

Public Comments on Proposed Fee Increases and New Fees
Received by Email and at the Parks and Recreation Commission Public Hearing
November 19, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. – Charles Houston Recreation Center

Name of Person/Date	COPY OF COMMENTS ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RP&CA
* = Comments received by Email	The following Persons Commented by Email*
1. Kristopher Croghan*, 11/11/09	<p>Mr. William Chelsey-</p> <p>Just as a quick thought, does Alexandria charge a fee for the owners that use the dog parks? I think a fee for those that use the parks should be subject to a fee. With that fee they would receive a dog tag to prove they have paid. Although I don't see any official monitoring of the onsite contributors, I think this is one way to receive some public payments for community services.</p> <p>Another idea is to build shelters at all of the parks to then which they can be rented out to citizens for special events.</p> <p>I don't know if I can make the meeting, but will surely pass along any suggestions I may have.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Bobby Croghan</p>
2. Brad C. *, 11/19/09	<p>To: Mr. William Chesley:</p> <p>I am opposed to the proposed increase in the fee charged by the city for Garden plots at Chinguapin. In this economy, many people are suffering. My income is way down for the year and I grew vegetables to save money and eat more healthfully. This increased fee will eat away at that benefit.</p> <p>Why is this fee being increased? The costs have not gone up. In fact, the garden opened up more plots this year than ever before, so it's total revenue is increasing. It is unclear who or why suggested this fee increase. Online documents only indicate something about "supplemental." I have no idea what this is.</p> <p>The plot fee has already shot up from \$40 to \$47, now it will be \$55, soon, it will be \$100 or \$200. When will this stop? This fee should be frozen for the next two years.</p> <p>There are only about 50 - 75 gardeners in the whole space so, politically, we are weak and can easily be charged more. But I oppose these increases, especially in light of today's economy and the need to encourage people to grow their own food and eat more healthfully. This fee increase sends exactly the opposite message in a real time of financial stress.</p> <p>-Brad C. Chinguapin Gardner</p>
3. Cindy, Engelhart*, 11/23/09	<p>To: William Chesley Cc: John Walsh Subject: garden fees for non residents.</p> <p>As a gardener at Chinguapin (and also a public servant), I concur with the increase of garden fees. However would like a little more information. I have a friend who is a non-resident and rents one of our garden plots. You aren't eliminating non-residents are you? I didn't see any information on their fees. It would be a shame if he lost his plot since his knowledge is a real asset to the garden. He's the longest running resident we have and often helps others with their plots who have had unforeseen family emergencies. He's helped me get my plot in shape for the end of season inspection since I had a broken hand during the summer and was on doctor's orders not to weed.</p> <p>Respectfully, Cindy Engelhart, P.E. Bicycle Pedestrian Transportation Engineer Northern Virginia – VDOT</p>
4. Florence, Foelak, letter recvd. 11/23/09	<p>To Mr. William Chesley ltr. dated 11/20/09:</p> <p>Ms. Foelak is a long-time, 30 year, resident of Alexandria, and has been using the Chinguapin Park Rec. Center for the past 20 years. Card pass had increased from \$25 to \$61. She is requesting that the pass fee for senior citizens not be increased. States that the equipment needs to be improved at the facility and better maintained. Senior citizens are told by their physicians to exercise, live on fixed incomes, and pay taxes. Increase in fees is a problem for seniors. Suggested that in order to save costs perhaps some Rec. Centers be closed on holidays similar to Alexandria administrative offices. Inquired about the new room being built and funds used to do this. She would appreciate it if we would not increase the rates so that she may continue to use the recreation facilities.</p>