Statement of Principles for the Improvement of White Stadium and Franklin Park

Overview

Franklin Park is one of the preeminent parks in America and is considered the “jewel” of Boston’s Emerald Necklace designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Franklin Park is a nationally registered landmark, and White Stadium is a historic facility, much beloved and in dismal condition. The Franklin Park Action Plan, approved in 2023, includes numerous areas needing investment, including improvements to White Stadium and its facilities. The Mayor’s Office has identified $50 million for the improvement of the stadium and these funds are well spent renovating the current facilities.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC, a for-profit private company, and the City of Boston recently unveiled the details of a proposal for the stadium and areas of parkland surrounding it. This proposal would grant the rights to a 30-year lease to a professional for-profit sports team, build dedicated private facilities and other uses like offices, private boxes, restaurants, and shops, and displace Boston Public School (BPS) students and the general public for 20 games and 20 practices on key Fridays and Saturdays each season from April-November. The proposal would also displace all current BPS football games for the regular season. This proposal has not undergone the legal and regulatory processes for projects in protected open space and environmental justice communities, including The Public Land and Protection Act (Article 97), Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and others. It does not follow the Franklin Park Action Plan developed in collaboration with the community. For these and other reasons the proposal has raised concern with many community leaders, advocates and members of the public.

*Franklin Park is a geographic, recreational and environmental justice center of Boston’s oldest, largest and most vulnerable minority and low-wealth census-tracks. Reeling from decades of deep municipal neglect and disinvestment, residents today continue to be harmed and displaced through individual, cumulative, and disproportionately adverse projects, which often include unfair community engagement practices and do not follow existing state and municipal legal protections.

Statement of Principles:

We, the undersigned, support the renovation and much-needed improvements of George Robert White Stadium in Franklin Park for the benefit of all Boston Public School (BPS) student-athletes, the communities surrounding Franklin Park and all park users.

We feel strongly that the proposed redevelopment and private 30-year lease of the George Robert White Stadium planned by the City of Boston and Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC must be reconsidered. A new proposal for renovating the stadium and surrounding areas, in thoughtful coordination with the surrounding park areas, should be pursued in accordance with the approved Franklin Park Action Plan and established public processes.
Organizations

**Authentic Caribbean Foundation Inc.**
**Coalition for Regionwide Services Beyond Franklin Park (CORES)**
**Contemporations, Inc.**
**Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Council**
**Greene & Greene Realty**

**Hancock Street Civic Association**
**Neighborhood Schools, Inc.**
**The Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council**
**The Trustees Collaborative for Parks & Open Space**

Individuals

- Beth Abelow
- Jerrold Abelow
- Randall Albright
- Gracyn Allen-Ingle
- Jon Ball
- Alma Balonon-Rosen
- Stephen Basden
- Ned Batchelder
- Daniel Berger-Jones
- Cindy Bonilla
- Molly Boren
- Maureen Boyes
- Lauren Brown
- Mary Brown
- Brianna Bryant
- Mary Louise Burke
- Katrine Burkitt
- Carla-Lisa Caliga
- Ira Callahan
- Narcissa Campion

- Peggy Campion
- Ethan Carr
- Gina Castillo
- Constance Cervone
- Raymond Cheek
- Janice Cherrie
- Joy Chesna
- Jack Clark
- Patricia Clifford
- Rory Coffey
- Jamie Cohen
- Janet Collins
- Jenness Colon
- Rafael Feliciano Cumbas
- Linda Davis
- Michelle Davis
- Peter DeCotis
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