

**The Falls Church Village
Society**



Preservation and Improvement

January 18, 2018

The City of Falls Church
City Council and City Manager
300 Park Avenue
City of Falls Church, VA 22046

SUBJECT: Further Impacts of the Tot Lot at Historic Cherry Hill Farm

Dear Mayor Tarter and Members of Council and City Manager;

The Village Preservation and Improvement Society has long stood for the preservation of our historic assets, trees and the beauty and usability of the parks in the City. We also support ADA access for all and are proud to live in a City that is accessible.

After viewing the results of the development thus far on the tot lot in Cherry Hill Park, we want to raise awareness and some concern. Having a review and input to this development has been challenging. While we understand there was one public meeting held on the issue very early, only the adjacent neighbors were invited. There were no site plan hearings or Park Masterplan amendments; hearing before the Planning Commission where the public could have known the final plans and intent. With multiple City departments involved, we found that earlier information that we understood turned out to be unreliable. The plans apparently did not go before the Historical Commission, the HARB, or the Friends of Cherry Hill. Also, it appears that the plans for the tot lot were ever changing throughout the process. Thus what is appearing now is surprising to many.

We request that any further development here be planned with great consideration for the historic setting of the farm house and the barn, as well as the trees in that area. The planning for the ADA parking and any paths should be vetted in public meetings so they can be informed by considerable knowledge of this City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Meade, President
On behalf of the Board of Directors