



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of May 14, 2011**

DATE: April 28, 2011

SUBJECT: Donation of a Tennis Practice Wall with an inscription for Carl Diener, Jr. at Lyon Village Park.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Accept and Approve the donation and installation of the tennis practice wall with an inscription on it at Lyon Village Park memorializing Carl Diener, Jr., as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

ISSUES: As required by the County Plaque Policy, the Park and Recreation Commission shall make recommendations to the County Board concerning requests to place recognition or memorials on park land, public open space and recreation facilities. There are no outstanding issues.

SUMMARY: As required by the Arlington County Policy on Placement of Memorial or Recognition Plaques ("the Policy"), the Park and Recreation Commission must make recommendations to the County Board concerning requests to place recognition or memorials on park land, public open space and recreation facilities. The Commission has recommended that the County Board accept and approve the installation of a tennis practice wall as discussed further below.

A tennis practice wall is being donated for the refurbished tennis courts at Lyon Village Park. The wall will have a short inscription on it to memorialize the late Carl Diener, Jr. ("Carl") who had been a longtime and highly respected resident in Lyon Village. The funds for the tennis practice wall were raised by a young Arlington woman as part of her Girl Scout "Gold Award" project. She collected over \$5,000 by going door to door asking for donations in the Lyon Village neighborhood and at the surrounding neighborhood businesses. The following inscription will be placed on the practice wall in honor of Carl:

"Made possible by friends of Carl Diener, beloved neighbor and tennis enthusiast."

The Lyon Village Park tennis court renovation did not include a practice wall. The addition of the donated wall will provide individuals an opportunity to practice tennis alone. The tennis practice wall will be installed by PRCR staff after the courts are finished in late May 2011.

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

BRC

[Signature]

Staff:

35. A.

BACKGROUND: Carl became a resident of Arlington County in 1975 when he moved to a residence on Key Boulevard. Later he moved to N. Calvert Street where he lived for 35 years as a Lyon Village resident. Carl was hard to miss in the Lyon Village neighborhood. He was described as a "social nexus" for the local Sport & Health Club because of his gregarious and friendly demeanor. He took a genuine interest in people, often asking about their families, remembering something important to them, or doing a favor or giving a gift with no expectation in return. Carl's life ended tragically when he was fatally stabbed to death in the early morning hours on December 29, 2009, at the age of 57, while he was walking to open up the nearby Sport & Health Club. When Carl's friends hosted a celebration of his life in Lyon Village a month after his death, more than 400 friends from his many circles of work, sports and the neighborhood came to honor him.

Carl received many awards during his career as a health inspector for the District of Columbia and then as a Program Analyst for Concessions for the federal General Services Administration (GSA). In his work with the GSA he was involved with the development, design, construction and operation of Randolph-Sheppard facilities, which are snack bars and cafeterias affording visually-impaired individuals the opportunity to operate their own businesses. Some of the GSA projects for which he received awards were the Patent and Trademark consolidation in Alexandria; consolidation of the Secret Service headquarters in D.C.; and for oversight of two Randolph-Sheppard facilities at the Department of Energy headquarters in D.C.

Because of Carl's background and work as a health inspector for D.C. and the GSA, he became close friends with many merchants serving the Lyon Village community. He used this knowledge to offer advice to the merchants on health regulations, restaurant renovations, County agencies to contact for information, and where to find specific products they needed.

DISCUSSION: The Park and Recreation Commission's recommendation meets the criteria listed in the Policy. The tennis practice wall will be donated by the community and will provide a needed recreational facility in the park.

As required by the Policy, the Park and Recreation Commission received comments and endorsement of the request from the following organizations: Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and the Lyon Village Citizens Association.

Lyon Village Citizens Association

Support for this effort was widespread, coming from Lyon Village residents, local businesses, the Arlington Tennis Association, the Arlington Sports Foundation and Arlington Girl Scout Troop #814. The attached letter (Attachment 1) from community members provides the names of the organizations that are in support of this project.

NCAC

The Lyon Village NCAC Commissioner requested approval of the tennis practice wall with an inscription on it for Carl at the April 14, 2011, NCAC meeting. The NCAC voted on the proposal and it was approved.

HALRB

Staff gave a presentation to HALRB on April 20, 2011, and the board approved the donation of the tennis practice wall with the inscription.

Park and Recreation Commission

County staff met with the commission on April 26, 2011, to present information about the donation of the tennis practice wall with inscription and informed them that both NCAC and HALRB supported the donation. The commission approved the community's request for donation and installation of the tennis practice wall with inscription at Lyon Village Park.

FISCAL IMPACT: The tennis practice wall will be donated. Maintenance costs will be programmed in the PRCR departmental budget.

March 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Seeking Commission and County Approval for an Inscription on Lyon Village Tennis Backboard

FROM: Rebecca Blood, Lyon Village Resident (571) 243-8034
Alexander Robertson, Arlington County Tennis Association (703) 347-3177

To Whom This May Concern:

Arlington County citizens, community leaders and community groups including the Lyon Village Civic Association, Arlington Sports Foundation and the Arlington County Tennis Association (ACTA) request approval for an inscription to be added to the top right hand corner of the new 10' by 20' tennis backboard that was purchased and ordered by friends and community supporters of Carl Diener. Mr. Diener was a local Lyon Village area resident, Sports Club employee and YMCA volunteer who was slain in December 2009 in Lyon Village. Inscription expenses will be paid by the Arlington Sports Foundation. Below is the proposed inscription:

“Made possible by friends of Carl Diener, beloved neighbor and tennis enthusiast.”

As part of her Girl Scout “Gold Award” project, local Lyon Village resident Addison Snidle wanted to undertake a project to honor Mr. Diener’s memory. Along with local authorities, community leaders and residents, Addison succeeded in raising necessary funds for the purchase of a high caliber tennis backboard that, in cooperation with Arlington County Parks and Recreation officials, will be ready for delivery and installation once construction is completed on the new Lyon Village tennis courts. This momentous project was celebrated at the Lyon Village Community Center in November 2010 where nearly 200 local residents, local businesses, elected-county officials and representatives from the Lyon Village Civic, ACTA and the Arlington Sports Foundation came together to recognize Addison’s project and to honor Mr. Diener’s memory.

On behalf of all the citizens and community groups and organizations listed below, we respectfully request the Commission and County’s consideration and approval of our inscription request. We understand that the Lyon Village tennis courts will soon be completed and ready for the new backboard made possible by friends of Carl Diener.

Thank you.

Lyon Village Civic Association
Arlington County Tennis Association
Arlington Sports Foundation
Arlington Girl Scout Troup #814
And the many, many friends and colleagues of Carl Diener