



To: Members, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd #300, Arlington, VA 22201
&
Members, Arlington County School Board
1426 N Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22207

From: Arlington Heights Civic Association

Date: November 18, 2014

Subject: Civic Resolution in Support of Park Preservation and Community Planning

Arlington's commitment to citizen-based planning is embodied in the "Arlington Way". This commitment to embrace a long-term, shared vision for our community's future has allowed Arlington to avoid the mistake of considering short-sighted, near-term solutions for the sake of expediency. The Arlington Heights Civic Association wishes to impress upon the County Board the need to consider any use of the 26 acres of community space available at the Thomas Jefferson site within a comprehensive plan. Accordingly, the members of the Arlington Heights Civic Association unanimously passed the following resolution at our quarterly meeting on November 12, 2014. This vote followed several months of discussion, including two special community meetings, which disseminated information from six Thomas Jefferson Working Group meetings, and it was taken after the resolution had been publicized in our neighborhood newsletter, which is distributed to all households within the Arlington Heights Civic Association boundaries.

Arlington Heights Civic Association Resolution

"WHEREAS Arlington Public Schools is proposing to build a school adjacent to the Thomas Jefferson Middle School, possibly intruding upon Thomas Jefferson Park,

WHEREAS Thomas Jefferson Park is an extremely valuable resource for Arlington and its Arlington Heights neighbors, where our children and families use the park for play and recreation, people walk their dogs, runners jog on its measured half-mile trail, neighborhood volunteers maintain the ornamental garden at the southeast corner of the park, and Thomas Jefferson Middle School students raise food in the park's organic vegetable garden for the Arlington Food Assistance Center,

WHEREAS Arlington Heights Civic Association deems the boundary of Thomas Jefferson Park to be as illustrated in Figure 1, (see Attachment 1)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Arlington Heights Civic Association opposes Arlington Public Schools building a school, or any facility, that occupies, or infringes upon, any portion of Thomas Jefferson Park.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Arlington Heights Civic Association strongly supports a comprehensive planning approach to the Thomas Jefferson site. Arlington Heights Civic Association is deeply concerned that building a new elementary school by 2018 on the Thomas Jefferson site would foreclose future improvements of the site.”

This unanimous vote by our civic association is an endorsement of Arlington’s commitment to a progressive, long-range vision for our county, and to the belief that, with shared understanding, we can find a way to plan for a community that offers more to its citizens. That is the “Arlington Way.”

I remain available should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Hughes", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Stephen Hughes
President, Arlington Heights Civic Association

Copy: Incoming School Board Member, Barbara Kanninen

Attachment 1

Figure 1 – Thomas Jefferson Park Boundary

