a mile of the park about this plan? Post information to neighborhood websites? Go door-to-door with mailings? Instead, I only found out after the third community meeting had already taken place when I ran past a ridiculous sandwich-board, which had been left out near the park's entrance, "announcing" a meeting about park improvements. Still unaware about the type of "improvements" being proposed, I asked several neighbors and finally one was able to tell me about it. This is absolutely shameful and inexcusable to host community meetings about a plan of this magnitude during the summer when people are out of town, not in school, etc. and frankly I think it was no accident that little to no communications were attempted to spread the word. If you were to poll our neighbors, I have no doubt that you would discover this plan is EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR and should its implementation move forward, it will cause never-ending problems at a high cost for both county government and our community.

8/15/2019

Lights, Other, T

The Jones Family

We, the undersigned, have been residents of Wilton Woods at 3903 Pine Brook Road for 34 years owning real estate within .25 miles of Clermont Park. We are alarmed and angered by the recent proposal of the Fairfax County Park Authority to thoughtlessly overturn or waive and, thereby, violate the blatantly clear provisions of the QUITCLAIM DEED conveying the 42 plus acres of Clermont Park to the Fairfax County Park Authority dated March 20, 2007. Our son was an avid participant in Pioneer Baseball for 4 years and never lacked an appropriate venue. We are absolutely and adamantly OPPOSED to the proposed development because : of the 1) the obvious cacophony of evening noise, 2) the truly dangerous increased traffic exiting onto the narrow two lane Franconia Road at the same time after each night game, and 3) the clear and very real loss of home value (\$200,000 estimate in our case).

This proposed egregious abrogation of the Restrictive Covenants in the Deed of Coveyance dated March 20, 2007 should not present the Park Authority (Grantee) with a hard decision. This is a no brainer ! The DEED clearly states : " WHEREAS, Grantor desires to impose on Clermont Park a restrictive covenant expressing Grantor's intent to preserve a portion of said property in perpetuity in its undisturbed natural state" and "that all right, title and interest of Grantee in and to the property, and all improvements thereon, if any, shall automatically revert to Grantor should Grantee violate the restrictive covenant imposed above, install and/or utilize any lighting, permanent concession areas and/or sound systems on the property, or cease the use of the property for any purpose other than for public park purposes or a Public Park."

The Fairfax County Park Authority MUST enforce the restrictive covenants in the DEED and REJECT the selfish and thoughtless proposed development plan advocated by a minority of neighborhood newcomers.

8/16/2019

Lights

John McAfee

, I own 2 homes near Clermont at and....One of the most attractive aspects of our neighborhood is the suburban feel so close to DC which evening park lights at Clermont would ruin. I agree with my neighbors and do not want lights added to Clermont park.

8/16/2019

Lights, Other

Erika Wheeler

I wish to submit my comments regarding the proposal to install lights at Clermont Park.

Ideally I am not opposed to installing lights with the restriction written into the deed that the lights have to be turned off at 9:30pm. I feel that if the intended use of this field is for children then there would be no reason to have the lights on until 11pm per current zoning. Otherwise, if the lights are allowed to be left on until 11pm, the potential for adult use will be there and that would negatively impact the community.

That restriction written into the deed as well as keeping the restriction of no permanent concession stands or sound system would insure the field is kept just for kids.

I have been told by the board members from Pioneer baseball that they will not support or help fund the project if those restrictions are not written in the deed.

I also feel that the Park Authority should have an environmental study done for the area and it's wildlife prior to any decisions made regarding the proposal to install lights.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.

8/19/2019

Lights

Tom Goldsworthy

I live one street to the west of Clermont Park (Ridge View Dr.) . Do not install lights there. They weren't there when I moved here back in the late 90's, in fact there weren't even ball fields, only a lone soccer field. So, installing them changes the quality of my life. Just say No.

8/19/2019

Lights, Softball

David Downer

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of Fairfax county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/19/2019

Environmental,

Mark Brunner

I have attended one of the meetings discussing the plan to install lighting for the ballfields and parking lot at Clermont Park, presented to the members of the Loft Ridge community. Although I appreciate the effort taken in the proposal to reduce light pollution, the impact to nearby traffic and the additional noise that would accompany these changes have me concerned enough to be against the proposal. Franconia Road already has traffic issues during morning and evening commute times, and this would likely extend that period in the evening. Further, as someone who enjoys walking in the wooded areas of Clermont and Loft Ridge Parks, I'm also concerned about the effects that additional activity would have on wildlife. I hope that you will consider my concerns and those of my neighbors who wish to preserve the natural beauty and quiet of this area.

8/19/2019

Environmental,

Adam Marcetich

Please consider my comments regarding the proposed expansion of Clermont Park in Alexandria. Since 2011, I have lived in the Loftridge neighborhood, and have treasured its tranquility and proximity to nature. Adding lights and expanding permanent facilities in the park appears to be a questionable use of public funds, as well as an encroachment into the nature refuge. Although only some of the homes share a boundary with the park, the changes will certainly affect the entire neighborhood.

I am surprised that public funds were proposed to pay for buildings and lights which will disproportionately benefit Pioneer Baseball and its parent organization, Babe Ruth League Inc. While Pioneer may eventually lose interest in the park, the County must necessarily pay the expenses of maintaining it. Clear provisions do not exist for sharing the operating expenses of the expanded park, while Pioneer will receive major benefits of an expanded venue.

The deed for the park is worded to protect its natural condition in perpetuity:

"...that a portion of said property shall be hereafter held and conveyed subject to the conservation and preservation of that portion of property in perpetuity in its undisturbed natural state, including but not limited to the existing vegetation, topography, and habitat, as described in Exhibit A..."

Extending the hours of lighting for a large part of each year will disturb wildlife and the natural setting. Although the proposed lights have been described as focused or shielded, the simple presence of extra lighting will still affect wildlife in the adjacent park. These effects on the natural environment have been overlooked and not fully acknowledged.

I believe that Clermont Park in its current state benefits the community with a convenient place for recreation. If interest in baseball has grown, other solutions such as more efficient scheduling can help to accommodate extra games. The calendar at www.pbsl.org is already integrated with the SportsSignup Play Mobile App, which allows teams to schedule games at eleven venues in Alexandria. Modifying the app may help the teams to more fully utilize all available time slots. I also noticed that several parks in Alexandria are not listed: Armistead Boothe Park, Ben Brenman Park, Bren Mar Park, Cameron Run Park and Franconia Park. These venues may be available to host extra games.

I appreciate your consideration, and hope you make the best decision for our park.

8/19/2019

Lights

John Whitaker

I am writing in support of the proposed lighting for the Clermont playing fields on Franconia Road. The addition of these lights will increase the time the fields can be used and will serve to better utilize the space by allowing children's baseball practices to conclude at dusk in the spring and fall. I understand lighting technology has improved greatly in the last 20 years and will minimize light pollution into the neighboring community.

In conclusion, this project has my full support.

8/19/2019

Lights, Traffic

Micelle Acevedo

I have been a resident of the Wilton Woods area for 47 years, with the exception of my college years & early work years, I have seen the evolution of the Franconia Road area throughout several decades. We used to be able to use Clermont Park for soccer games, picnics, and other events until it got solely appropriated for ball fields only, and not for public use when league games are not using it.

I am strongly opposed to adding lights and further developing auxiliary buildings such as restrooms as this will encourage games and noise in an area that is directly adjacent to many homes, both across the street and directly next to the fields and behind the fields. We currently hear the noise from the ballgames during the mornings & early evenings but know this ends after sundown. With artificial lighting, this will encourage later and later noise at the fields as well as kids going back into the woods and impacting the nocturnal wildlife. As a resident, I feel that additional noise would be a severe inconvenience, particularly when Lee District has more land and is already zoned for this use and is less than 2 miles away.

My second concern is traffic flow. As you know, Franconia Road in front of Clermont Park is only 2 lanes, one in each direction. During rush hour it's nearly impossible when you have cars turning from the opposite lane holding up traffic. By providing more/late games, this will add to the already heavy evening traffic as games start/finish in the rush hours & create new issues on weekends for residents. Adding traffic lights will only add to the traffic issues for those of us just trying to get home in such a small road.

My sincere opinion is that as a resident, the negatives outweigh the benefits of adding lights and encouraging later use of a park that is not really open for the use of the residents whose tax monies are being used to fund it. I hope this will be taken into consideration.

8/19/2019

Lights

Kelly Campagne

I write to express my extreme opposition to adding lighting to Clermont Park. Please do not let this proposal go through.

8/19/2019

Lights, Other, T

carter mullen

I am writing about the proposed lights at clermont park. I am very opposed to this change in the clermont park deed. The residents of the lofridge HOA requested the deed restriction many years ago to keep just such developments from happening. The lights in themselves would be ok but the change in deed restriction is a slipperly slope that I do not trust any local government officials, in office now or in the future, from not crossing again. I can see the lighting going ahead and then having the the supervisors office deciding in the future that since so much money was spent to upgrade the lights, that the rest of the area needs to upgraded to get "full use" out the first upgrades.

I can see the park and the wild space around it being totally developed and destroyed to serve a very small population of the county and a group that brings in no revenue at all. Developing the park will bring very little if any positive change to the area and instead be a huge detriment to the local community. There are plenty of other parks to play baseball at.

Your office can assure our HOA that none of this would ever happen. Except that over ten years ago when the restriction went in place, those exact same assurances were given, and here we are. Your office is going back on their word, to make a little league moderatly happy at the cost of a large HOA.

If this change is made, another change will follow. Once a tax or change like this is in place, a governemnt will almost never reverse it

In the 12 years I have lived here I have trusted Supervisor McKay to do the right thing. This is not the right thing. Please. Reject this proposal. Keep your word

8/19/2019

Lights, Softball

Melissa Saint-Victor

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/19/2019

Environmental,

Ursula and Austin Chadwick

We have been residing at since 1992, raising a family in beautiful Fairfax County. We appreciate the efforts of FC to provide parks and recreational areas for its residents, something our family has prized highly.

While the lighting project of Loftridge Park, now referred to as Clermont Park, on the surface appears to me to be a well-intentioned project, its impact on us, as residents living adjacent to the park, is negative in that it affects the quiet and undisturbed enjoyment of our property.

We had concerns, when several years ago, when the County expanded the area of the ballfields adjacent to Franconia Road. We now live with the seasonal noise from the ballfields, where sitting on our decks or leaving our patio doors open, brings the noise into our homes and lives.

We now strongly object to the County's Clermont Park Master Plan which calls for permanent lighting for the ballfields, walkways, and the parking lot on the following grounds:

1. At the time of building the ball fields, we were reassured by the lighting restriction which was supposed to "run with the land in perpetuity." This restriction has afforded us a reasonably healthy quality of life in our home.
2. The value of our home is bound to be negatively impacted by the additional noise and light pollution created by this new Master Plan. Prospective buyers viewing our property might, due to noise and heavy lighting at the time of showing, find our house less attractive than a house a few roads away from the ball fields. Neighborhood property prices could be decreasing.
3. We do not wish to have County taxpayer funds used on this project. Funding should come from Pioneer Baseball.
4. Light and noise pollution from spectators and traffic until 11 pm is going to impact residents' sleep even with the use of blackout shades and curtains. The loss of night sky darkness due to the increased lighting might negatively impact the health of residents living adjacent to the park. Have you seen the Seinfeld episode where the Kramer character has the light from a chicken restaurant across the street <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q40fKsRshFU> disturb his sleep?
5. The variety of wildlife that exists within the park is sure to be negatively impacted by the lighting and noise.

Please find an area away from Clermont Park such as Lee District Park or a less densely populated area for Pioneer Baseball.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

8/20/2019

Lights

Kenneth Schroeder

I'm writing to tell you that I oppose the Clermont Park Lighting Plan for many?? reasons that I believe will, in the end, reduce the value of my real estate, reduce the livability of the area, and increase the taxes that I pay to Fairfax County.???

First, in the year 2000 time frame, Fairfax County and a community group approved a Clermont Park deed that prohibits artificial lighting and the playing of games after dusk.?? One major reason for this was that the playing fields were not set back on the property and protected by trees, etc to decrease the noise and light pollution from the families living in the area.?? This was a very good idea, but now, nineteen years later, even with no additional setback,?? Fairfax County wants to remove the light restrictions and permit games to be played to 11:00 PM at the request of Pioneer Baseball League, a private company.???? Fairfax County taxpayers are taking a back seat to a private company for no good reason. Secondly, Fairfax County by removing the deed restrictions at Clermont Park is going to increase the noise and light pollution and increase the traffic at the park with no safety improvements or even discussions of improvements thereby decreasing the safety of it's citizens who drive on Franconia Rd. or walk in or by the park in the evenings.?? And apparently, there was no thought of what was going to happen to all of the animals as a result.?? And, just as there was no thought about traffic and animals, there was no study to determine what the county should do to mitigate the loss of home value for the homes that are going to be affected by the light and noise pollution.

Approval of the lighting plan will also affect the day to day functioning of families.?? Think about all the people with young kids who are put to bed early to make sure they get a good night sleep.?? That's no problem now, but it will be impossible if the Clermont Park Lighting Plan is approved.?? This is just one example.?? I'm sure there are many more.?? Families will be disrupted by the approval of the Clermont Park Lighting Plan.

There's something wrong with this whole situation.?? Fairfax County needs to rethink the Clermont Park Lighting Plan specifically considering alternative areas where it is possible to set back the playing fields so the local population near the park is not so negatively affected.

8/19/2019

Environmental,

Coleen Manaher

The Loftridge Community Association forwarded me a website to “Save Clermont Park” where it discussed the proposed lighting project and associated issues. Please know that I support youth sports and love to see and hear the teams playing ball when I walk the dogs. I am also grateful to Fairfax County where it provides “best in class” public services – my hats off to you and your incredible staff. Please know that I adore Clermont Park and love everything it has to offer – I use the park every day.

While I support youth sports and activities, I must admit that I am concerned that the Fairfax County Park Authority is considering a request to operate Clermont Park at night to include noise, parking and significant lighting – while I support sports and children’s laughter, I must object to further development of the Park . In all fairness, back in 2000, when I first bought my home in the area, the Park Authority agreed to no further development to include lighting, loudspeakers and concessions – forever. I am afraid, that no matter how I love children’s sports, that agreeing to this now will erode a promise once made – and who knows where this will lead, maybe even further development.

My primary concerns are lighting, noise, traffic, home value and park wildlife – I am willing to work with you all, but I see this as a slippery slope to more and more development. I do not want to see any more development – upkeep and beatification – yes, but no more development.

I certainly hope you can understand where I am coming from and I am open to engage with you and teams for some type of compromise – but for right now, I cannot support this.

I appreciate everything you all do, and I thank you for your public service. Many thanks for allowing me this opportunity.

8/19/2019

Environmental,

Laura Jacobs

Park area noise and traffic – I live and work in Fairfax County and encounter much congestion in my daily commute. I DO NOT want the same in the neighborhood where I live, next to the site of Clermont Park. I DO NOT want to see my property value go down, DO NOT want to see the wildlife suffer, DO NOT want the extra noise late at night when I require peace and quiet. I'm for having games during the day and early evening and enjoy the sound of a cheering crowd at those times, but I'm against the proposed extensions for extra games, noise, traffic, and lights.

Thanks for considering my position.

8/19/2019

Lights

Laura Giacobbi

My name is Laura Giacobbi and I am a community member effected by the Clermont Master Plan Revision. I support this plan. I have four young children, one of whom is very devoted to baseball. The options for safe baseball playing surfaces in this area are few. By installing lights at Clermont, it allows for greater flexibility and playing time for young children interested in the sports of baseball and softball. I am shocked at the lack of lighted fields in an area that is as populated at the area these fields serve.

The revision set forth allows for more playing time for devoted sportsmen while being devoted to impacting the ecological community surrounding the baseball fields. It allows for families allow their children to have more time to engage in a sport they love and also considers the safety of these players by allowing practice and game time after the sun goes down. The lights proposed focus on the field allowing animals in the surrounding natural habitat only a small distraction that must equal the traffic on the roadway that continues during the hours the lights are proposed to be used.

I support the master plan revision and hope to see lighted ball fields at Clermont Park.

8/20/2019

Lights

Richard Sterba

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

8/20/2019

Lights

Jennifer Albert

Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:

Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:

Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:

Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other

The park will be safer in general with the lights installed for baseball and for other events that can be scheduled there. More families will utilize the park after working hours with their children.

8/20/2019

Lights

Ann Etter

Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:

Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:

Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:

Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other

My son (just graduated from Edison) played baseball from the age of 3. It would have been great to have been able to utilize the Clermont fields in the early evenings in the fall and early spring when he was younger, but because there weren't any lights, we'd have to travel to another field further from our home. I think adding lights to the fields would be a great addition for the youth (and their parents) in the area. Wished they had them when he was younger.

8/20/2019

Lights

Christopher Cusano

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other

The ability to participate in youth sports is an important factor in growing up in a healthy manner. Without lights, the fields at Clermont Park are no usable for evening practice and games, significantly restricting access to youth sports participation, especially when you factor in the growing population density in the area. I fully support the installation of lights at Clermont Park.

8/20/2019

Lights

Stacie Harris

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

8/20/2019

Lights, Other, S

Jen Albert

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. I also feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is the primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball. My daughter thrives having a sport available in northern Virginia that is all female. Please make these resources available so more play time and a safer environment is possible.

Thanks,
Jen Albert

8/20/2019

Lights

Kathy Smith

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

I support the proposed change to the Clermont Master plan and I also support the efforts of Pioneer Baseball. The Pioneer organization uses Clermont Park to provide safe, affordable, fun sports skills to community children. This should be 100% supported by the Park Authority which shares a similar mission. We would all prefer to have the youth in our community be playing organized baseball at night rather than searching for other activities to occupy their time and endless energy.

8/20/2019

Lights

Regine Orme

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

Lights provide a safer environment for everyone, not just the baseball players, but also those who live around the fields. The lights will also not be used past 9pm, which is not late for anyone. There are many kids who are passionate for baseball and have been patient in using subpar fields behind elementary schools. Having the lights in Clermont will allow kids to play baseball on a better field. The children and their parents have invested just as much on this county-owned park as the residents surrounding it. And yet, if lights are installed, Pioneer will not be abusive in the use of the lights and will adhere to the reasonable cut off time of 9pm and it will only be in the fall.

8/20/2019

Lights

Gina Salmons

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

Lights provide a safer environment for everyone, not just the baseball players, but also those who live around the fields. The lights will also not be used past 9pm, which is not late for anyone. There are many kids who are passionate for baseball and have been patient in using subpar fields behind elementary schools. Having the lights in Clermont will allow kids to play baseball on a better field. The children and their parents have invested just as much on this county-owned park as the residents surrounding it. And yet, if lights are installed, Pioneer will not be abusive in the use of the lights and will adhere to the reasonable cut off time of 9pm and it will only be in the fall.

8/20/2019

Lights

Greg Grehawick

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

8/20/2019

Lights

Linda Farna

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

Kids get so little exercise these days. Research suggests it's only getting worse with more and more screen time. Anything we can do to get kids outside to play more has my full support. This generation is predicted to have a shorter life span than their parents. Unacceptable for us to let that be the case. Get our kids on the field and let's have more hours to get them moving.

8/20/2019

Lights

Autumn Strawderman

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other
More active time for kids helps them grow into healthy, successful adults. Especially in the Fall season when it gets dark at 5:30 pm.
These neighbors need to be reasonable.

8/20/2019

Lights

Andrew Tibbetts

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

8/20/2019

Lights

Brian Given

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other
I think this is a great way to enhance the value of Clermont park.

8/20/2019

Lights

Vanessa Clay-McEntire

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

The baseball fields at Clermont are a wonderful community resource. My children have been playing there for 5+ years. Lights would allow them to play in the Fall and Spring later into the evening. When the daylight is shorter, practice has to start earlier and requires one of two FT working parents to take off work early to get the kids to the ball field early enough to be finished before dusk. Adding lights is a practical solution that will benefit many community members. I fully support the addition of lights to the Clermont fields.

8/20/2019

Lights

Meghan Tormey

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

The baseball fields at Clermont are a wonderful community resource. My children have been playing there for 5+ years. Lights would allow them to play in the Fall and Spring later into the evening. When the daylight is shorter, practice has to start earlier and requires one of two FT working parents to take off work early to get the kids to the ball field early enough to be finished before dusk. Adding lights is a practical solution that will benefit many community members. I fully support the addition of lights to the Clermont fields.

8/20/2019

Lights

Sara Chickering

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Other. Please see text below.

Other

The addition of lights to the two back fields (1 and 4) allow additional utilization of the limited practice/play facilities that the Park Authority owns/administers. I support this project due to the value that the county and the district will receive since it will utilize existing facilities with enhancements (ie. smart lighting) and allow usage year-round versus limited seasonal usage. The park itself will be safer with the lighting for the entire community - a dark parking area or play fields invite trouble.

I do support their being a limit on how late the lights can be used so that the nearby homes are not impacted beyond a reasonable +/- timeframe (say no later than 8 or 9 PM with a 15 minute grace period). Finally, the choice to only light 2 of the 4 is a positive factor - limit the lighting to those fields since they are at the back and it has that limited resource area directly behind them which gives a buffer of 40 acres to the neighbors! What luck to have that huge of a buffer!

Get the lights but limit the usage to a defined time (no one should be there after 8:30 or 9:00 PM). If needed, build a wall to the right side of the Parking lot so that the lighting there doesn't impact the one house next door (that house is the only one that might get some light overflow).

8/20/2019

Lights, Other

David Potts

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

I truly believe there can be a better balance to be had in the active recreation enjoyed in Clermont Park, and the passive recreation offered by the Resource Protected areas of Clermont and Loftridge Parks. Many that are against the lights believe that the lights will have a big negative impact on my neighborhood (Loftridge). The new proposed lights minimize local spill and glare, unlike most of the sports facility lights in the local area. I don't see how lights will be a big negative to my neighborhood. If people are truly worried about property values, residents should be more concerned with the bulk items periodically left on the top portion of Ridge View Drive, homeless people living in the woods, people smoking pot in the woods, and the common ground of Loftridge which is mostly covered with clovers and dirt. These types of issues will impact our home values more than lighting a few fields with limited light spill and glare.

When proposed lights were first announced, it appeared that most of the opposition was targeted towards the actual lights, but then everyone realized the lights have a very minimal light spill and glare, so the argument turned to traffic and noise, then to bathrooms, what will it be next? Now there is a claim that Pioneer and the County will lose control of the fields somehow, and NCS will allow adult leagues and others to play until 11pm. But this contradicts what others said when they expressed concerns that the lights will ONLY benefit Pioneer, and that Pioneer is not paying anything. Does this mean that people are against lights because the lights will be funded by the County? So, which is it? ONLY Pioneer benefits? Or the lights are county resources that will be abused, and the deed restriction limiting them to 9:30pm will mean nothing? It can't be both. I must point out that these will be the same fields we have now, but with lights...nothing more, nothing less. People are either making these fallacies up themselves to promote their agenda, or someone is lying to them. Either way?who? and why?

8/20/2019

Lights

Meghan McDowell

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

8/20/2019

Lights

Brian Bennett

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

8/20/2019

Lights

Lucie Cantileris

WE ARE RESIDENTS OF LOFTRIDGE COMPOUND AT 5751 RIDGE VIEW DR. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LIGHTING OF THE CLERMONT PARK. THIS WILL CREATE LOTS OF NOISY NIGHTTIME ACTIVITY IN OUR AREA AND LOTS OF WALK IN POPULATION. WE LIKE OUR AREA BECAUSE IT IS QUITE AND COSY.

PLEASE DO NOT INSTALL LIGHTS IN OUR PARK.

THANK YOU AND APPRECIATE YOUR RECONSIDERING YOUR DECISION.

8/20/2019

Lights

Kristin Van Wychen

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

8/20/2019

Lights

Meghan Tormey

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

I have read the proposal and also own property in the neighborhood (Loftridge) that borders Clermont Park. I am an architect and often work with clients looking for environmentally responsible selection of exterior light fixtures. I fully understand the lighting levels proposed and support the proposed plan. Exterior lighting has improved drastically in recent years and this proposal will enhance the usage of the park.

8/20/2019

Michelle Alden

Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:

Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #2:

Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:

Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other

Adding lights to Claremont Park will allow for better use of the evenings in the fall when it gets dark early. The children will have a sufficient amount of time for practice or game in a safe environment.

8/20/2019

Lights

Bryan Ritchie

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

8/20/2019

Lights

Matthew Davis

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

Athletics programs offer important teaching opportunities to students and are a great way for a community to come together and celebrate their youth. Working families have it tough enough in this area without rushing to get home for early practice/game to get it in before running out of daylight. Most of the opposition I have read about in similar debates on lighting have been due to noise rather than the lights themselves. Youth baseball is not a noisy sport (when compared to high school football for instance)- the noise impact on the surrounding neighborhood in the early evening will be minimal at worst. With that being said new technology in lighting has a more controlled light that will not affect the neighborhood (like old outdoor flood lights would).

8/20/2019

Lights

Anders Gyllendhoff

I support lights at Clermont Park 🇺🇸!

8/20/2019

Lights

Stephen Chan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed installation of lights at Clermont Park. I am submitting my comments as a resident of Fairfax County and as a father of two children who play baseball in the area, including at Clermont.

The installation of lights will transform Clermont Park into an updated facility that will enhance the youth baseball experience that is provided there for so many of our area kids and families:

- 1.Lights will provide a safe option for playing and practicing in the evenings, especially when the sun sets early in the evening during the spring and fall seasons. It keeps kids and coaches from trying to get in an extra half hour of practice when it is starting to get dark.
- 2.It will open up more time slots for games and practices, ultimately providing more recreational opportunities, in an environment where field space is always at a premium.
- 3.There is nothing like playing baseball under the lights for these kids. The energy and excitement is just higher for these games. Lights will create a great atmosphere for playing baseball and subsequently, helping to build a greater sense of community.
- 4.Installing lights at Clermont will allow Pioneer Baseball to provide this greater level of youth sports that many of the other leagues in the area can provide. In our immediate area, Woodland Little League has lights at McNaughton Field and Central Springfield Little League has lights at Trailside Park.
- 5.Allowing lights at Clermont should have minimal impact on the surrounding neighbors. My understanding is some are concerned about the increased activity at the park at night. However, the lights would only be available until 9:30pm, at the latest. During the summertime, daylight is available until after 8:30pm so this is less than one hour of additional light. It seems to be an equitable system and one that works at other fields in the area.

Thank you for your consideration. I know you have to consider many opinions. If I can answer any questions or provide any additional input, please let me know.

8/20/2019

Lights

Lisa Chan

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other

I've been a part of the Northern VA youth baseball community for about 7 years as a parent, and also played a significant amount of youth sports as a child. At a high level, the only way our children can continue to compete beyond rec baseball is to be able to play more baseball. In the last few years, with the increase of rain, it's become almost impossible to do that. Saturdays are rained out, weekday evenings are rained out, and sunsets provide limited time to squeeze in those games. We end up playing and practicing baseball when kids can barely see the ball (which is extremely dangerous.) Options are a) build more fields and/or b) make the current fields more usable. With the lack of empty land on which to build, option B seems more feasible.

Having been involved with Pioneer for 7 years, I've only experienced the most professional and honest communication. My understanding is that Pioneer has promised that the lights will never be on after a certain time at night. I have no reason to believe that there would ever be a problem with this. Pioneer Baseball serves the community - including those communities close to Clermont Park. Pioneer Baseball needs community involvement in order to continue to grow the love of baseball. Working with the community in order to give more kids the opportunity to play and compete is the end goal and in order to meet that goal, they need more field time.

8/20/2019

Lights

Timothy Pinkard

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

The better the facilities provided for our kids in the county, the more success they can have on the field. The lights at Clermont Park will provide yet another resource for the county to utilize during scheduling which can always be challenging with the amount of kids involved.

8/20/2019

Lights, Traffic

Teresa Archer

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other
Lights at Clermont also allow elementary kids on the late schools schedule who don't get off the bus until almost 5pm (Lane, Springfield Estates etc.) time to eat, change clothes and breath before running out the door before practice. This also allows working parents more time to safely get home from work and get their kids to practice which also cuts back on traffic.

8/20/2019

Lights, Traffic

Lindsay Holtzrichter

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

I grew up in a small town. For many years, my father was our rec commissioner. We lived across the street from the ballpark and games were played at all hours. Many times, especially as we were 10 and older, our games didn't start until 8:00-9:00 at night. This was not unique to our town, it was the same in every town we played. Playing baseball/softball at night was the norm. The community members didn't raise a fuss (there was a senior living neighborhood a block away), the lights did not affect the homes or quality of life of those nearby - it was simply the way things were.

Living just off of Franconia Rd, I know traffic is crazy. I have sat in traffic trying to turn into Clermont Park at 5:00 on a weekday. For those that think it will be bring more people to the the park and make traffic worse, I urge them to try and go to practice during the week. Traffic is already crazy, people do not look, trying to turn left from the eastbound lane is tough and angers everyone backing up being you. I would much rather make the trip at 7:00/8:00PM when the traffic has died down.

8/20/2019

Lights

John Snyder

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

8/21/2019

Lights

Erin Davis

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

I believe this is long overdue and these lights do need to be installed at Clermont park for a safer environment for all of the community and for the kids that play sports at the park. As a person that lives next to a high school with fields with lights. They can be turned off when not in use and make it a safer environment for all.

8/21/2019

Lights

Tara West

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

8/21/2019

Lights

Catherine Rastovski

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

8/21/2019

Lights

Kristy Paynter

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other

My family is in support of Lighting for Pioneer Baseball. The kids need to be able to see in order to do sports plus it is overall a safer environment when everyone can see what they are doing.

Thank you

8/21/2019

Lights

Jim Wiltraut

I am writing in support of installing lighting at Clermont Park, because it is the right thing to do, and because our children...and anyone who uses that area, deserve our very best efforts to keep them safe!

I couldn't imagine anyone who gives this project serious consideration would oppose the opportunity to add every feature necessary in order to expand the use of the park into evening hours AND provide the level of security that can only come with lighting that illuminates every inch of Clermont Park.

We all like to think that we live in Mayberry (I know, I'm dating myself), but we don't. While we live in an area where the vast majority of our neighbors share a common interest in enjoying the beauty of our community; raising our children to enjoy healthy outdoor activities and providing for the very best in public safety features, we also have to recognize that there are the rare "animals" out there who look for opportunities to harm or victimize. We can't give them THAT opportunity!

Sure, lighted fields provide a great opportunity to play night games or support other nighttime activities. BUT, more importantly, lights provide a sense of security that we cannot afford to overlook. Our kids deserve to know that we've done everything possible to provide them with a safe place to play.

Field lighting at Clermont Park is a sound investment in the security of our children and everyone who would visit!

Please do the right thing and provide field lighting for Clermont Park!

Thank you for your kind consideration in this regard.

8/21/2019

Lights

Lee Van Wychen

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

8/21/2019

Lights

George Gurrola

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

Clermont's lack of lights is a serious drag on the desirability of the community, which PBL serves. People with kids expect field amenities like lights. Other areas have lighted fields. It's just another reason for people with kids to move to a different area.

8/21/2019

Lights

Gary Ian Gallicano

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

Do you as a board member know what it is like for a kid to play ball "under the lights" When I was a kid it meant I was playing like the big leaguers. I couldn't wait to play under the lights every time. Now, I realize lights enabled me to keep interest in the game, they enabled me to play longer (i.e., to be less sedentary watching TV), and in turn, playing longer because of lighted fields enabled me to develop my athleticism. Without lights at our field in Delaware, I would have played about half of the time. There is no way I would have become the athlete I became without a lighted field. I eventually ran Track and Field for Arizona State University (400ih and long jump). I am 100% convinced playing baseball as much as I did as a kid contributed to my NCAA college athlete success.

You want to help solve the child obesity problem? keep them playing longer on fields with lights

8/21/2019

Lights

William Valentine

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

The County -- specifically the Park Authority -- should be doing everything it can within its power and reason to promote youth sports. Pioneer Baseball is a great program that I was a part of growing up. I know how important high-quality facilities are, and the need to be able to play games after dark.

8/21/2019

Lights

Andrea Scmid

I am writing in support of the field lighting at Clermont Park, with a reasonable restriction on end times. As a baseball parent of a player that regularly has games scheduled at Clermont, we understand the challenges of trying to accommodate games during daylight hours in the late fall and early spring when it gets dark earlier.

I have reviewed the feedback from the public meetings and understand the concerns of the neighboring properties, however I believe that Pioneer Baseball's request is reasonable and with the focus on youth usage of the field there should be no concerns about very late night use. This would provide a much needed option to allow more flexible game scheduling in our area.

We appreciate your consideration and working with the league to support reasonable allowances in support of youth sports.

8/21/2019

Environmental,

Anna Altman

I am AGAINST amending the Clermont Park deed. Please do NOT allow the installation of lights at this park.

I live in the Loft Ridge neighborhood right next door and the excess noise and activity is not at all wanted.

The entrance/exit from Clermont Park is already dangerous enough during daytime events because people do not properly obey the stop sign or take the time to look for oncoming cars or pedestrians. Enabling it to be used more, and at night, will make this more dangerous.

I absolutely do not think the county should be paying for something to benefit Pioneer baseball.

These lights will inevitably negatively impact the wildlife in Clermont Park -- we already have severe deer overpopulation issues -- it is not wise at all to add an element that will hurt predators without affecting the deer at all. Deer will live near and through anything, nocturnal and crepuscular predators will absolutely not.

This is one of the few county-designated Resource Protection Zones. We need to protect these 40 acres because these trees do so much to improve our lives. They provide shade, prevent erosion, provide habitat to so many species and they pull CO2 out of the air. The Park deed amendment and the lights is merely the first step towards chipping away entirely at Clermont Park. A tree canopy is more important than added sports facilities.

Please do NOT sacrifice this park to benefit one group of people with one specific hobby. It will not improve the county or the neighborhood in any way.

8/21/2019

Lights

Robert Seidener

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

I live a couple of minute walk away from the field and believe this is a needed addition to allow local families the option of having kids play outside later. Currently, there are no other options for later play. This field does not directly touch any houses, the parking lot always handles the amount cars, and the lights will mostly be needed about 8 weeks per year when it is getting too dark to see the ball. The fields are not used November-March, the darkest months so this will have no impact most of the time as there is enough light in summer.

8/21/2019

Lights

Pricilla Kostick

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

8/21/2019

Lights

Maurisa Potts

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

The plan provides very thought out and strategic steps and actions that would help extend and fully utilize the baseball fields at the level they should be used, but also provides boundaries for the use that would satisfy the surrounding neighborhoods and the nature lovers. Youth sports in the region is continuing to grow and counties and cities are working to provide opportunities to both utilize the limited land space we have for sports, but make sure we don't impact communities in negative ways. Regarding the lighting technology, in particular, I have seen first hand how this new technology works at large scale events and it provides little to no light casting or glaring.

I fully support the change to the Clermont Park Master Plan because it will be a win-win for all in supporting both active recreation, passive recreation and overall community building.

8/21/2019

Lights, Softball

Jenna Riggs

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

I support the proposed changes of adding lights to ALL the Clermont fields so that both my son who plays baseball and my daughter who plays softball can have more opportunity for play and make-up games. Baseball is a great past time and one the community can rally around. Let's make the most of the fields and provide an opportunity for more active play. Thanks.

8/21/2019

Lights

Doreen McKnight

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other
More fair to baseball players on this side of the county

8/21/2019

Lights

Kenneth Seigart

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other
Will allow for more consistent scheduling, better utilization of fields giving our kids more time to enjoy the Fairfax County park system.

8/21/2019

Lights

Matthew Larimore

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Other. Please see text below.

Other
It's time that FCPA stop prioritizing one sport over another and make an investment in youth baseball. The amount of baseball fields without lights in the county is completely unacceptable.

8/21/2019

Lights

Adam Hardinger

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Other

With technology advancing and the continued decline of physical activities in our schools, it's up to parents and groups to continue to engage our youth and provide adequate facilities for young people to learn and engage with sports outside of school. Providing lights to fields that are already being taken care of is a great "easy win" for the county. It shows the engagement of the county leaders and their commitment to the youth of today and tomorrow.

8/21/2019

Lights

Neil graf

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

Lights will have minimal impact on surrounding area while benefiting hundreds of families. Lighted fields for baseball also makes sense as lighted soccer fields already exist in Lee District to benefit kids that play that sport. Baseball provides similar benefits and kids should be given same opportunity for evening play.

8/21/2019

Lights

Garrick Copes

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

Seeing and utilizing other ball fields in the surrounding areas in Fairfax county, I believe Clermont field should have lights. I think this will be a great investment in the parks, baseball and softball development for the players, and in the future keeping competitive players in the league. We will be able to outsource the fields. Pioneer will stand out as a great league.

8/21/2019

Lights

Michelle Sams

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

8/21/2019

Environmental,

Lenée Essig

My name is Lenée Essig, and I am a home owner in the neighborhood of Loft Ridge off of Franconia Rd.

I am writing you in order to share my opinion that I do not support the proposed new, and permanent, lighting for the baseball fields, walkways and parking lot, as I believe it will have a long lasting negative impact not only on my neighborhood, but the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, I am concerned how this will devastate the ecosystem that we have, which is one of the benefits of living in this neighborhood within Fairfax County. There is an abundance of research on light and noise pollution, and the toll it takes on both humans and ecosystems. I trust this has been brought to your attention. However, I have included some studies at the end of this email.

Having the lights on till 11 pm impacts a person's quality of life (due to light, noise, energy), which has a rippling effect that spills over into all aspects of life (family, professional, community).

Below is a link to a study on light pollution that highlights it's effect on both eco systems and humans.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2627884/>

Please note from the study above: "Travis Longcore, co-editor of Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting and a research associate professor at the University of Southern California Center for Sustainable Cities, suggests two ways outdoor light pollution may contribute to artificial light-associated health effects in humans. "From a human health perspective, it seems that we are concerned with whatever increases artificial light exposure indoors at night," he says. "The effect of outdoor lighting on indoor exposure could be either direct or indirect. In the direct impact scenario, the artificial light from outside reaches people inside at night at levels that affect production of hormones. In an indirect impact it would disturb people inside, who then turn on lights and expose themselves to more light." "

"The policy implications of unnecessary light at night are enormous," says Stevens in reference to the health and energy ramifications [for more on the energy impact of light pollution, see "Switch On the Night: Policies for Smarter Lighting," p. A28 this issue]. "It is fully as important an issue as global warming." Moreover, he says, artificial light is a ubiquitous environmental agent. "Almost everyone in modern society uses electric light to reduce the natural daily dark period by extending light into the evening or before sunrise in the morning," he says. "On that basis, we are all exposed to electric light at night, whereas before electricity, and still in much of the developing world, people get twelve hours of dark whether they are asleep or not."

Below is a link from the World Health Organization that documents how noise pollution negatively impacts humans:

<https://www.who.int/docstore/peh/noise/Comnoise-3.pdf>

I hope you take into serious consideration how light and noise pollution impacts your community on both a micro and macro level.

8/21/2019

Lights

Robert Hakeson

My name is Robert Hakeson and I am born and raised in the Lee District area. I currently live on Javins Drive in Ridgeview which is less than one mile from Clermont Park. I grew up playing Pioneer Baseball and played four years at Edison HS. Both of my kids have grown up in this area. My daughter played NVGSA softball and played four years at Edison. My son played Pioneer and is now a sophomore at Edison. He is a member of the baseball program. I have personally volunteered hundreds and hundreds of hours to coaching and mentoring youth girls and boys in our area. As a coach and parent, our kids are at a competitive disadvantage against other kids in our county. Our little portion of the county does not have enough fields to facilitate the amount of kids who play.

The eastern portion of the county has been built and developed before the western areas. Those areas have more space and can provide much higher quality playing areas than what our kids have in this portion of the county. For our area to properly function and come close to other areas of our county or surrounding counties, we need to take better advantage of the space we currently have. The only youth fields that have lights is Beulah Park. Beulah is mainly an adult softball field. Pioneer shares time with the adults. NVGSA gets some time at Wakefield park. They also share with other leagues including the adults.

To give our kids a chance to be competitive and to provide similar resources as kids from other neighborhoods we need to provide lights for our fields. Clermont Park is one and Lee District is another. We lost baseball fields/softball fields to a turf field at Lee District that is completely lit. We have space and the technology to provide lights for these fields to allow our kids to continue to play and practice when it gets dark outside. In the fall and early spring, that time is at about 6:30.

I am a resident and completely understand that others are going to be apprehensive about the lights. I believe the local leagues and county members should work collaboratively to ease concerns and ensure these respected neighbors and members of the community aren't negatively impacted or minimize the negative impact. I also believe that at the end of the day, some people aren't going to be happy. I'm not sure that there is anything we can do to ease concerns.

Its unfortunate that we don't have the space available to provide more recreational fields for our youth sports. It would be great if we could have lights on some remote field but that is just not the case for our little area of the county. At some point somebody in the county is going to have to review both sides of this discussion and make a decision. I hope that decision provides lights for the fields at Clermont for our girls and our boys. I also hope this decision agnostic to Lee District park. There really is no reason why we shouldn't have lights there too.

My last item is to review the Little League Baseball Team in South Riding. They have excited the community and really our whole area. Everybody is rooting for them. They are on the news, radio, and even ESPN. Why can't our area have the same thing? Our kids deserve the best and the same opportunities as other kids in this area.

8/21/2019

Lights

Matthew Alden

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other
Having lights helps balance students school and recreation time. Many times we are not even off the Fairfax County school bus in time for us to get ready and be at a 5:00 or 5:30 practice.

8/21/2019

Environmental,

Edwin L. Haynes, J.D. & Iburia Hall-Haynes, Ph.D.

OPPOSITION TO CLERMONT PARK LIGHTING PROJECT

As homeowners for almost 35 years in Lee District, Fairfax County, VA and as educators with extensive community service, we recognize the need to support our youth.

Additionally, we understand the need for homeowners to protect their interests in their homes—one of their most important investments.

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has developed a project that proposes to add lighting and extend opening hours at Clermont Park which adversely impacts our quality of life and the value of our home.

We would like to express our opposition to the development of this project for the following reasons: 1). lack of adequate notice; 2). light pollution; 3). noise and traffic pollution; and 4). decreased property values. For these reasons, we urge FCPA to discontinue plans to add lighting and extend the opening hours at Clermont Park. We suggest that FCPA explore other options to serve the youth while complying with the law.

1. Lack of Adequate Notice. As more information is obtained regarding this project, it should be noted that FCPA did not provide adequate notice to several homeowners with homes within proximity (1000 ft.) of Clermont Park. The lack of notice denied these homeowners the opportunity to research, study, and comment on the FCPA Clermont Park Proposal. As a result, FCPA violated its own administrative policies/rules. FCPA's scheduled August 25, 2019 date for public comments does not remedy the situation or correct the failure to provide adequate notice to homeowners in the area impacted by the proposal.

This is coupled with the adverse impact on homeowners as a result of light pollution, noise pollution, traffic congestion and reduction in home values. There are additional reasons addressed and included in the statements and petition of homeowners living in Victoria Oaks on Ewing Place submitted to FCPA.

2

2. Light Pollution. There is a long-standing FCPA policy based on the Clermont Park Deed to restrict lighting in athletic fields located in close proximity to homes that are adversely impacted. As a result, there have been few, if any, exceptions to this rule. Non-compliance will involve long, costly battles between the community and the governing authority. Studies show that the designs of lighting in parks and athletic fields do not eliminate the adverse effects on homeowners in close proximity to parks or athletic fields. The FCPA proposal for additional lighting at Clermont Park describes some of the issues and problems in controlling light pollution and includes some suggestions for the inevitable glare and spill light. While the designs and technological innovations recommended in the proposal may reduce, minimize, and mitigate the glare and spill light, they do not eliminate them. According to a recent FCPA paper, they are "unable to fully address the glare problem since it is primarily governed by fundamental laws of nature over which man has no real control. The ultimate consideration when glare becomes a pivotal issue is the decision for a particular site of 'to light or not to light'". Therefore, the affected homeowners will still experience light trespass on their properties. (See Clermont Park Master Plan Presentation, July 25, 2019 and Athletic Field Lighting and Control of Obtrusive Light Pollution, FCPA, July 2010).

3. Noise & Traffic Pollution. With additional lighting and extended opening hours at Clermont Park, there will be an increase in noise pollution and traffic congestion. This results in violation of the impacted homeowners' rights to privacy and quiet enjoyment of their homes. One of the reasons we purchased our home on Ewing Place in Victoria Oaks almost 22 years ago was our attraction to the quiet and peaceful neighborhood. According to recent studies, residents have become intolerant to noise associated with athletic events, traffic, and other matters that adversely impact areas where their homes are located. (See 2016 EQAC Annual Report on the Environment: Noise, Light Pollution and Visual Pollution, Chapter IX).

3

As lights are added and the hours are extended at Clermont Park there will automatically be more traffic congestion as well as littering and trash accumulation.

4. Decreased Property Values. Changing the deed restriction against lighting in Clermont Park, adding lighting, extending opening hours, increasing noise pollution and traffic congestion in the proximity area provide the basis for a nuisance—an economic harm to impacted homeowners. These factors decrease the values of the homes in the proximity area.

Summary

A review of the proposal from the perspectives of the benefits to youth and the Pioneer League and the interests of homeowners and the community strongly suggests that FCPA should explore other options in Fairfax County. Based on the reasons given in opposition to additional lighting at Clermont Park, FCPA's proposal would result in irreparable harm to

the affected homeowners in the proximity area.

It is imperative that we preserve the quality of life and protect the property interests in our community.

8/21/2019

Lights

Michelle Naumovich

My family is in favor of adding lights to baseball fields #1 and #2 at Clermont Park, located on Franconia Road in Alexandria, VA. I have 3 children who have all played with Pioneer Baseball League since they were 4 years old. My oldest is 14, and my youngest two are twins who just turned 11 years old. We have only lived in zip code 22310 for my children's entire lives, and we are fully involved with our schools (Rose Hill, Mark Twain and Thomas Edison) and community.

As my kids have grown and moved into the different divisions in the league, it's been more and more difficult to safely get full practices completed, especially in the late summer and fall months, as the daylight disappears more every day. Parents work and having practices start earlier than 5:30 pm makes it very hard to get their players to the ball fields. The volunteers who coach or umpire have the same issues with getting to the fields after a full workday.

Having lights available on the back two fields would ensure that practices and weeknight games could be scheduled better to accommodate working parents' schedules as well as allow for more time on the fields. Children ages 9 and up would benefit the most. And as our league continues to grow with more and more players, scheduling field time will be made easier.

From our understanding, the lighted fields would be turned off by 9:30 pm. That seems reasonable to not be invasive or annoying to nearby neighborhoods.

Please consider that families are the future of our area, and that the taxes we pay should ensure that our county provides safe, up-to-date and modern facilities for our families to enjoy and use for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

8/21/2019

Lights

Laura Duvall

The Loftridge Community Association has established a website to “Save Clermont Park” to address the proposed lighting project and associated issues. As both a taxpayer and a Fairfax County native, I have grown up using the wonderfully planned parks that our county provides. My mother, Vera Duvall, was the first full time employee of the Northern Virginia Park Authority when it was located on Hummer Road in Annandale Virginia. She assisted in procuring Burke Lake Park, Pohick Bay Park and Sully Plantation. Burke Lake Park was originally slated to be the site for Dulles Airport and the county officials thought that the increased traffic volume, lighting, parking and noise levels would change the feel of Fairfax County so they changed the location to Loudon County. I find that Clermont Park is quite reminiscent of those parks though on a smaller scale. All of these parks provide a peaceful respite for the Fairfax County residents. I think also that it is lovely to be able to host the local youth and their ball games. I take walks quite frequently in the park and value the fact that there still exists a bit of quiet time when the ball fields are not in use as that is a time for me to enjoy the nature around me and to walk two beautiful dogs that do not have a huge back yard to play in.

As a former realtor in Fairfax County, I am extremely concerned that the Fairfax County Park Authority is considering a request to operate Clermont Park at night to include noise, parking and significant lighting. This, in my estimation, will greatly jeopardize the housing values and I believe change the quiet and serene nature of this park into a loud, raucous, late night ball park which will cater more to the adult crowds. There are plenty of other places where people can go if they need this type of outlet. Let’s not, to quote Joni Mitchell, “Pave paradise and put up a parking lot”.

In closing, my primary concerns are lighting, noise, traffic, home value and park wildlife. As a civil servant and a Fairfax native, I want to thank you both personally for all that you do to serve our county.

The park that I enjoy is absolutely now in your hands and what choices you make will be your legacy left to us. Thank you for taking the time to listen and consider my thoughts on this matter.

8/21/2019

Lights, Softball

Sibohan Sosa

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, as the mother of a teenage softball player for the past several years, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/21/2019

Lights, Other, T

James and Pamela O'Neal

It has come to our attention that there is a plan in the works to install high-intensity lighting for the baseball field at the Fairfax County park that's located on Franconia Road between Telegraph Road and Rose Hill Drive.

Bad idea!

In 1976, we purchased our home which is located a couple of blocks away from what is now this park. Over the years, the quality of life in this area has steadily declined due to incessant development that has been allowed and condoned by the county. What was once totally undeveloped land (a wildlife sanctuary of sorts) was sold off to developers and the result was the creation of the scores or hundreds of town homes known as "Wellington Green." to the immediate west of the aforementioned park. Just across Franconia Road from the park was a 4.5-acre horse farm. It has been turned into an 18-home "MacMansion" development. Two other nearby horse farms on Franconia Road also met a similar fate over the years. A very large amount of forested "green space" along Franconia Road has also gone under the bulldozer to make way for town homes.

The quality of life in this area is now very different from what it once was, and this has not been a positive change.

While we believe in progress, and that progress is inevitable, enough is enough!

There is now incessant traffic and noise on Franconia Road from all the additional cars associated with the hundreds and hundreds of residences created through this pattern of over-development.

Adding lights to the ball park, and encouraging crowds to attend night games will only further add to the noise, traffic, motor vehicle exhaust pollution, highway litter and other problems that we as residents of the area have to endure.

Please don't make things worst for us.

Spend the money earmarked for the lighting system on something else, such as treating the incredibly bad mosquito problem that we now endure due to the lack of drainage and pounding of rainwater along this stretch of Franconia Road.

8/21/2019

Lights

Kevin Donaleski

I am contacting you in order to save Clermont Park.

As a long time resident of over 36 years, my family and I love the Loft Ridge development and the installation of new and permanent lighting for the baseball fields, walkways, and parking lot will destroy the uniqueness and tranquility of this area, especially considering these lights will stay on until 11:00 pm, not to mention the noise related to the late games.

The current park deed does not allow the installation or use of any lighting.

This restriction is supposed to run with the land in perpetuity in order to protect and preserve the natural state of the park and protect our neighborhoods from noise and pollution after dark.

Permanent lighting and evening use is a major negative to our neighborhoods. Noisy nighttime activities and bright lights will be disruptive and chip away at the ecological resource uses in the adjacent county designed Resource Protection Zone.

I and my neighbors hope you make the decision to respect the current deed and protect the Clermont Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

8/21/2019

Lights

Jerry McCargo

As the owner of my home since 1998 I strongly oppose the addition of lighting to the ball fields at Clermont Park. I want our neighborhood to remain enjoyable, peaceful, and quiet especially at night. Additionally as you are probably aware there was a fatal accident in the past decade when a child was killed crossing Franconia Road in the area of the Clermont Park ball fields. Having lighting and night usage of the park would cause increased traffic and pedestrians (especially more children) in times of limited visibility is a poor and very dangerous idea.

My household has three registered voters and I am a Fairfax County business owner and employer. I hope that the Fairfax County supervisors and Park Authority act in the most responsible manner to ensure safety and quality of life for all of us.

8/21/2019

Environmental,

Don Sutherland

I am sending this email to voice my objections to the FCPA proposal to install lights at Clermont Park.

I cannot support the FCPA proposal for several reasons summarized here and expanded below:

1. FCPA is moving too fast on the Clermont Park project and legitimate citizen concerns about the negative impact of light spill and sky glow resulting from the project on the nearby neighborhoods and the Resource Protection Zone (RPZ) have not been fully analyzed by the FCPA and discussed with the public.
2. Noise emanating from night-time activities at the park will certainly diminish the quality of life of nearby residents and significantly impact the nocturnal environment of wildlife inhabiting the RPZ.
3. The trend towards increased traffic on Franconia Road because of its use as a 495-bypass mechanism during rush hour periods coupled with growing distracted and impatient drivers, lends itself to a more dangerous situation when vehicles attempt to enter or exit the park to participate in early evening activities.

I attended the FCPA meeting on July 25th, read the posted information on the deed for the park, and talked with many neighbors regarding the proposal. For nearly 30 years, I have lived approximately 300 yards from the parking lot and perhaps 400 yards from the existing ball fields. On weekends I can easily hear the crowds cheering on their players during games. I'm ok with that and kids need a place to play ball. I was a little league coach years ago and understand the issues that the Pioneer League is facing.

My non-support is based upon the following concerns.

Unacceptable Light Spill and Sky Glow.

To its credit, the FCPA followed guidelines from the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) and submitted a lighting design to IDA for review and approval. FCPA included a letter in their presentation that indicated IDA approval of the initial lighting design. However, the form letter simply repeated text from the IDA website and was not specific to the Clermont Park site. This review submission indicates to me that a decision was made by FCPA to go forward with the Clermont Park proposal before input from the impacted community was fully considered. At the July 25th meeting, the FCPA indicated that two prior public meetings were held in 2018, but despite best efforts using available data, most local residents in the area were not reached by mail or other forms of communication (based upon citizen comments at the July meeting). FCPA indicated that they attempted to contact HOA organizations in the Clermont Park area but frankly many residents have lived in the area for a very long time and don't belong to a HOA.

The FCPA did spend a fair amount of time discussing the LED technology advocated by IDA as a way to convince the meeting participants that the Sky Glow and Light Spill would have little impact on nearby residents including those homes adjacent to the proposed lighted parking area. Importantly, FCPA staff reportedly also indicated that no specific study on the impact of light spill and sky glow on wildlife in the RPZ was conducted; only that the park proposal would not involve any "intrusion" of the RPZ area. However, much of the wildlife in the park are nocturnal and rely upon darkness for their existence. There are countless resources documenting light and noise pollution on wildlife, all over the world. But unfortunately, no assessment has been done and while the IDA is committed to wildlife initiatives, it may not have considered those factors in its review of submissions like FCPA's proposal for Clermont Park.

The bottom-line here is that FCPA has moved this proposal forward very quickly, has not effectively engaged the public and seemed unaware to the ecological impact of lights and night-time park use on the RPZ or the concerns of citizens and the County Government nineteen years ago when lights were specifically excluded from the Park.

Noise at Night.

One of the nice things about our neighborhood is the peaceful setting after dusk and the end of rush hour traffic. It is relatively quiet and almost as nice as living in the county. I look forward to sitting outside and enjoying a tranquil environment. On occasion in the late afternoon and on weekends, I can hear the noise from the park, but that's OK since the park is there to support recreational activities. But again, I accept that situation because I know that after dark, the serenity that is possible from the quiet surroundings will return. Not only do folks like myself look forward to a quiet time, certainly the nocturnal wildlife in the RPZ have the same needs.

Increased Traffic on Franconia Road coupled with growing numbers of distracted and/or impatient drivers is causing disruption and safety issues on Franconia Road.

As most of us have noticed in recent years, traffic on Franconia Road seems to have increased significantly as a bypass to 495 in both directions. Cars usually travel at speeds well above posted limits and several accidents have occurred at the corner of Pinebrook and Franconia. The increase in traffic directly impacts the FCPA Clermont Park proposal and I'm not aware if a traffic impact assessment has been requested. The problem is two-fold. From about 2:30PM until about 6:30PM, traffic on Franconia in both directions is heavy - just try to get onto Franconia from one of the six intersecting streets within 1000 yards of the park (Clermont Dr, Ridge View Dr, Pinebrook Rd, Cannon Dr, Benefield Dr, and Sable Dr).

East-bound traffic trying to enter the park holds up traffic behind them until an opening in the westbound traffic permits a turn. Individuals trying to leave the park during that time also have a challenge and may present a safety risk.

I hope that my comments prove to be useful and I can tell you that most of my neighbors share my views even if they choose to not express them to FCPA at this time.

8/21/2019

Lights

Sheila Weiss

This is to notify you that I am strongly opposed to the plan to install lights in Clermont Park. Our understanding is that the park would NEVER have lights, and the deed incorporates this restriction. It only would the lights be a nuisance to the human neighbors, but it would be detrimental to the wildlife that lives at the back of the Park.

I would also like to say that my understanding is that this plan has been pending for almost a year, and yet I have just been made aware of it. Shame on you for trying to slip one past the neighbors who would be affected.

Just to be clear: I am strongly OPPOSED to lighting in Clermont Park.

8/21/2019

Lights

Nahleen Amarchih

I was informed that the park authority is considering a removal of a restriction on the lighting in Cleremont so baseball can be played later at night. I can hear the crowds at the park from my house. Families in the area have small children. The noise from the games later in the evening would be disruptive. I am opposed to extending the times and the associated noise nuisance it would create and possible effects of the value of my home. Please do not approve

8/21/2019

Lights

Jeffery Suttell

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

My children have learned valuable life lessons thanks to baseball. Lights on Clermont field will undoubtedly provide opportunity for more children to enjoy the same experiences. The technology behind this proposal is leaps and bounds ahead of what lines Franconia road so any impact to surrounding neighborhoods will be negligible compared to the benefits of physical exercise, understanding of team building, and the value of hard work more children will get thanks to increased field time.

8/21/2019

Lights

Mercy Gallagos

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

My children have learned valuable life lessons thanks to baseball. Lights on Clermont field will undoubtedly provide opportunity for more children to enjoy the same experiences. The technology behind this proposal is leaps and bounds ahead of what lines Franconia road so any impact to surrounding neighborhoods will be negligible compared to the benefits of physical exercise, understanding of team building, and the value of hard work more children will get thanks to increased field time.

8/21/2019

Lights, Other

Eric Weiss

I just learned (August 21, 2019) that plans have been developed for more than one year to install lights in Clermont Park. My wife and I live one block away and should have been notified.

I don't see the need for lights which will disturb the neighborhood and possibly impact the wild life in Clermont Park. Maybe there's a case for the lights, but I haven't heard of one. Someone made the suggestion to install the lights, but didn't bother to notify the neighbors. Maybe there was a public hearing, but I was never notified of it. Why not put lights on Greendale Golf Course so I can play golf longer. Just kidding.

Once the lights are installed, they will be used more and more, which might be good for some, but what about the people living alongside the park with small children. It's hard enough to get children to sleep without bright lights and noise.

8/21/2019

Lights

James Wollmershauser

. I do not approve of installing lights or modifying the deed restrictions which currently prohibits lights, a permanent Public Announcement system, or permanent structures. My property is less than 500 ft from the North West baseball field fence line. When I purchased the property in 2013, I did so knowing that the surrounding park property was protected and would not be modified. Adding lights to the baseball fields and adjacent parking lot will negatively affect my quality of life and reduce my property value. If the Clermont Park Master Plan is approved, I will seek to protect my property within my legal and may hire a Land Use Attorney to ensure I enjoy fair use of my property.

8/21/2019

Lights

Noah Marshall

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

As a former Pioneer Baseball player (7 years with the organization) I have spent thousands of hours at Clermont park, and still workout there to this day as I am still playing. I currently live about a 5 min jog away from the park. The fields are great, the league is outstanding, but the park just doesn't get enough use. Obviously with lights out there, this would change. Pioneer Baseball provides a quality baseball experience to kids all over the Alexandria area...and so many kids in the neighborhoods surrounding Clermont Park. Having lights on these fields (which are the home fields for pioneer essentially), would help this league to grow more then they already are...and provide safer, and more opportunities for kids to play the game of baseball. I would suggest these lights be made available for public use...with a cut off at 10pm. I hope this proposal is successful...the park will get a lot more use if these lights go up.

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Bob and Cheryl Flynn

Good afternoon! We are Bob and Cheryl Flynn, and our daughter Lauren, is a 14 year old softball player. We live near Edison High School, and have been using the fields in the area for about 6 years.

We understand that consideration is being give to add lights to the baseball fields at Clermont Park. There are hundreds of families in the area, whose girls play softball, and we would ask that you also add lights to the softball fields at Clermont Park. It is something that we have desperately needed around here for a very long time.

Families are watching this closely, and we just wanted to add our voices to this effort.

Thank you very much in advance.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Toni Genberg

This email is to inform you that I am NOT in favor of adding night lighting to Clermont Park in Alexandria.

I am saddened that Fairfax County Park Authority did not communicate its intentions to its Clermont Park residents in a timely manner. And it is distressing to know that you are interested in overturning a deed restriction that was put in place in exchange for removing valuable trees.

This sort of action can set a precedent and could deem other similar Deed Restrictive Covenants or legally binding agreements useless. We cannot keep losing protections. I would like to see a more environmental and resident-focused Fairfax County. The second richest county in the nation can do better for those of us who value natural spaces, wildlife and peace and quiet.

The issues for Fairfax County residents living near the park, as you know, include late-night noise and light pollution, increased traffic and ultimately reduced housing values. For the wildlife living in the area, it will likely increase their stress from the activity, noise and lights. Nighttime lights also kill moths and other nocturnal insects – the insects spend all their energy at the light source and not eating or mating. Science says insects are needed for human survival.

Thank you for your considering all the residents of the Clermont Park area, human and otherwise, and all us other Fairfax County residents.

Environmental,

Matt Iden

I strongly oppose the proposal to change the deed restrictions and install lights at Clermont Park for the following reasons:

1. I, and many other nearby residents value the wildlife and natural environment in and around Clermont and Loftridge parks.

I walk the informal trails of Loftridge park almost every day and feel that the lighting of Clermont park will negatively impact the wildlife of the area. Lighting the area violates the spirit of a “resource protection zone,” which seems to have at its core the idea that a natural area should be kept in as “natural” a state as possible. That state would not include nighttime lights.

2. I don’t believe Pioneer Baseball has shown any data regarding the actual need to violate the park’s deed. Is there a massive increase in enrollment in the program? Is Pioneer literally unable to meet the needs of played games with the available time slots? It seems to me that in any other system where rules are to be violated or restructured, demonstrated need—using actual data—is a basic requirement.

Where is this data?

3. With respect, Pioneer’s request seems to pit the desires of a few against the inconvenience of the many. If one does not have a son or daughter who plays baseball, one does not get to enjoy Clermont park. Why are there not plans for a dog park or picnic area or other, as a more generalized argument, ways for a greater number of tax paying citizens to enjoy the park? As it stands, I would be surprised if even a fraction of a percentage of nearby residents can actually use this park that takes up a substantial chunk of Lee district’s greenspace.

To further expand the wishes of a just a few Fairfax County residents—most of whom do not live near the park—in order to make their lives slightly more convenient, while possibly damaging the enjoyment of the park for the rest of us, seems unfair on its face.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Margaret Biastre

Dear Fairfax County Park Authority staff and Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter,
I am writing to you to express my opposition to the plan to light ballfields at Clermont Park. I live at, just across from homes which directly border the park. I have 2 sons who have played in Pioneer baseball for the past 3 seasons (Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019). We love youth baseball, and we also love the peace and tranquility of the acres of Clermont Park, which I can see just across the street from my home.
Before I go into the reasons why I oppose the lights, I would first like to express my disappointment at this process in general. On the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) website there is a document for a Board Agenda Item from May 22, 2019. This document mentions:
“Community athletic groups have expressed a need for additional playing time on the diamond field facilities and proposed lighting the ninety-foot diamond and one of the sixty-foot diamonds as well as the parking area. Given the scarcity of land available to construct new athletic facilities in the district, the most effective way to increase playing time is by lighting some of the existing diamond fields at Clermont Park to extend hours of use. Park Authority staff working with the Lee District Supervisor’s Office held several informal public information meetings in the fall of 2018 with the surrounding communities to share information on the latest athletic field lighting technology and discuss the possibility of lighting the proposed diamond fields and the parking area to allow play to extend past dusk. Based on positive feedback at the meetings, the Supervisor’s Office has indicated a willingness to pursue removal of the deed restriction to allow for the lighting.”
My first question would be to ask which group other than Pioneer baseball asked to light Clermont Park? The Northern Virginia Girls Softball Association regularly uses 2 fields at Clermont Park; however, the representative who attended the July 25, 2019 public meeting expressed disappointment that their league was not brought in on the discussion of lighting the fields at Clermont Park. At the July 25 meeting, they expressed interest in having the front two fields lit, however it doesn’t seem as though they were a stakeholder expressing interest prior to the July 25 meeting.
Additionally, this agenda item mentions that “the most effective way to increase playing time is by lighting some of the existing diamond fields at Clermont Park to extend hours of use.” What analysis was done to demonstrate that this is the most effective thing to do? No analyses were provided to show that the current parks in Lee District are unable to handle the capacity/demand for youth baseball, and when I asked at the public meeting if other alternatives had been looked at, such as Lee District, I was told no other alternatives were investigated.
Regarding engagement with the community – the agenda item mentions that “several” informal meetings were held with the local community in the Fall of 2018. Only two meetings

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Page 204 of 293

were held in September and October of 2018, not “several”, which I learned from attending the July 25, 2019 meeting. At the July 25, 2019 meeting, when several attendees mentioned the lack of outreach, Park employees mentioned that local homeowners associations (HOAs) were notified, but this appears that it was just done for the Loft Ridge townhouse community. This is the only neighborhood in the immediate vicinity of Clermont Park which has an HOA. Lastly “Based on positive feedback at the meetings, the Supervisor’s Office has indicated a willingness to pursue removal of the deed restriction to allow for the lighting.” I find it troubling that there was not a thorough attempt to engage the local community, yet the feedback from a VERY limited public outreach was the basis for going forward with this proposal.

Since the public meeting, I engaged with other local residents opposed to this change, and I personally went to nearly 100 single family homes in my neighborhood (between Cannon Lane and Sable Drive, and the houses between these two roads) and 74 people signed a petition against putting lights in Clermont Park (these signatures will be presented under separate cover letter). Out of all of these residents, only those who lived on Cannon Lane’s west side backing to Clermont Park ever received ANY notification of this proposed change, and that was only a postcard received just before the public meeting on July 25, 2019, which only mentioned a change to the park’s Master Plan and did not specifically mention a proposed change to the deed to allow the installation of lighting. Out of all of the people I spoke with, only a few had even heard about the proposed changes. And these few only knew due to the posts that our group of concerned neighbors shared on the NextDoor app, not because of any outreach from the FCPA. Perhaps a more robust and transparent outreach process may have presented data to support the need and netted additional ideas to address the desire of Pioneer baseball for additional field time and garnered more support from the community. Regarding my reasons for being opposed to the lighting of Clermont Park, I have several concerns regarding the need, the environmental impacts, and the impacts to the area homes. There were no data provided to demonstrate that there is a NEED to light these fields. There were no data provided that the existing available ball fields do not meet the capacity/demand for youth baseball. Beulah Park has two lighted fields, one of which is already regularly utilized by Pioneer baseball. The argument given by Pioneer representatives at the meeting was that the practices could extend longer into the evening during the early Spring and late Fall seasons when the daylight hours are shorter. I have requested the scheduling data from Beulah Park and not yet received it from the FCPA, but based on Pioneer’s own scheduling information available, they are not utilizing this field regularly until 9:30 pm, which was the time Pioneer offered as the latest they would want to use the fields. If they already have a field available that is lit, why is there a need to use Clermont until 9:30 pm? Additionally, the Lee District Park Master Plan Revision approved 5/24/06 already calls for a lit baseball field. The FCPA Board could follow this plan and light up to 3 baseball fields there, and reconfigure them to suit 50/70 or 90’ fields needed for baseball for the older children (ages 11 through 15), or utilize flexible fields to accommodate all ages/levels of youth baseball. Again – based on the FCPA’s own admission, no other alternatives were investigated. If an analysis had been done, both the FCPA and residents would know if there is even a need for additional ball fields to be lit in Lee District. Additionally, over the past year, many baseball practices and games were cancelled due to rain or poor field conditions due to rain. Another alternative not

investigated was the use of a covered field – if additional field time is needed, covered fields could provide an opportunity for increased field time rather than extending play into the late evening.

The environmental impacts of lighting Clermont Park’s ball fields and parking lot are unknown. At the July 25, 2019 public meeting, I asked if an environmental impact assessment had been completed. This assessment would examine the park, including the 30-acre resource protection zone which abuts another wooded park, Loftridge Park, and provide any impacts to the environment. Without this information an informed decision cannot be made regarding the lighting of the fields and parking lot.

The impact to the area homes would be negative. In addition to the noise of park usage until after dark, there would also be additional traffic on Franconia Road and into the gravel parking lot. There is already impact from lights from cars in the parking lot shining through to the neighboring houses during the Fall and early Spring – which is when the lights are proposed for usage when there is limited daylight playing time. These neighboring communities, and ones beyond the direct park border, would now have light pollution from two, or possibly four, fields and a parking lot. Although the proposed lights will be using the best and latest technology to minimize light pollution, there will still be an impact to the community.

Clermont Park is a small neighborhood park nestled in the woods. The protections put in place “in perpetuity” per the Quitclaim Deed of March 22, 2007 when the park was turned over from the Board of Supervisors to the FCPA were instituted for a reason. This park should be preserved for the local residents, and the animals which call it home. Please do not allow any changes to Clermont Park or its deed – let it remain a day use only park for all to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Greg Omand

I am writing as a concerned resident in the Loft Ridge community regarding the proposal that permanent lighting be installed at Clermont Park. Please do not move forward with this proposal. Not only would such lighting be in direct violation of the current park deed, it would bring a whole host of negatives including: increased traffic, increased noise, lowered property values (thus, lower tax revenue), excessive light pollution and harm to the numerous wildlife species that have made the Resource Protection Zone behind Clermont Park their home.

Clermont Park should remain a "closed at dusk" park as so many others are in Fairfax County. I am a lifelong Fairfax County resident with fond memories of my many visits to FCPA parks throughout my childhood. That we had to leave the parks at dusk in no way marred or detracted from any of the experiences.

When I moved to Loft Ridge, I was surprised at just how much and how varied the wildlife lives around Clermont Park. Today I am disappointed the same park authority that set aside and maintains so many beautiful resources in our county is seeking to pollute one of their parks with extended lighting in the name of a few extra baseball games per season.

Driving by Edison on Van Dorn during football season and it's clear as day, permanent lighting should not be installed in Clermont Park.

Thanks for your time in this matter.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Eric Biastre

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the plan to light ballfields at Clermont Park.

I live just across from homes which directly border the park. I have 2 sons who have played in Pioneer baseball for the past 3 seasons (Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019). We love youth baseball, and we also love the peace and tranquility of the acres of Clermont Park, which I can see just across the street from my home.

I learned about the public meeting on July 25, 2019 from my neighbor and attended along with my wife and 3 children, and other neighbors from Cannon Lane. I was very disappointed with the lack of outreach from the FCPA as the postcard my neighbor received was the first I had learned of this, despite the fact that this proposal had been ongoing since at least 2018.

Regarding my reasons for being opposed to the lighting of Clermont Park, I have several concerns regarding the need, the environmental impacts, and the impacts to the area homes.

There were no data provided to demonstrate that there is a NEED to light these fields. There were no data provided that the existing available ball fields do not meet the capacity/demand for youth baseball. Beulah Park has two lighted fields, one of which is already regularly utilized by Pioneer baseball. The argument given by Pioneer representatives at the meeting was that the practices could extend longer into the evening during the early Spring and late Fall seasons when the daylight hours are shorter. My wife has requested the scheduling data from Beulah Park and not yet received it from the FCPA, but based on Pioneer's own scheduling information available, they are not utilizing this field regularly until 9:30 pm, which was the time Pioneer offered as the latest they would want to use the fields. If they already have a field available that is lit, why is there a need to use Clermont until 9:30 pm? Additionally, the Lee District Park Master Plan Revision approved 5/24/06 already calls for a lit baseball field. The FCPA Board could follow this plan and light up to 3 baseball fields there, and reconfigure them to suit 50/70 or 90' fields needed for baseball for the older children (ages 11 through 15), or utilize flexible fields to accommodate all ages/levels of youth baseball. Again – based on the FCPA's own admission, no other alternatives were investigated. If an analysis had been done, both the FCPA and residents would know if there is even a need for additional ball fields to be lit in Lee District. Additionally, over the past year, many baseball practices and games were cancelled due to rain or poor field conditions due to rain. Another alternative not investigated was the use of a covered field – if additional field time is needed, covered fields could provide an opportunity for increased field time rather than extending play into the late evening.

The environmental impacts of lighting Clermont Park's ball fields and parking lot are unknown. At the July 25, 2019 public meeting, my wife asked if an environmental impact assessment had been completed. This assessment would examine the park, including the 30-acre resource protection zone which abuts another wooded park, Loftridge Park, and provide any impacts to the environment. Without this information an informed decision cannot be made regarding the lighting of the fields and parking lot.

The impact to the area homes would be negative. In addition to the noise of park usage until after dark, there would also be additional traffic on Franconia Road and into the gravel parking lot. There is already impact from lights from cars in the parking lot shining through to the neighboring houses during the Fall and early Spring – which is when the lights are proposed for usage when there is limited daylight playing time. These neighboring communities, and ones beyond the direct park border, would now have light pollution from two, or possibly four, fields and a parking lot. Although the proposed lights will be using the best and latest technology to minimize light pollution, there will still be an impact to the community.

Clermont Park is a small neighborhood park nestled in the woods. The protections put in place "in perpetuity" per the Quitclaim Deed of March 22, 2007 when the park was turned over from the Board of Supervisors to the FCPA were instituted for a reason. This park should be preserved for the local residents, and the animals which call it home. Please do not allow any changes to Clermont Park or its deed – let it remain a day use only park for all to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Page 208 of 293

8/26/2019

Lights

Jane Gray

I have lived in Loftridge for over 26 years, so am very vested in what happens to Clermont Park. It was bad enough when the park changed from a venue where everyone enjoyed it to a venue for a few baseball players.

The agreement when you did this was no lights and you should stand by this.

8/26/2019

Lights

Cathy Phiri

I oppose the proposition to install lights on Field 1 and Field 4 at the Lighted Parking at Clermont Park. It is imperative you do not install lights in our park. There are plenty of other parks where lighting is provided, such as Lee Recreation Center and Clermont Park was always intended to be a day park only, as per its current park deed.

I appreciate you giving serious consideration to the voices of community members, and for putting priority to preserve the natural state of the park and protect our neighborhoods from noise and light pollution after dark. Thank you very much.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Renee Grebe

My name is Renee Grebe and my comments on the proposed Clermont Park Master Plan Revision are below. I am submitting these comments as an individual. These comments are my own and do not reflect those of any other person or organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in regards to the proposed Clermont Park Master Plan Revision during this 30-day comment period. Thank you also for making the July 25th public meeting summary available to the public - it was especially helpful as I was unfortunately out of town and unable to attend. I have appreciated the conversations and email exchanges I have had with Pat Rosend both before and after the public meeting, as they have helped me better understand the proposal and potential impacts.

I have lived in Loft Ridge HOA since 2001 and remember when the Clermont Park baseball fields were doubled in quantity. In the 18 years I have lived here, I have strived to be active in my community, both in my HOA as well as contributing at the county level. In the past I have served on the Board of our HOA and I am currently the IMA site leader for invasive plant removals in Clermont and Loftridge Parks. I was appointed by the Board of Supervisors and currently serve as an At-Large member on the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) and am the current author of EQAC's Parks & Ecological Resources chapter in the annual report.

I strongly oppose the proposal to change the deed restrictions and install lights at Clermont Park for the following reasons:

1. The deed currently codifies Clermont Park as a day-use only park.

The proposal to add lights to Clermont Park seeks to remove a key restriction in the current park deed which preserves this area as a day-use park only. This recommendation from a county-community task force in 2000 was codified during the deed transfer in 2007, just 12 years ago. This park has already been expanded to provide additional baseball fields to accommodate the Kingstowne development. The current proposal seeks to change the deed and disregards the spirit of preserving and minimizing the impact the resource protection zone directly adjacent to the baseball fields. The current deed recognizes that this specific park is not the ideal location for lighted baseball fields, and many residents agree.

2. There has not been sufficient need demonstrated to the public.

In the FCPA May 8, 2019 FCPA Planning and Development Committee agenda¹, a reason given for adding lighting was "Community athletic groups have expressed a need for additional

¹ Starting on page 47:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/board/archives/2019/050519-pd-pkg.pdf> playing time...and proposed lighting..." However, comments from Ed Archer (Pioneer Baseball/Softball, Inc's Administrative Vice President & Treasurer)² indicate that "...Lights at Clermont would allow the league to normalize practice schedules to a more traffic conscious 6-6:30pm and ending at 8-8:30pm."

This reasoning seems to be in direct conflict with the staff report. Pioneer appears to be

requesting the ability to shift current field times to accommodate the convenience of the league's parents at the expense of the convenience and impact to the neighborhood residents and wildlife.

The 2006 Lee District Master Plan Revision³ states: "Users and staff at Lee District Park have noted significant changes in the use of diamond fields and rectangle fields. An increased need for competition-level rectangle fields and a decreased need for diamond fields support a reconfiguration of field types." While this data is 13 years old, updated data should be presented to the public to demonstrate trends the various ages of kids' involvement in Lee District baseball and softball participation.

3. No alternatives have been discussed or proposed with the public.

If indeed sufficient need for the request for additional field time has been established, no alternatives were presented to the public in the presentations from September 11, 2018 or July 25, 2019.

When the only tool one has is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Lights are but one way to achieve the goal of additional field time and seeking a more compatible location for lighting should be the highest priority. For example, Lee District Park is a well-suited multi-use facility with permanent bathrooms, plentiful parking, a plan to add lights to the baseball fields, and general infrastructure for continued expansion of the baseball field usage. A reconfiguration of Lee District's current fields to accommodate a range of ages⁴ in combination with the installation of lights may be able to achieve a similar goal in a facility better suited for increased traffic and usage.

Weather also impacts and restricts the usage of field time. With climate change increasingly affecting the frequency and severity of rain events, covered fields⁵ could provide a level of consistency of field conditions with potential to extend playing time and seasons. Again, Lee District Park would be a more compatible location for more significant infrastructure such as this.

4. There has been no traffic impact study.

Ed Archer (Pioneer Baseball/Softball, Inc's Administrative Vice President & Treasurer)⁶ claims: "In the universe of traffic and trip analysis, one would find that this spacing of trip generation would likely lessen the traffic load at peak times, and smooth out ingress and egress from the park, due to baseball related trips." However, without the benefit of a traffic impact study, it does not seem prudent to claim a benefit for which there is no data.

2 https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=119513748

3 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/plandev/master-plans/leedistrictplan052406.pdf>

4 <http://www.derosasports.com/baseball-fields.html>

5 <https://www.thefarleygroup.com/multi-sport-domes.htm>

6 https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=119513748

In fact, the 2006 Lee District Park Master Plan⁷ seems to indicate the opposite of what Mr. Archer wrote could occur: "The lighting of fields will result in extended use times for those fields. There will be a corresponding increase in the number of users and the length of stay for users at the park. These changes must be managed in order to maximize this public investment while minimizing the impacts on the surrounding communities as well as the public infrastructure."

A traffic impact study would be able to answer questions such as:

- Would Franconia Road need to be widened to deal with longer-term increased traffic?
 - Would Franconia Road need turning lanes or traffic lights installed?
 - Would crosswalks increase safety in accessing the fields during nighttime hours?
- Understanding the traffic impacts to a change in the deed in advance of the change is critical to this decision.

5. There has been no wildlife impact study.

The current deed recognizes the ecological value of the forested section of Clermont Park. In fact, contiguous forest patches such as Clermont Park are the lifeblood for many animals who are negatively impacted by increased development of our suburbs.

Animals more likely to be disrupted by the combination of lighting and noise such as barred owls, flying squirrels, and migrating songbirds in the spring and fall (when the park lights are proposed to be used the most) call this park home and will all be impacted with the possibility of further displacement. Insects, a keystone of the food-web which are in decline worldwide and negatively impacted by lighting⁸, will also be impacted.

The July 25, 2019 presentation⁹ stated "No changes proposed for the conservation area", but light and noise are not included as part of the definition of "changes." Would we as humans agree with that? Many voting neighbors do not and I suspect the wildlife without a voice would not either.

6. Other potential impacts should be discussed and addressed with a plan.

Increased usage due to lighting will undoubtedly come with other potential impacts or unintended consequences. In March 2019¹⁰ Todd Brown of FCPA reported that "...FCPA staff spends 20% of its time picking up trash when that time could be devoted to field prepping."

With evening lighting, it is possible that kids or parents rushing from work might bring their dinners to eat at the field (bringing more single-use, disposable items) which could contribute to this issue of trash. When I visited Mason District Park after sunset earlier this month to see their lighted fields, I noticed a good bit of trash on the ground and also noticed empty 12-pack

7 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/plandev/master-plans/leedistrictplan052406.pdf>

8 <https://m.phys.org/news/2018-06-pollution-insect-decline.html>

9

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/plandev/clermont-master-plan-presentation-072519.pdf>

10 Page 4:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/sites/neighborhood-community-services/files/assets/documents/athletics/athletics%20council/meeting%20minutes/meeting%20minutes2019/march%2020%20minutes.pdf>

of beer box in the trash cans by the soccer field. The potential trash impact at Clermont Park feels at direct odds with the resource protection zone area as well. In regards to alcohol, I would guess that it's less likely that drinking would occur during daylight hours, but it is a concern for evening games as parents are unwinding after a long day and/or as people use the fields as a social gathering place. What are the other unintended consequences might come with lighting?

From elementary to middle school, I grew up playing softball and as such, I recognize the value of team sports, such as softball and baseball. I support Fairfax County's desire to better support the variety of athletic leagues by providing access to field time sufficient for their needs. However, for a variety of reasons mentioned above, the need has not been sufficiently established to the public and Clermont

Park is not the best location for the installation of permanent lighting. I strongly oppose the proposal to change the deed restrictions to allow for the installation of lights at Clermont Park .
Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

renee grebe

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback about changes to the Clermont Park Master Plan during this 30-day comment period. We were appreciative that a public meeting was held on July 25th and that the meeting summary was available online for those unable to attend.

We are a group of residents close to Clermont Park who are concerned about the impact of the proposed lighting of the park. We have gone door-to-door during this comment period to speak with residents about this proposal and process. Collectively, we have knocked on roughly 500 doors in the communities of Victoria Oaks, Ridge View Estates, Wilton Woods (in the homes closest to the park), and Loft Ridge HOA.

We have gathered the attached 266 signatures in opposition to the deed change of Clermont Park required in order to allow lights. This petition serves to highlight the significant lack of support from many in the communities directly affected by this proposal.

Each of the signers of the petition hold their own personal view as to why they feel changing the deed and allowing lighting in the park is not a good idea. We have encouraged all residents to submit their own personal feedback during this comment period and we expect many have done so.

Thank you for your consideration,

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Karen Holloman

As a homeowner of....., I object to night lighting at Clermont Park for the following reasons:

- Clermont Park is not designed or located for night use
- Park area noise and traffic
- Large amount of lighting and loss of natural night sky near the park.
- Lower home value

8/26/2019

Lights

Demetry Pikrallidas

I write on behalf of Rena Pikrallidas –owner of.....

She is against the Park being open after dark.

8/26/2019

Lights

Larry Dempsey, President, Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association

I'm writing this note to you to urge you to rescind the request to change the wording of the deed to Clermont Park.

The Clermont Park Improvement Task Force Decisions document dated March 16, 2000 states that the language of the Board of Supervisors -Park Authority land transfer agreement should include a statement that lighting should not be permitted.

The QuickClaim deed between the Board of Supervisors and the Park Authority includes the provision "SUBJECT TO the following special limitations that all right, title and interest of Grantee in and to the property, and all improvements thereon, if any, shall automatically revert to Grantor should Grantee violate the restrictive covenant referenced and imposed above, install and/or utilize any lighting, permanent concession areas and/or permanent sound systems on the property, or cease the use of the property for any purpose other than for public park purposes or a public Park."

Both of these documents were written as the county's population was growing. The community representatives (who had input to the documents), the County Supervisors (at that time), and the Park Authority had the foresight and wisdom to recognize that eventually the county's population would increase, and eventually someone or some group would want to add lights to property. To prevent the installation of lights, wording to prevent lighting was included in both documents. A penalty was purposely included in the QuickClaim deed that if lights were installed on the property the land would revert back to the Board of Supervisors.

Whatever the reasons were at that time that caused the inclusion of the wording to prevent lighting on the property remain today.

The Park Authority must honor the intent of these two documents and not request a change to the wording of the deed. Lighting on the property must remain a prohibited item.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Patricia Yanosek

I OPPOSE THE CHANGE IN RESTRICTIONS ON THE DEED BECAUSE:

The plan will have a great impact on the wildlife in the area, the value of the properties in the surrounding neighborhoods, and the general comfort of our surroundings. Traffic will be compounded by additional use as well. In addition, if the original agreement can be changed today, what changes will be made tomorrow that will further adversely impact the neighborhood?

I am a great believer in children participating in sports and my own children benefited greatly. As adults, they still participate competitively. However, as children through age 15 (Pioneer Baseball age as described in their information), they were not expected to practice or play games after dark. What parent would permit their school-age children to do so, especially on a school night?

I work next to beautiful, developed ball fields brightly lighted at night. While younger teams play on the field during the daylight hours, the teams at night appear to be male adults. Traffic in and out of the parking lot is heavy. Often, litter is left behind. I am glad I don't live nearby.

Questions on cost that I have not found answers to are:

- Who will be developing these fields and at what cost?
- Who will pay for this development?
- Does this involve another bond issue?
- Who will pay for the maintenance of the fields?
- What are the costs for further development and maintenance? •
- In addition to the Pioneer Baseball organization, which other organizations do you anticipate using these fields?
- Will the organizations pay fees to use and maintain the fields that will cover the costs of maintenance?

Other Questions:

- Is there an age limit to the groups using the field?
- Will the fields be monitored regularly? By whom?
- Will the rules for use be enforced?

I, along with some of my neighbors, lived in the Clermont neighborhood when the park was first developed. Residents who were informed (I don't recall being informed) were, according to your missives, assured of a minimal impact on the neighborhood. Apparently, these promises and agreements are only as good as the officials making them are in power.

8/26/2019

Lights

William and Mary Berry

We have been residents of the Ridgeview subdivision since Sep 1976. We are opposed to having the park opened at night. It will be a disaster for our neighborhood. Please do not approve for the opening of the park at night.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Karen Anderson

This seems like a knee jerk reaction by Fairfax County Park Authority to a request by Pioneer Baseball to increase the capacity of Claremont Park to support more teams playing on the baseball diamonds. By FCPA's own admission they didn't even look at alternate solutions other than to add lights to the ball fields and parking lot.

By the testimony of multiple community residents at the 7/25 meeting, we were never informed that this modification to the park was in the planning stage until 6/28 at the earliest. Two planning meetings occurred in 2018 without any input from the community. The community has been blindsided. Now we have less than 30 days to submit comments regarding the proposal. That isn't enough time.

The traffic WILL increase entails on Franconia Road. It is only logical that if you increase the # of games played on a specific day, the number of teams playing on that specific day also increases. If the number of teams increases, the number of players increases. If the number of players increases the number of cars on Franconia increases because how else will all these additional players get to the games.

With increased traffic capacity on Franconia, there is increased risk of accidents on an already dangerous section of the road. FCPA acknowledged they never did a traffic study of the area.

The lights WILL intrude on the neighborhood. It doesn't matter if the lights are the latest technology. Any amount of light is still more than not having any at all. The Dark Sky Certification doesn't mean anything. I have done research into what the certification entails and since we live in a Metro Area there is already too much light pollution for the lights to have an impact on the sky. However, the lights will still have an immediate impact on the neighborhood and the houses closest to the park.

The wildlife in the part WILL be affected. The additional traffic, noise, and the lights will push the wildlife back out into the neighborhood and into the streets. We are lucky to live so close to a park that has home to such a diverse wildlife population such as, coyotes, foxes, deer, hawks, eagles, opossum, and bats. Many of these animals are nocturnal.

Our property values WILL be impacted. There have been economic studies that show parks constructed primarily for passive recreational uses are more likely to have strong and positive impacts, while parks intensively used for active recreational purposes have relatively weak or possibly negative impacts. The noise and disturbance, for example, associated with active recreation in parks were stated as the cause of such negative impact of parks on the surrounding neighborhoods. These studies show that the property values of homes closest to the parks, with baseball fields for example, decreased.

FCPA acknowledged they never looked at other alternatives to Pioneer's request to add lights to Claremont Park. FCPA could look at alternate solutions to provide Pioneer Baseball more fields to play on. There are other parks in the area that could be used. For example the ball fields at Bulah have lights and is not being used to its full capacity. FCPA manages the park on Rt 1 across from Lockeed Blvd. This park is underdeveloped. There was once a trailer park on this location that has become overgrown. It wasn't a forested area. There is already electricity on the property. In fact the trailer electrical hookups are still there. Why can't there be baseball and softball fields installed at this location? This section of Rt 1 is already well lit so extra lighting won't be an intrusion. There is easy access to this park and Rt 1 also can better handle the extra traffic.

If Fairfax County were looking to overhaul its "Master Plan" for recreational space, it should also include the school fields and Rec center fields.

The residents around Claremont Park shouldn't bear the burden of what amounts to a resource management and communication issue with FCPA and other FC departments. There is ABSOLUTELY NO reason to put lights in Claremont Park. I ask you to reconsider the plan to add lights to Claremont Park.

8/26/2019

Lights

Patricia Yanosek

I:
Oppose the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Other. Please see text below.

Support Reason #2:
Other. Please see text below.

Support Reason #3:
Other. Please see text below.

Other

I OPPOSE THE PLAN BECAUSE

The plan will have a great impact on the wildlife in the area, the value of the properties in my neighborhood, and the general comfort of my surroundings. Traffic will be compounded by additional use as well. In addition, if the original agreement can be changed today, what changes will be made tomorrow that will further adversely impact the neighborhood? It appears that agreements and promises made are only good as long as the people who sign them are still in power

8/26/2019

Lights

Gregory Carter

I live across the street from the Clermont Park in Alexandria, VA. Hopefully this email will be counted as a concern and vote against any additional lighting proposed to be added to the park. By leaving the lights on all night the effect would be allowing people to hangout in the park beyond reasonable hours, which is also an additional cost I am not in favor of supporting.

In the future, the county should be more responsible in informing the residents what is going on before other neighbors start handing out flyers. We like Fairfax County and its government. Please continue to serve us with our interests in mind.

8/26/2019

Lights, Traffic

Drew Lucio, Loftridge HOA President

I am reaching out to express concerns that are being voiced by Loft Ridge residents over the county's plans to install lighting Clermont Park. I know that one resident is currently walking a petition around the community; at last count, this individual had received the signatures from over 100 residents that are dead set against the proposal that is being socialized by the Parks and Rec Department.

Collectively, the Board has agreed not to adopt a position on this issue.

I believe that our residents have a right to be concerned nonetheless, as we will be directly impacted if the plan wins approval from the county board. First, the current MOU and deed transferring the property from the Fairfax BoS to the Parks and Rec Department indicated that lighting would be banned in 'perpetuity.' I find this term troublesome, because what says the county can't come back in several years and extend the ball fields beyond the present-day layout (as depicted in the literature associated with the project, this area is defined as "Resource Protection Area").

I don't know if its possible, but it may be nice for the county to organize another Q&A for our community and neighboring areas. As we've done before, we can host it before our monthly Board meeting. It might be nice for the county to dispel any rumors about concessions, loud-speakers, increased traffic, usage beyond little leagues, who will bear the brunt for installing the lights (the taxpayer, or Pioneer). It may also be nice for the county to answer the question I addressed above about any future development beyond the lights.

I also think that resident may warm to the proposal if the county was to consider improvements to both Clermont and Loftridge Parks. I know one resident said that the walking trails are in poor shape, and could benefit from renewed attention. I would also say that installing a fence between the community along Ridge View Drive and the park would assuage those residents who see attendees park on the public street and then cross into our community to access the ballfield.

8/26/2019

Lights, Softball

Jesse Ellis

I am writing to support the proposed master plan revision for Clermont Park, which includes the addition of lights to the ballfields. Adding lights significantly improves the ability of the youth baseball programs serving our community, like Pioneer, to serve their players and families.

However, my support is contingent upon including the two softball fields to the plan. Given the past history Fairfax County has regarding inequitable distribution of quality diamond fields between boys baseball and girls softball, I am quite surprised that the softball fields weren't already included. Just because girls have to overwhelmingly rely on FCPS fields (while boys have the majority of FCPA fields) should not be a reason for the girls to be neglected at Clermont. In fact, the overreliance on high school fields for girls softball is a significant problem for scheduling, as fields are often taken offline for events such as Back to School Night and football games, and are generally completely unavailable during the spring season, when the high school teams use them for practice and games. The only FCPA girls softball field with lights in the Lee District is at Lee High Park, which doubles as the Lee High School field. Clermont would be the only fully available lighted fields for girls in the area. Yet the proposal does not even consider the possibility of allowing the girls lights in the future.

As an aside, FCPA should make it a standard practice to fully engage the regular user groups of a park when plan revisions such as these are being considered.

I know local residents are concerned about the impact of the lights. Like Pioneer, Northern Virginia Girls Softball Association would not use the fields past 9:30. Further, the new technology drastically limits the overflow of the lights. They do not light up the full area. It's amazingly dark just beyond the fences. Lights allow groups to space out use, so it will not result in greater traffic or noise. What lights will allow is for fewer games to be completely cancelled due to weather, as they can be made up during the week. What lights will allow is for more teams to be able to practice closer to their homes. What lights will allow is for a significantly easier process for volunteers to schedule dozens of teams each season for practices and games.

I urge you to reconsider the revisions to the Clermont Master Plan and include all four fields for lighting.

8/26/2019

Lights

Philip Cannan Judith Cannan

My wife and I live in Ridgeview Estates, which is across Franconia Road from Clermont Park.

Our address is We are opposed to the plan to put lighting in the park.

The lights would be a nuisance to the people who live near the park, and the increased traffic in the evening would aggravate the already serious traffic congestion on Franconia Road.

Currently, the deed to the park land that the Board of Supervisors gave the Park Authority forbids lighting in the park in perpetuity. This was a wise provision, and we believe that the Board should not permit this restriction to be lifted.

8/26/2019

Lights

Iliana Castro

I have learned that the city is considering to install new permanent lighting for the Clermont Park baseball field, walkways and parking lots. I am writing to ask you to reconsider this plan. Permanent lighting and evening use is a big negative to our neighborhood. I am concerned that the lighting will encourage loitering to our quiet safe neighborhood. Honestly, I do not see the need for permanent night lighting, particularly during the week, as most of us are home by the time it gets dark preparing for the next day either for work or school. Additionally, I often go to sleep early during the week and would be very upset if there was noisy nighttime activities and bright lights disrupting my sleep, as I am a light sleeper. Having moved from over crowded, noisy, bight California, I was immediately drawn to Fairfax county for its green trees and wildlife surroundings. I often walk in the evenings and enjoy the natural surrounding - it brings me peace after a long days work. I ask that you do not ruin our neighborhood by adding permanent bright lights to the neighborhood.

8/26/2019

Lights

Bari Talente

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

8/26/2019

Environmental,

Kym Millhouse

I'm writing to provide comment on the Clermont Master Plan Revision, a plan that propagates a misleading purpose from the start with its name. The plan is not a revision—which by definition indicates an improvement or correction, as if something was wrong with the current park layout—but instead simply seeks to install lights for the benefit of Pioneer Baseball alone. I am a resident of Loftridge and do not believe that being invited to one meeting on July 25, which I was unable to attend, is enough notice to move forward on a plan that so severely impacts the area. The impacts of this plan will be widespread to include financially harming local homeowners, disrupting the tranquility of residents' evenings, and distressing the environment. I ask you to please consider that these impacts do not outweigh one group's desire to play evening baseball while many others must suffer. We must do what is right for the greater good of the community.

To begin, homeowners in the area will experience a two-fold financial impact. The cost of the lights, which is not clear from the online materials, will likely be passed on to residents via county taxes at the same time that the value of their homes decrease from the presence of the lights. For the majority of us who do not want the lights, this high cost does not appear fair. If, Pioneer Baseball or another constituency in favor of these lights wants to pay for the lights and reimburse all residents for the devaluation of their property; then, the financial harm would be removed. However, this solution seems unlikely.

Second, installing lights will bring more people with noise and traffic to the area in the evenings and cause disruption to an otherwise quiet community. The unpleasant noise from Pioneer Baseball on some Saturdays already makes it feel like we live beside the National's Stadium. I could not even imagine how awful this will be on a daily evening occurrence. My family goes to sleep early, sometimes around 8pm, often by 9pm, because we wake up between 5-6am for work. If these lights stay on until 9:30pm, the noise and traffic will impede the tranquil evenings we typically have and could bring noise much later if cars are still in the parking lot.

Third, the distress on the environment will endanger the wildlife and is not worth this risk. The local woods are home to turtles, frogs, foxes, deer, birds, a wide variety of plants, and much more that will be harmed by this plan. This wildlife does not deserve this harm and we should be doing everything we can to avoid selfish decisions that impact their ability to sleep, find food, develop, and ultimately survive. I am not a scientist but there are hundreds of studies online that explain how artificial light harms the migration, feeding, and reproduction patterns of animals, insects, and plants. I am providing a couple articles just from this year below but without a study that proves that 100% of our wildlife will be without harm, I will not support this plan.

- Our nights are getting brighter, and Earth is paying the price. National Geographic. 3 Apr 2019. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/04/nights-are-getting-brighter-earth-paying-the-price-light-pollution-dark-skies/>
- Where the last pristine skies in America are. The Washington Post. 6 Aug 2019. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/04/nights-are-getting-brighter-earth-paying-the-price-light-pollution-dark-skies/>
- Mapping behaviorally relevant light pollution levels to improve urban habitat planning. Scientific Reports. 15 Aug 2019. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-48118-z>

In addition, this plan goes beyond just adding lights.

- It sets a precedent for more changes to come to the park. If they are going to change the land deed to add lights, what is stopping future changes to further expand the park and its facilities?
- The increase in people and vehicle traffic to our residential area will not ameliorate the amount of crime and trash that are occurring here. I personally have had my car and house both vandalized in the past year. The path beside the baseball park regularly has trash such as hot dogs, corncobs, bottles, cans, and other such refuse. An influx people at night will only make these local issues worse.

Admittedly, I am in favor of children of all ages going outside and playing sports which helps develop teamwork skills and improve physical activity. I myself played multiple sports growing up and still enjoy running outside, walking my dog, and riding bike. However, I would never consider that I should cause financial, behavioral, and environmental harm to

others so that lights would be installed to allow me to do these things at night wherever I want. And, yes, it is unfortunate when there is less daylight in the late fall to early spring months to allow for outside activities. But, installing lights at the cost of so much to so many is not a reasonable solution. More reasonable solutions would be to have children play on fields where lights are already installed, or for children to be at home doing homework or going to bed at 9pm, or to enroll children in sports that are indoors when there is no daylight.

Therefore, considering the many reasons outlined in this letter, I am not in favor of the Clermont Master Plan Revision and the lights. I ask the Fairfax County Park to weigh their decision on what outcome would produce the greatest amount of good for society, considering the factors of financial, behavioral, safety, and environmental impact.

Thank you for your time.

8/26/2019

Lights, Other

Todd Hunt

I want to send my sincere request that the original agreement regarding development at Clermont Park be honored. The amount of negative activity and the possible affect to the local area far outweigh the supposed benefit of a few hours of baseball. The fact that a singular company, i.e. Pioneer Baseball has managed to circumvent an agreement that was supposed to last "in perpetuity", is disconcerting. We are all for the kids using the park in the many hours of daylight, especially since baseball is a summer sport. Games can be played almost until 9 P.M. which is when our noise policy goes into affect for Loft Ridge. Any activity beyond that disturbs our normal evenings and frankly, they have 14 hours of daylight with which to play their games and practice. No child needs to be playing after 9 and we don't want to be hearing adults after 9 either.

We hope that you consider how much we have sacrificed already and the precedent that this will set. Any agreement is prey to this type of thinking. We are counting on your honor in this matter and that you will uphold agreements that have been always conducted in good faith. Thank you for your time.

8/26/2019

Lights, Other

Chris Bodner

My wife and I live in Alexandria's Loftridge townhouse community and we value peace, quiet, and the protection of both our property and the forested Clermont and Loftridge parks that make our neighborhood truly unique in this busy metropolitan area. We are both strongly opposed to the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposal to remove the existing deed restriction for Clermont Park that prohibits the installation of nighttime lighting. Night time use of the park will undoubtedly disturb the tranquility of our neighborhood and the adjoining parks at night by causing unavoidable light trespass on nearby homes, worsening urban light pollution in the D.C. metropolitan area, and increasing the negative impact of human development on the nearby natural resource protection zone (which is already stressed by habitat encroachment, invasive species, and erosion and pollution caused by poor storm water management). I urge you to honor and enforce the existing deed restrictions on Clermont Park. These restrictions were put in place as a result of community feedback, and I assure you these concerns have not disappeared. Please stop the proposed lighting of Clermont Park.

8/26/2019

Lights

Alan Chew

I'm writing to express my family's opposition to install and operate lighting at Clermont Park. Our home is near the park and while no one can be sure of the actual impact lighting and evening baseball games will have on the community, we know we like the status quo.

Our concerns with lighting and evening ball games include: light pollution, wildlife impact, increased traffic and noise, and decreased property value.

We respectfully urge you to cease consideration of the Clermont Park light project.

8/26/2019

Lights, Softball

Steve Vican

I understand there is an amendment to the Clermont Park Master Plan including lights at some of the fields. I think it would be a huge mistake to only allow the addition of lights at some fields, which as I understand, is the amendment on the table. I support including the allowance of lights at all 4 fields in the Clermont complex.

As the scheduler for a local softball league, I can tell you how little flexibility we have in scheduling practices, especially in the fall. As daylight dwindles, teams become forced to fight traffic and start practices at 5:00, 5:15, and 5:30. Having lights at those fields allows coaches flexibility to schedule practiced at 6:30, or even 7:00, allowing participants to arrive after the bulk of rush hour traffic has passed.

Additionally, our league uses several fields at Wakefield Park, but for our Alexandria-based families, we only can offer a single field at Edison HS. Having other nearby fields with lights would allow us to offer similarly convenient experiences for all our participants, regardless of where they live.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

8/26/2019

Lights

Jose Castro

I am a resident in Loftridge housing community in the Fairfax County. The purpose of my email is to express my concerns of the new permanent lights for the baseball field in Clermont Park. I feel that the installation of these light will disrupt the local homes in neighborhoods with the noisy nighttime activities, it will lore unwanted solicitors in park area, disrupt the ecological resources to wildlife and decrease our property value. Please take a moment to review all community concerns, and provide support to unwanted lightings. Your support is greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

8/26/2019

Lights, Other

Laura Livingston

As a resident of Loftridge, I am quite dismayed by the Fairfax County Park Authority's consideration of lighting for Clermont Park. I am also concerned that we never received any written notice regarding these proposed changes from the County. I was just fortunate to learn of the public hearing in time to attend.

When the residents of Loftridge and surrounding communities agreed in good faith to a compromise to allow some of the woodlands that were owned by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at the time to be turned into additional baseball fields as part of the transfer of land to FCPA, it was a very contentious and controversial debate/decision. Many were still opposed to the compromise that was ultimately reached, but it was the agreement to include specific language in the deed that would prohibit lighting, sound systems, and concession stands in the park that was a key point of negotiation, and essential to the community's concessions.

The current proposed amendment would renege on this agreement, and would represent a broken promise that the County made to this community. Breaching this covenant, essentially a contract made with the citizens, would be a very slippery slope for the County government. If the County reneges on this covenant, what's to prevent it from renegeing on the other provisions....what's next, loudspeakers, concession stands, etc.? What about the Conservation Easement? If the County's word doesn't mean anything, where does that leave the County in terms of credibility, trustworthiness, and reputation with its constituents?

I sincerely hope the County will honor the promise it made, and sealed in writing in 2000, to this caring community of residents and homeowners. The same reasons that the community opposed the lighting then, still stand today, as were voiced at the public hearing I attended.

8/26/2019

Lights, Other, T

Richard and Jackie Watkins

Just recently it has come to our attention that you are considering making major changes to Clermont Park (major lighting, sound system, concession stand, and expanded parking) that will have a major negative impact on our community and the surrounding Ridge View area, not to mention significantly increased traffic on an already congested Franconia Road. I am absolutely appalled that this seems to have been done behind closed doors and without the general knowledge of the residents in this area. Local rumor has it that it is being pushed by an influential individual in our community for personal convenience (we hope that isn't true).

It is our understanding that when the ball fields were approved a deed restriction prohibiting the use of permanent lighting, sounds systems and concession stands due to the negative impact on the community and the surrounding wooded areas/wildlife. We most strongly oppose the removal of the deed restriction and will support whatever action is necessary to stop it.

Following are some of our concerns:

-Negative human impact on the peace and tranquility of this neighborhood in the immediate vicinity of Clermont Park. Significantly increased noise from loud speakers and super bright lights every night during the spring and summer until well after 11:00 PM. Where is the environmental impact study on the deleterious noise and lighting affecting our daily lives?

-Negative impact of increased traffic on an already congested 2 lane roadway. This was already a dangerous area before the current ball fields took over our neighborhood park, and now you are proposing to make it even more dangerous. Is there an impact study on the effects of increased traffic?

-Negative impact on greenspace and wildlife. Has an environmental impact study been done? It truly saddens us when we consider the loss of the wildlife due to implementing this proposal. Is this what you want for our neighborhood?

-Lower real estate value. Residential areas in the near vicinity with average home values ranging from \$500,000 to over \$900,000.00. Have you considered the real estate tax loss to Fairfax County when the property values plummet due to this monstrosity of lights, noise and traffic congestion? Would YOU buy a home here?

-We have Lee District Park... Why isn't it being used instead of putting it in a neighborhood park?

Considering the seriousness of the impact these changes will have on our personal lives and community, why weren't we notified in a more appropriate manner. We were advised by a concerned neighbor the first of August when he saw a small sign announcing a meeting in July, after which he passed the info on to others in the community. This appears to have been kept as low key as possible in order to push it through without any opposition. Is this the way you've been representing our community? I suggest we have another meeting so all concerned residents can have ample opportunity to be informed and respond to this issue. I hope you will not advance this proposal any further until all residents have equal opportunity to more fully address these issues and voice their concerns.

No to lights and noise! Save Clermont Park!

8/25/2019

Lights, Other, T

Johna Gagnon

I am submitting this comment as an individual. I've lived in Lee District in Ridge View Estates across the street from the Clermont Park for 27 years. I hear the noise from the games being played in the park on weekends and evenings. Twenty years ago, I was at the community meetings for the change for Kingstowne Park's active recreation to nearby parks in the community, including the ball fields at Clermont. And it was the Ridge View Estates Community homes located directly across Franconia Road from the park that were initially impacted by the sun glaring off the new fencing when Clermont Park was renovated for the ball fields.

My community involvement includes being appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Lee District's representative on EQAC 26 years, Lee District Land Use 30 years, and 12 years Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

I think the handling of this proposed change has not been a shining moment for the County and Park Staff. The way the July 25, 2019 meeting room was set up with all staff sitting around two round tables in the corners and their non-verbal body language did not give a good impression. The power point slides were not as complete and laid out as well as I think they could have been. The previous meetings' announcements may have met the legal requirements, but it is difficult to believe so many adjacent neighbors and park user did not receive announcements to the previous meetings until the Park Authority's announcement board was displayed for the July 25, 2019 meeting. From what I found, the September 11, 2018 meeting announcement for Clermont Elementary School was placed on Next Door the same day, September 11, which isn't much notice.

The 44-year history of the park is not usual for a community park. It's not yet been 20 years since the Community Task Force worked with the Park Authority to create the Conceptual Development Plan which included the restrictions against field and site lighting, permanent loudspeakers and a permanent concession stand. The Community Task Force was so concerned about these restrictions that the restrictions were included in the deed should the Board of Supervisors transfer the property to the Park Authority, which is what happened 7 years later. That was only 12 years ago.

I know the Park Authority is getting more requests for active recreation which is an attraction to living in Fairfax County. The lighting alone probably wouldn't be as big a problem as some may think. However, the Park Authority's wording is that "most likely the latest we would only ask for is 9:30." I understand the immediate neighbors concerns that the lights and games could be going on until 11:00 PM per the ordinance. And what's to keep the two soft ball fields in the front from also requesting lights. What's to keep these fields from being used for adult leagues or playoff games with buses coming to the parking lot. I can see complaints about the dust from the parking lot not being paved and then asking for it to be paved. The history of this park has shown that the immediate neighbors can't trust that this one change won't lead to more changes in the not too distant future. And the proposed changes aren't to make this a better park for the general community.

This park and this section of Franconia Road cannot handle extra traffic turning into and from the park at dusk and after dark. This is a two-lane road that is not well lit to see people, bicycles and vehicles on the road. People will not go to the crosswalk located further west from the entrance to the park. If fields were lit and games were being played, people including children will cross the road from the south side to go to the park to watch. There was a young girl killed crossing Franconia Road not far from this park entrance. If lighting this park is approved, as this is new lighting not being used in other parks, an exact size and type light on a pole should be brought and held in place for every location it is proposed to put a light. Do this at night, pre-announced so neighbors can see the actual light impact for each location.

If a turn lane can't be put in on Franconia Road at the park's entrance, at least put in a pedestrian crossing light AT the entrance to the park. These lights have been put in elsewhere including in Springfield on Backlick Road to improve safety for pedestrian crossing.

Do not put up walls to keep noise from the adjacent neighbors to the east and west as walls will channel more noise to the south across Franconia Road to the Ridge View Estates neighbors.

I do NOT support adding lights at Clermont Park. I am not against youth baseball. I'm not against adding lights to appropriate parks. I do not think Clermont Park is appropriate to add lights and late games.

8/25/2019

Lights

Neil Arnold

I live two blocks "as the crow flies" from Clermont Park.

I have learned in recent weeks of the plan to add lighting to Clermont Park. I am strongly opposed to this plan for several reasons:

1. The park was not originally intended to have lighting. My understanding is that when the park was established, it was agreed the park would not be lit. Adding lighting at this point would violate the original agreement and have a negative effect on the nighttime calm of the neighborhood.
2. The park has no buffer zone between the proposed lighting and the surrounding homes. The lighting and noise of nighttime ball games directly next to the surrounding homes would hinder the quiet enjoyment of our neighborhood that local homeowners are accustomed to.
3. Ballfield lighting is not appropriate in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The required intensity of the lighting to illuminate ballfields is too bright for the surrounding neighborhood. The lighting would be the equivalent of dropping a commercial parking lot into the middle of a neighborhood, and I doubt that zoning laws would allow that.

I know others in my community are opposed to this plan, and I feel the county government should strongly consider the neighborhood opposition when you make this decision.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

8/25/2019

Lights, Other

Richard Everett

I am a long-term (36 years) homeowner residing onand I am concerned about the proposed changes to Clermont Park. I remember the changes to the old soccer field when the baseball fields were constructed. We have noted the changes in traffic and people cutting across our backyards. We easily hear the cracks of the baseball bats and the cheers of the crowds from our decks.

Not that these changes are all bad – everyday life and activities are part of the common good. Nonetheless, we need assurances that our properties and our ways of life will not be adversely affected by the proposed changes. However, assurances involve trust between citizens and their government. This is the main issue for me.

If we cannot trust Fairfax to abide by their original promise not to install lights on the field, how can we trust any further promises Fairfax might make concerning field usage and nightly time limits? I understand that the lighting technologies have improved so that light pollution may not be the issue it once was, but traffic and noise remain, at a very minimum, irritants. Furthermore, note that Franconia Road is still two lanes in this area, compounding auto and pedestrian traffic issues.

Therefore, no matter how reasonable the proposed changes and limits being considered may be, if they can be swept away by some future vote, it represents a considerable disservice to the citizens who have fashioned their lives around this community. The desires of transient baseball players and their families – no matter how reasonable and sincere – should not take precedence over those of the people who actually live and raise families here.

I therefore request that Fairfax County abide by its earlier promise and not install the proposed lighting.

8/25/2019

Lights, Other

Eric Olson

I am in favor of the modest proposal put forth by Pioneer Baseball. The reasonable request by the league is to fill a void. It is nothing more and nothing less. Pioneer has provided quality baseball to the youth of this area for over 60 years. The false information being spread by those opposed is disappointing, and borderline despicable. I understand area residents being inquisitive and expressing concern about how the addition of lighted fields could impact them. But, their reactions are based on perceptions and fear, not reasonableness and facts. Two lighted fields that will be used primarily during the fall months, ending in November, on evenings ending at 9pm will NOT impact property values, wildlife, the gravel parking lot, trash accumulation, traffic, or any of the other fictional tales being spread on the internet. (The County's deer management program that culled the deer population last year in Clermont did more harm to the deer population than lighted fields ever would.) I respect the process being undertaken by the various branches of the county government. I'm concerned this will be a case of the "squeaky wheel" getting the attention. NIMBY is alive and well and it's a shame that fear stricken local residents choose to believe radical falsehoods over the fact that this issue is about extending the window kids can play baseball outside by a couple of hours. Please don't lose sight of the issues and facts.

8/25/2019

Environmental,

Richard and Jackie Watkins

Just recently it has come to our attention that you are considering making major changes to Clermont Park (major lighting, sound system, concession stand, and expanded parking) that will have a major negative impact on our community and the surrounding Ridge View area, not to mention significantly increased traffic on an already congested Franconia Road. I am absolutely appalled that this seems to have been done behind closed doors and without the general knowledge of the residents in this area. Local rumor has it that it is being pushed by an influential individual in our community for personal convenience (we hope that isn't true).

It is our understanding that when the ball fields were approved a deed restriction prohibiting the use of permanent lighting, sounds systems and concession stands due to the negative impact on the community and the surrounding wooded areas/wildlife. We most strongly oppose the removal of the deed restriction and will support whatever action is necessary to stop it.

Following are some of our concerns:

-Negative human impact on the peace and tranquility of this neighborhood in the immediate vicinity of Clermont Park. Significantly increased noise from loud speakers and super bright lights every night during the spring and summer until well after 11:00 PM. Where is the environmental impact study on the deleterious noise and lighting affecting our daily lives?

-Negative impact of increased traffic on an already congested 2 lane roadway. This was already a dangerous area before the current ball fields took over our neighborhood park, and now you are proposing to make it even more dangerous. Is there an impact study on the effects of increased traffic?

-Negative impact on greenspace and wildlife. Has an environmental impact study been done? It truly saddens us when we consider the loss of the wildlife due to implementing this proposal. Is this what you want for our neighborhood?

-Lower real estate value. Residential areas in the near vicinity with average home values ranging from \$500,000 to over \$900,000.00. Have you considered the real estate tax loss to Fairfax County when the property values plummet due to this monstrosity of lights, noise and traffic congestion? Would YOU buy a home here?

-We have Lee District Park... Why isn't it being used instead of putting it in a neighborhood park?

Considering the seriousness of the impact these changes will have on our personal lives and community, why weren't we notified in a more appropriate manner. We were advised by a concerned neighbor the first of August when he saw a small sign announcing a meeting in July, after which he passed the info on to others in the community. This appears to have been kept as low key as possible in order to push it through without any opposition. Is this the way you've been representing our community? I suggest we have another meeting so all concerned residents can have ample opportunity to be informed and respond to this issue. I hope you will not advance this proposal any further until all residents have equal opportunity to more fully address these issues and voice their concerns.

No to lights and noise! Save Clermont Park!

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Dennis Knapp

Please consider adding lights to the Clermont Park softball fields as well. The girls don't have enough lighted fields in the county to begin with.

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Lindsey Olson

Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:

Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:

Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:

Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

I fully support the plan to add lights to two of the fields at Clermont Park. For children of a certain age, there are not enough local fields with lights for them to utilize as the days get shorter and it gets darker earlier. We are an active baseball family and think that Pioneer is a wonderful league for many reasons. We do not wish to join another league that is farther away just so the kids can use fields with lights. I do not believe that having lights on the fields until 9PM would impact neighbors as much as they fear it will. With traffic being what it is in this area, it's nearly impossible for parents to get their children to practice by 5:30 in the fall which limits the kids' ability to play. For Pioneer to compete with other leagues in the area, the kids need time to practice. In order to have worthwhile practices, they realistically need to add lights to a few fields. It's as simple as that. This does not need to be a dramatic debate about wildlife, loud speakers, bathrooms, concession stands and whatever else has been brought up by the opponents to this proposal. The misinformation being spread whether intentionally or unintentionally is astounding. We are simply hoping for the children to get a few more hours of baseball in here and there. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback!

8/25/2019

Environmental,

Roland F. Dreist Jr

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the lighting of the ball fields and parking lot at Clermont Park. I am an abutting landowner to Clermont Park and a longtime resident of Fairfax County. I live with my wife at 5736 Cannon Lane. We live in the same house she grew up in. I grew up in Rose Hill and we both attended Elementary school at Rose Hill, Middle school at Mark Twain, and High school at Edison. Almost our entire life has been as residents of Fairfax County. I am opposed the lighting on a number of levels.

First we were approached nearly 20 years ago concerning the conversion of the site from a school site to a park site and additional development. We were told that if we would support the development of the site with a more formal parking area and 4 ball fields the land would be transferred to the park authority. The development required the taking of additional wooded area for the rear two fields. While my wife and I had some concerns at the time we supported the project with the assurance that there would be a deed restrictive covenant placed on the land to prevent lighting, permanent concession area, and sound systems.

Based on those promises we supported the change. As a result of the clearing and development we can hear the "cling" of the aluminum bats, the roars of the crowd during games, and the added noise of vehicles. But this is just during daylight hours. We have gotten used to this and figured it was worth the trade. We are not opposed to little league baseball; we have a grandson who plays on a little league team. Clermont is I believe a neighborhood park and as such, it should function during normal daylight hours. It is not only ballfields, but close to 30 acres of wooded conservations area with trails and a wide variety of flora and fauna.

If there is need for more fields, and I'm not sure that is true, the use of lighting to accomplish the availability of more field time should be done at a larger park setting where neighbors would be less impacted. Lee District Park might be an alternative. I again am not sure that other sites were considered. It seems that this choice was made by the Pioneer Baseball League. To light the Clermont Park fields would I believe, have a negative impact. While at the July 25th meeting we were told that the lighting would on be to 9:30pm, the zoning ordinance allows lighting until 11:00 pm. If this is another promise that can be changed or modified," I'm not biting". With the addition of electricity to the site, I'm not so sure that the rest won't follow, concession stands, public address systems and eventually, restrooms. All this will bring more trash, more traffic, more noise and less of what I was promised wouldn't happen years ago.

The whole process seems less than transparent and done at the request of a small group. We the neighbors are the ones who would suffer the consequences of these changes, while requestors "ride off into the sunset". In this case, it would be much later than that. It was reported that there were several previous meetings regarding this change. The property owners along Cannon Lane are not part of a HOA and as a result, received no notification of the two previous discussions. I did not know that membership in a HOA was a requirement for notification. If so why did we receive a postcard for a notice for the July 25th meeting?

Finally the wildlife, while they have no choice in the matter, they should be considered as well. The later hours would have a negative impact on nocturnal birds and animals as well as those who would sleep during the non-daylight hours. While as it was explained in the July 25th meeting that the downward angle would prevent spread in simple terms, it does not mean the lighting cannot be seen through the darkness of the conservation area, or for that matter, my back yard. The additional noise, potential litter and traffic will certainly have a negative impact on the habitat of the wildlife.

Again, all I am asking is that you honor the agreement I thought we had when you recorded the deed in 2007.

8/25/2019

Lights

S. Colon

I am an 18 year resident of the Loft Ridge townhouse community whose home is directly adjacent to Clermont Park and I vehemently oppose the lighting of the park.

I fell in love with this community and purchased my house because of the close proximity to to the park, where I can enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the nature just outside my door. I often sit on my deck in the evenings, enjoying the peacefulness, the sounds of the crickets, watching the fireflies or looking up at the stars in a clear moonlit sky. I chose this home with the knowledge that the park and it's abundant nature behind me would go unchanged.

When more land was cleared to accommodate the back baseball playing fields, I lamented the now thinned tree line from my house which also resulted in less of a sound barrier from the cheers and cracking bats. Now, to consider lighting the fields and parking lot is just too much. The extended noise and the traffic that come along with the lights would destroy the coziness of our community and affect it's value. We would not only lose our natural night sky but it would also no doubt disrupt our natural wildlife, and there is plenty.

Please do not infringe upon our rights as homeowners and taxpayers in this community. No to the lighting of Clermont Park.

8/25/2019

Lights

Alicia Roman

I'm a resident in the Ridge View Estates neighborhood across from Clermont Park. There has been a lot of talk about the proposed lighting to be put into the park to extend the use into evening hours. While I sympathize with the leagues in their need for lit ball fields, I have serious concerns about the possible change in rules that it be allowed to be lit until 11pm. I realize that Pioneer Little League has said they will be finished with the fields by 9pm, but if the new documents permit until 11, it could always be a possibility. I would strongly prefer for the new documentation to not allow lighting after 9pm at the latest, to avoid infringing on the local neighborhoods, wildlife, as well as the kids playing ball. This would seem a compromise between the two factions. On weekdays especially, there should be evening time limits earlier than 11pm, as these kids need their sleep & time to wind down after school, as well as the local residents.

8/25/2019

Lights

Amanda Issac

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other

I support this, as it encourages healthy activity and active use of our community spaces even during the fall season when daylight is limited. In our families previous experience with fall ball, the lack of lighted fields and thus the limited time between end of school, the commute to the field, and then dusk, meant it was stressful and difficult to get in meaningful activity before the daylight ran out. Adding lights at Clermont Park would, during the fall season, make it possible for local youth to safely engage in healthy activity after school, and promote their overall well-being. It would also ensure that Clermont Park remains a vibrant, safe, actively used part of the community through all seasons.

8/25/2019

Environmental,

Andrew Devlin

As a resident located at Alexandria, VA 22310 I was surprised to read recently that FCPA will change the ordinance laws associated with Clermont Park without informing its residents. I only heard about this through a flyer in my mail box from a group of concerned residents .

I am very disappointed that there hasn't been better public education about this proposal which will change an agreement which Fairfax County agreed to when it excluded lighting, permanent concession stands and loudspeakers back in 2000.

I would have expected that by changing an ordinance you would have communicated to all residents the changes, but as ,mentioned I have received nothing from FCPA.

Before this is enacted, please perform an impact study to tell residents how it will affect their lives (traffic, noise, pollution) , wildlife impacts - given the adjacent wildlife protected area and house values. Franconia road is already congested and adding to it won't help the traffic issues.

We don't need more traffic congestion on Franconia.

I look froward to your response and seeing the impact studies you have performed.

8/25/2019

Environmental,

Pat Van Slyke

I write as someone who has lived in the townhouse development adjacent to the park since December of 1995. I am requesting that the County turn down this request for several reasons:

- Those most affected by the proposed change should have received notice of this proposal in its early stages, not just before a decision is to be made. This leaves those of us living here at a disadvantage, and sets a terrible precedent.
- Are restrictions placed on property within the county only meaningful as long as no one wants a change?
- Why are these lighted baseball fields not planned for Lee District Park, the most logical location, and one that already contains lighted fields for other sports? Other amenities, such as bathrooms, are also available.
- I moved here due to the wooded spaces throughout the community that provide habitat for local wildlife, rare in this area of Fairfax County. Where are these animals to go when their habitat is "invaded."
- I have no doubt that if this is approved, there WILL be another proposal for these ball fields, and then another... sound system, bathrooms, concession stand, lighting later into the evening. Mind the metaphor of the camel's nose under the tent.
- Finally, I remember the tragic death of a nine year old girl trying to cross Franconia Road at Cannon Lane, just down the road.

8/25/2019

Lights

Lydia Larimore

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

With the overall decline in youth sports due to the electronics-age, why not provide a facility with lights to bring back the excitement to youth sports? This is a simple solution. When kids have a place to go to feel safe, play sports, and make friends, they have less time and interest to get into trouble. Parents will be able to get their kids to practice and games on time, and return home in a timely manner for homework, dinner and preparation of school/work the next day.

8/25/2019

Lights

Ethan Larimore

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other
Clermont has great fields, but no lights. Makes no sense. Like having a car with no A/C for the summer. Looks good, usable, but limited for its users.

8/25/2019

Environmental,

Elizabeth Ogden

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your plan to add lighting to Clermont Park, effectively converting it from a daytime park to a park used after dark.

My primary concerns are:

1. Additional noise after dark as a result of activity in the park. This will involve vehicles as well as people attending after dark activities.
2. The probable increase in traffic as a result of groups of people (and their vehicles) using the park after dark.
3. The effect that night lighting will have on the wildlife that inhabits the park and the immediate surrounding area. Night lighting will likely affect eating habits. There already is precious little land remaining in Fairfax County where deer, opossum, rabbits, and other wildlife have a place to rest and live that is not lit up after dark.
4. There are at least 100 homes less than 1,000 feet away from the park boundaries. The lighting and the noise after dark will be a very unwelcome change for these tax-paying residents of Fairfax County.

I ask that you consider these facts when deciding to make such a significant change to this wonderful day park.

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Chrystal

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields.

I also feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Molly Abromavage

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/25/2019

Environmental,

Owen Clarke

I have worked with a group of Clermont Park area neighbors over the past four weeks that, like me, were only recently made aware of FCPA's plan to operate Clermont Park at night for the benefit of Pioneer League members. Many of us would not even be aware of the plan were it not for a neighbor's posting on Nextdoor two days prior to FCPA's July 25th lighting plan presentation. We were stunned to learn that project planning started over a year earlier. Other residents who attended the public session were of the same mind and organized to reach out to the 500 homes and residents located near Clermont Park. Significant discussion among residents and investigation of FCPA project proceedings to date reveals the following:

1. There is overwhelming opposition to night operations in Clermont Park by nearby residents.

Email responses to FCPA, neighbor organized meetings, Nextdoor postings, and 200-300 resident petition signatures (as of this letter) clearly signify community opposition to night operations in the Park. During the petition drive, exactly zero local residents stated that the proposed amendment is a good idea.

2. Since 2017, community outreach by FCPA to the residents most affected by the proposed lighting plan has failed.

FCPA effectively reaches out to over 1 million residents in Fairfax County at least quarterly through direct mailing of Parktakes Magazine, demonstrating its ability to reach affected residents with ZIP and Zip+4 Code mailings. When County leaders want to reach all constituents with their accomplishments, they send mail.

On this issue, we are challenged with finding past communications by FCPA that can reasonably be described as public outreach. As an example, the October 2018 Loftridge HOA board meeting outreach session quoted by FCPA was attended by six board members and only four residents! The majority of residents near the Park, including my neighborhood, were simply not included in any public outreach. For another meeting in Sept 11, 2018, Supervisor McKay's office sent out a notice via Nextdoor that received two responses.

Likewise, public outreach for the July 25th lighting plan session consisted of minimal outreach. A wooden sign posted near the Park entrance on Franconia Rd is wholly ineffective as a communication mechanism for affected residents and an announcement embedded in FCPA's website posting a few days before the meeting can hardly be called outreach.

Were it not for Nextdoor and a neighbor's posting, the July 25th session would have been attended by far fewer residents aside from the well informed Pioneer League officials.

We trust representatives of Fairfax County to inform us of significant impacts to our daily lives and residences and feel let down on this planning process. If it's important enough to reach out to a single affected citizen then it's important enough to reach all affected citizens. US Mail works.

3. There appears to be no documented business case for night operation of this park.

There is no publicly available business case for Clermont Park lighting. The records publicly available indicate no quantification of need, e.g. hours of play time needed or available league schedules across all available fields. There is no apparent analysis of alternatives such as the use of other FCPA fields, more efficient scheduling, or current field configuration changes to justify the large expense and perpetual local community interruption.

Per FCPA's recent board meeting notes: "Community athletic groups have expressed a need for additional playing time on the diamond field facilities and proposed lighting the ninety-foot diamond and one of the sixty-foot diamonds as well as the parking area." There is simply no credible evidence for this need. Without a documented and rational business case, it appears as though FCPA is further customizing the Park for a single user at the expense of local residents.

4. FCPA has apparently not applied any critical thinking to the impact on local residents.

In FCPA's own studies and annual report updates confirm the ongoing issues of athletic field use noise and light pollution on nearby residents' quality life. With hundreds of parks under its authority, it is well aware of the impact of various projects on home values adjacent to its parks. As part of its core mission, FCPA is also well versed in lighting project impacts to wildlife in protected areas.

With this knowledge readily available, FCPA has, to date, not conducted impact assessments on Clermont Park residents' quality of life, home values or resource protection zone wildlife.

5. FCPA has apparently not given credence to previous community-based planning.

In 2000, Supervisor Dana Kaufmann formed a Park Master Plan revision community task force that issued specific decisions including daylight limitations on Park activity and other

noise restrictions. As stated, the design configuration compromised setbacks of fields and parking from Franconia Rd and side borders in exchange for daylight only use. It appears as though FCPA is overruling those decisions based merely on the verbally expressed need of the ball field's single user. Local community is not involved in current planning and is limited to reacting to expressed needs submitted by non-local park users.

6. Night operation of Clermont including the noise, artificial lighting, parked cars, and traffic will negatively affect the quality of life near the park.

This is no doubt the most popular rationale for opposing night operations in Clermont Park. Residents living near the park hear the noise of baseball play almost every weekday night between April and November and all day on Saturdays. Games and/or practices have been recently played on Sundays as well. We hear baseball nearly every day.

After sunset, the park is quiet and serene and it fades into darkness. Based on animal tracks, wildlife roams the unfenced open spaces.

Residents are strongly opposed to hearing yet more baseball noise nightly when we have a right to enjoy peace and quiet in the neighborhoods surrounding the Park. Residents are strongly opposed to 190,000 ft² of artificial lighting that will efficiently light up a parking lot full of cars, walkways, and ball fields that extends the full East/West width of the park.

There is simply no setback to shield residents from the large-scale semi industrial lighting and corresponding noise from ball field crowds.

Traffic is already dangerous on Franconia Rd where speed limits are rarely followed. As unfortunate evidence; a few years ago two young girls crossing Franconia Rd on bikes 200 feet from the Park entrance were struck by a car. One was injured and the other died.

7. Home values near the Park will be negatively affected.

Based on studies, conversation with realtors and common sense, night operation in the Park will reduce home values of residents. There are 100+ homes within the first 1,000 feet of the park collectively assessed by Fairfax County at \$50+ million that will see reduced home valuation due to the constant exposure to night time noise, park traffic and lighting.

FCPA knows well that ball field and parking lot night lighting belongs in District, County Wide, or Regional Parks that have the capacity and ample setbacks to host night operations.

Clermont Park is embedded in a residential neighborhood and is simply not designed for lighting and night operation given its compromised setbacks. Studies (see footnotes)

clearly show that park operations misaligned with park configurations leads to decreased home values of nearby residences.

8. The present design of Clermont Park does not meet the needs of the local community.

Clermont Park is a Local Park under the 2005 FCPA park classification system. "Local Parks serve surrounding neighborhoods and communities and offer a variety of local-serving recreation opportunities, such as playgrounds, trails, athletic facilities, picnic areas and natural areas. Typically these parks are designed to serve up to a 3 mile radius depending on the facilities and can range from 2 to 50 acres in size"

Further, FCPA Great Parks – 2011 Strategies: RH-SD-5 states: "Consider revising the master plan for Clermont Park to reflect land acquisition since 1975. Evaluate development of new recreational facilities in areas outside of existing conservation easements to meet the needs of Rose Hill residents."

In practice, current Park features make it unusable by adjoining residents. See APPENDIX

Collected Recommendations:

1. Maintain the deed restriction limiting Clermont Park use to daylight hours.

2. Create a community task force for Master Plan revisions with local resident representation that reflects the purpose of Local Parks.

3. Future public outreach on Clermont Park Master Planning should include timely mailings to affected residents via Zip + 4 Coding on public sessions and comment periods – because it works. This ensures that all affected residents are informed equally.

Footnotes:

"Assessing the Effect of Parks on Surrounding Property Values Using Hedonic Models and Multilevel Models", August 2016, I-Hui Lin, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Neighborhood Parks and Residential Property Values in Greenville, South Carolina", Journal of Agriculture and Applied Analytics,(December 2001):487-492, Molly Espey and Kwame Owusu-Edusei, Southern Agricultural Economics Association

"The Impact of Parks and Open Space On Property Values and the Property Tax Base", 2000, John L. Crompton - See POTENTIAL NEGATIVE INFLUENCES OF PARKS ON PROPERTY VALUES

"The Economic Impact of Pocket Parks on Residential Property values": Case study by Mbaka Mourine Mwende, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater December 2018

Appendix

Clermont Park Features: (Per FCPA website)

TrailsNoDog ParkNoNature CenterNo

PlaygroundNoPicnic Shelters/tableNoEquestrian No

Rectangle FieldsNoGolfNoDisc GolfNo

Tennis CourtsNoSkate ParkNoGarden PlotsNo

Basketball CourtsNoSand Volleyball CourtsNoRec CenterNo

Diamond Fields1 Grassed Unlit 90 Foot Field; 1 Grassed Unlit 60 Foot Field & 2 Skinned Unlit 60 Foot Fields

Clermont Park services only baseball users. Field configuration and location are most conducive to organized league play. Fields are empty outside of league use.

Park improvements have been limited to baseball fields utilized by Pioneer Youth baseball league and include:

- Installation of bull pens
- Batting cages
- Electronic scoreboards.
- Commercial sponsorship banners on field fences

Over the last decade, there have been no Park improvement considerations to make it useful for local residents.

8/25/2019

Lights, Other

Laura Clarke

I live 510 feet from Clermont Park and am opposed to FCPA's lighting plan and continuing support for use of the Park outside its intended purpose.

Clermont Park is a Local Park under the 2005 FCPA park classification system and Local Parks are to be designed to serve residents within a 3 mile radius of the Park. Further, FCPA's own Great Parks strategy recommends Master Plan revisions to serve the needs of Rose Hill residents.

The park configuration as a baseball only facility does not meet any local resident needs. The fields were previously accessible for informal games of soccer, Frisbee, or touch football by the local neighborhoods. That enjoyment has given way to watching non-local residents use the fields for organized league baseball nearly every day for six months of the year and then a dormant field for six months.

FCPA's ongoing support to the single user of the two fields has become beyond reasonable. Grant awards for bull pens, batting cages and most recently electronic scoreboards were ample but now FCPA is planning to support another field customization project that negatively impacts local residents, will cost taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars, and continues to go against Clermont Park's purpose to serve local residents.

Per FCPA's own policies, Clermont Park Master Planning needs to support local residents!

I strongly support ending the current lighting plan and forming a community task force to thoughtfully repurpose the Park before spending more taxpayer money. I look forward to hearing about progress in this direction and am willing to support it as requested.

8/25/2019

Lights, Traffic

Greg Orehowsky

I support the addition of lights at Clermont Park. When my son began playing there in 2011, there was 4 teams in the league. The league has grown and I know other alternatives were pursued.

The light at both fields will be only used early spring and late fall. 10 year olds in the 60 foot fold will not be playing by 10:00, certainly

The 70/90 foot field will probably get more use and will effect Loftridge, where I live more. Again if the field is limited to Pioneer, I don't believe the games will go beyond 10:00, like at Beulah fields.

The traffic of possible two games should not be an issue

8/25/2019

Lights, Traffic

Jill and Rob Cassube

I am writing to request that Clermont Park REMAIN a daylight only facility. I live ON Franconia road, just minutes away, and I already have a difficult time safely getting out of my own driveway due to the high volume of traffic on Franconia. Adding more events to the small park down the road (at night) will only add to the traffic and the danger of this road. The hazard applies to both families in cars and children riding their bikes to and from events at the fields. If you recall, it wasn't 10 years ago our neighborhood lost a little girl on a bike crossing Franconia just up the street from the park. Would hate to see that happen again!!!

There are already other facilities in Fairfax country that can accommodate night play, and this small park, situated in the middle of our neighborhood, does not need more activity. I understand the original intent was to not install lights, I think Fairfax county should stick to their original plan.

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Bob and Cheryl Flynn

Good afternoon! We are Bob and Cheryl Flynn, and our daughter Lauren, is a 14 year old softball player. We live near Edison High School, and have been using the fields in the area for about 6 years.

We understand that consideration is being give to add lights to the baseball fields at Clermont Park. There are hundreds of families in the area, whose girls play softball, and we would ask that you also add lights to the softball fields at Clermont Park. It is something that we have desperately needed around here for a very long time.

Families are watching this closely, and we just wanted to add our voices to this effort.

Thank you very much in advance.

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Meghan Wright

I would like to express my support for amending the Clermont Park Master Plan to include lighting of the athletic fields. However, I feel strongly that the two softball fields – fields 2 and 3 – should also be included. There are very few Park Authority youth softball fields, especially in the southern part of the county. There are none in Lee District that are available for community use every day in the spring, which is our primary season. Adding two lighted softball fields at Clermont Park would provide much improved opportunity for girls to play and practice softball.

8/25/2019

Lights, Softball

Anna Pruett Ellis

When updating the Clermont park master plan, please allow for adding lights to all 4 softball and baseball fields. This would be a great future opportunity to increase field access to residents through positive, affordable, inclusive youth sports activities with minimal impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. Including both the softball and baseball fields would ensure improved access to both girls and boys.

My daughter has played softball through NVGSA since 2012, and has had scheduled practices at Claremont periodically throughout our time with the league. It is a nice, easy to access facility, and would benefit from increased opportunities for later practice and game times if lights could be added in the future.

I have been a fairfax county resident since 2002, and lived in lee district until 2012. I and my family have benefited from the extensive county parks fields, rec centers, camps and other activities. I truly appreciate the parks and services and am proud to be a fairfax county resident.

Thank you for your consideration.

8/25/2019

Lights, Other

Arthur Lyell Rushton, III

– We are writing as two voters in Fairfax County who live in Lee District close to Clermont Park and who are, along with many of our neighbors, vehemently opposed to the proposal to light Clermont Park at night. We hope this proposal will be defeated and that the Park will remain as it was intended from the beginning – a place for games and recreation in the daytime.

As recently as March 2017, the Board of Supervisors Deed Transfer of the Clermont Park Property contained night lighting restrictions. This restriction was supposed to “run with the land in perpetuity” to preserve the natural state of the park and protect our neighborhoods from noise and light pollution.

We have lived in this neighborhood for almost 35 years now (Loftridge) and continue to live here for the peace and tranquility the neighborhood provides. The proposed advent of night time lighting would undoubtedly mean significant noise and night time activity from people who would not normally frequent our neighborhood. It is likely it would result in an increase in crime in a community that has been blessedly lucky to have little of it. We believe it would negatively affect the property values of our homes and those of our neighbors.

We have talked to a number of our neighbors, all of whom oppose this proposal. We hope you will NOT permit the proposal for night time lighting for Clermont Park to move forward. We are not only registered voters in Fairfax County, but we DO vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

8/23/2019

Lights, Other

Gloria Kupstas

I oppose further development of Clermont Park and the proposed changes to the Master Plan and use restrictions (deed restriction. I have seen Clermont Park change from a beautiful multi-purpose grassy field used by the community for a variety of activities (e.g. soccer, golf practice, kite flying, football, ball games, yoga, exercising, picnics, etc) to a single-purpose ballpark enclosed in chain-link fences requiring reservations for use. I know of homeowners who sold their homes when they learned of the ballpark construction. We all know home values depreciate when situated next to ballparks rather than grassy or wooded parkland. As a tax payer, I do not want to pay for something that lowers home values!

The proposed modification of the Master Plan and the deed restriction would further encroach upon our communities whose main amenity is the quietness and beauty of the natural surroundings including the wooded areas.

The proposed modification of the Master Plan and deed restrictions, would:

- a) Increase noise pollution levels and noise duration by holding ballgames day and night. This will disturb/annoy the communities and wildlife in the area and introduce sound in areas not subjected to it previously, including the County-designated Resource Protection Zone.
- b) Increase light pollution with new lighting and score boards by holding games in evening/night. This will introduce light pollution in the communities and to wildlife not subjected to it previously, including the County-designated Resource Protection Zone.
- c) Increase sanitation and safety issues from ballgames held into the night and increase loitering.
- e) Increase traffic by holding games day and night.

Lee District REC has the space for more ball fields, and has preexisting ball fields, parking lots, and bathrooms. It is already zoned for lights and ballfields. Lee District REC should be the receiver for the proposed lighting and any other ballpark additions!

Our communities do not need or want the proposed modification of the Master Plan and deed restrictions at Clermont Park

8/23/2019

Lights, Other

Mariala Rosales

I'm writing to say that I do not agree on the installation of lights at Clermont Park. I know it's with a good intention and purpose to improve the social community but it will affect many other people around it negatively.

I just purchased a home in the area and that was one of the main things that I liked. It feels so peaceful to walk around it or just drive next to it. We all live in a very busy area and deal with city life and traffic. Imagine how nice it feels to come home and feel at peace every day. Please don't take that away from people. We are just humans and it's our nature to want to feel at peace at the end of the day.

I'm sure you want to improve your community and not want to run people away to other areas. If the house value decreases then less tax income for the county. It's your choice how you want to impact the community and a beautiful area in the middle of a residential area. I'm sure that money allocated to that project can be used in other things that will impact in a more positive way the community.

8/23/2019

Lights

Jessica Dick

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

8/23/2019

Lights

Mai linh Phan

Please no lights in Clermont park! Thanks

8/23/2019

Lights

Jeanette Dowdy

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

8/23/2019

Lights

Betsy Jean Yakes

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other

I have read all the back and forth between Pioneer and those that live nearby. I can understand that residents within the area would potentially be concerned about light pollution, excess noise, and challenges with parking/traffic. To this end, I feel Pioneer and Fairfax County have arrived at appropriate plans to minimize these potential adverse effects including the use of LED lighting only during standard hours while having routine baseball events. I am very enthusiastic for the opportunity for the fields to be a safer and a better recreation facility for members of Fairfax County.

8/23/2019

Lights, Other

David Shirley

I have learned that lighting for the Clermont Park baseball fields has be proposed.?? I oppose this lighting action for several reasons.

The original quit claim deed prohibited installation of lighting "in perpetuity", it seems to me that allowing it now would violate?? the bond of trust between the then owner and the park authority.

Installing lights would have a detrimental impact on peace and tranquility the nearby home now enjoy.

Lighting the park at night will adversely affect the nearby property values.

Baseball is best enjoyed under natural sunlight, as it has been for years.

Thank for considering my view point.

8/23/2019

Lights

Michele Buzbee

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

8/23/2019

Lights

N. Dodson

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

8/23/2019

Lights

Mark Archer

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

8/23/2019

Lights

Bailey, Patrick and Libby O'Connell

I'm voicing my opinion on behalf of our 10-year daughter Libby. And unfortunately. Our home's location is at the end of Gingham Court. Which is the worst location of all the townhouses in Loft Ridge. Our townhouse faces the ballpark fields. And Libby's bedroom windows face that direction also. I've read a few pros and con emails of fellow residents of Loft Ridge regarding the park lights. And what I've read recently is that the lights are going up. If you like or not.

What I need from both of you is your reassurance. Reassure us that the lights will never be on after 9:30 pm on a weekday night. As you both know a good night sleep is so important for a child's well-being. Please. If you can. Do not allow games to be played after 9:30 on school nights or Sunday nights. Yet we are flexible to have games to be played after 9:30 on Friday and Saturday nights.

And that's all we ask.

8/23/2019

Lights

Sarahbeth Roeschlein

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other
Would be wonderful if this passes! Qill open up so many doors to provide safe recreation for all!

8/23/2019

Lights

Tracy Meyer

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

Kids? baseball programs create healthy, disciplined, hardworking citizens of the future. Better on the field than on the phone, or worse. We need lights at Clermont to provide our children with a safe place to play a healthy and challenging sport.

8/23/2019

Lights

Barbara Leanne Marshall

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other
Youth Baseball fields in the Alexandria area are few. The fields that are available have to be shared with adult leagues that have unfairly dominated the fields over the years. There is absolutely no reason why Clermont Fields should not have lights. There will be no increased noise or nuisance of bright lights to any of the neighbors.

8/23/2019

Lights

Derek Tate

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other

Lighting at Clermont will allow our children a safe, lighted area to practice team sports. Lighting at Clermont will encourage increased participation in youth sports (which improves the health and well-being of our children, including at-risk populations). Keeping kids involved in youth sports requires an investment by our county and a commitment by our parents and coaches. The average child today spends less than three years playing a sport, quitting by age 11, most often because the sport just isn't fun anymore. One of the challenges we have in youth baseball is having to truncate practices because of lack of lighting. The kids want to keep playing, and rushing in our traffic to get to an early practice immediately after school and then rushing to get meaningful work in before the sun goes down is...not fun.

Please consider this worthwhile investment in our youth and community!

8/23/2019

Lights

Paul Doell

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other
With growing concern about the obesity epidemic in our county, as well as the country, we should be doing everything possible to encourage the use of outdoor space for sports programs which increase the ability of that space to be used more. The more the space is used the more kids are active in playing games, getting out to move and lead healthier lives.

From a security standpoint, more lighting is almost always more advisable than less lighting. More public use of this public space will discourage the use of the space for loitering, drug use, or other nefarious activities.

8/23/2019

Lights

Brendan Mulvaney

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

We support installing the lights at Clermont field, this will provide an added benefit to county residents and allow us to have greater and safer use of the facilities for minimal cost and impact.

8/23/2019

Lights

Ashley Wilson

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #2:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Other

I am surprised that not MORE fields have light and or/turf considering our population, comparative wealth and engaged community members. My family is in full support of the changes as Youth sports makes better communities. Let's keep our kids busy playing.

8/23/2019

Lights

Will Gustafson

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Other

I am a lifelong Fairfax County resident, 45 years, and have seen the shift in field space and utilization from baseball to soccer at a disproportionate rate. New soccer fields are being constructed, and having lights installed, and maintained throughout the county while baseball/softball field maintenance languishes. This lack of maintenance and funding represents an unintentional bias which creates a downward spiral as it skews utilization rates in the favor of other sports, making fields available later for practices and games, which is more convenient for families, which drives registrations, which makes it appear that those investments are justifiable. Adding lights to fields at Clermont (and other locations) will allow for greater utilization into the evening which will make getting games and practices in more feasible without having to stop at dusk because of dangerous conditions as you can't see the ball. As was said in the famous baseball movie Field of Dreams, "if you build it, they will come."

I support the addition of lights on the baseball fields at Clermont and other county fields.

8/23/2019

Lights, Other

Roberta Cook

I am a homeowner who has been living within 1/4 mile of Clermont Park for 30+ years. I strongly oppose the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)'s proposal to remove the restrictive covenant on the deed of the Clermont Park property prohibiting the lighting of this park. This restriction was placed on the deed to protect our quiet, residential neighborhood from the undesirable effects of lighting and extended nighttime use of this park. It was intended to provide that protection in perpetuity.

The proposal now to light Clermont Park for extended nighttime use is particularly troublesome because the park was not designed for lighting in the Master Plan. Lee District Rec Center and other parks designed for potential night lighting have over 500 feet of setback and trees between them and local residential areas. No similar protection is provided for homeowners in the vicinity of Clermont Park. Unlike those other parks, Clermont Park is not set back from Franconia Road and surrounding homes.

I oppose the FCPA's proposal because it will unfairly deprive me and all residents living in proximity to the park of the quiet enjoyment of our homes and property. Specifically:

-- It will result in a brightly lit area of more than 190,000 square feet being set into the middle of an exclusively residential neighborhood.

-- It will subject homeowners and residents to the substantial noise associated with ball games late into the night, seven days a week, from April to November. Anyone who has ever had the misfortune to live near a lighted park or community pool knows how far the noise of an excited crowd carries at night and how loud it is.

-- It will extend the existing traffic congestion on Franconia Road later into the night, together with the noise and safety issues associated with cars pulling into and out of the park for various practices and games throughout the evening.

-- The bright lights and nighttime noise also threatens the well-being of wildlife living in the wooded area that abuts the proposed lighted field areas. Bright lights and noise disrupt animals' normal nocturnal habits and increase stress on the animal population. This wooded area --a 40 acre designated Resource Protection Zone -- has been a valued asset of our neighborhood used and enjoyed by area residents for decades, and its protection is important to me.

Last, but certainly not least, the many negative impacts of this ill-conceived proposal will unfairly deprive me and all homeowners living in proximity to Clermont Park of the full value of our property.

The inevitable result of imposing the bright lights, crowd noise and traffic congestion of late night baseball on our presently quiet- after-dark neighborhood will be to significantly reduce the desirability of our homes and to depress their market value.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you not to break trust with residents in the Clermont Park area by removing the restrictive covenant prohibiting lighting of Clermont Park. Do not permit lighting to be installed in Clermont Park.

8/23/2019

Lights

Ronald Kobus

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Support Reason #2:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other
Lights allow for a safer environment and to be frank, this is Fairfax County, the fields should have lights.

8/23/2019

Lights

Carol Kocot

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #2:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

8/23/2019

Lights

Leslie Kobus

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

8/23/2019

Jennifer Ellet

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

I support the Clermont Park Master plan changes to add lights to two fields. Both of my children play Pioneer and as a two-working parent family find fall ball challenging as practices get moved up to 5 or 5:30 to get in practice time as we loose light. It's very challenging for us to get our kids to practice but I think that playing sports is very important. Adding lights would be so helpful in the fall to be able to have a full practice starting at 6 when we are losing light and increases the use of our public parkland

8/23/2019

Lights

Matt Johnson

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Allows Pioneer Baseball more usable time on the fields.

Support Reason #3:
Park Authority Investment consistent with expectations.

Other

Although I do not live adjacent to the Clermont fields, I do live near the Hayfield Secondary athletic complex which has lights in use to allow for extended utilization of existing facilities w/o the added expense or environmental impacts of creating new or additional facilities. The lights are turned off at a reasonable hour and I feel there is a fair balance between public/private use and enjoyment of the respective properties.

Youth baseball and softball are staples of Fairfax County recreation and I'd like to see expanded access to participation through a moderate and reasonable infrastructure investment that I believe will have a nominal impact on private property owners.

8/23/2019

Lights

David Bender

I:
Support the Proposed Changes to Clermont Park's Master Plan

Support Reason #1:
Allows my kids to utilize resources in the county better.

Support Reason #2:
Better balance of active recreation and passive recreation.

Support Reason #3:
Lights provide a safer environment for youth baseball at dusk.

Other

Adding lights at Clermont will help ensure that all league games are played. In recent seasons weather conditions have forced the cancellation of games, which weren't able to be made up. With the opportunity to schedule and make up games at night, teams will be able to get all of their games in. Adding lights to the softball fields would provide opportunity for adult recreation as well.

8/14/2019

Lights

Jo Moyer

Oppsed to lights

8/26/2019

Lights

David L President Loftridge HOA

Board is not taking a position on the lights. Would like to have further information meetings with the FCPA and the local residents.

8/26/2019

Lights, Traffic

Shirley Wager

Opposed to lights at Clermont
concerned about traffic and parking

8/24/2019

Environmental,

Daniel Jones

opposed to lights due to
Noise
light
traffic
value of home

8/20/2019

Lights

Conner Chan, 12

My family and I have been part of Pioneer for years now and we are thankful for having a decent baseball complex to play, practice and have fun at. Baseball is really important to us and we would love to have lights as a nice addition to a place I call my second home.

I think all kids enjoy playing under the lights, including me. When you get the chance to play with lights it makes everyone just have so much fun. Games won't have to get cancelled because of the dark because there are lights. All the big youth programs around here have lights like Central Springfield.

Lights would let our league enjoy baseball a little bit more and we would really appreciate it if we got lights.