



Connecting People and Parks and Conserving the Emerald Necklace

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Boston Landmarks Commission
Boston Parks Commission
Boston Zoning Commission
Boston Civic Design Commission

Boston City Hall
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

May 27, 2024

RE: Proposal for the 95% demolition of an **existing historic public White Stadium and 14 acres of recreational parkland** with a new stadium and other facilities for a new, private for-profit use for up to 30 years in **landmarked Franklin Park, in Boston's environmental justice communities**

Dear Commissioners:

The current proposal for the near-total demolition and redevelopment of the George Robert White Stadium and surrounding acres of public land in Franklin Park raises numerous serious questions of community self-determination, use and disposition of public facilities, and disregard for legal protections required for public open space and environmental protection.

It is important that all commission members reviewing this project are aware of these major issues, the fact that other commissions are concurrently reviewing this project, and the ongoing litigation. At an extremely rapid pace, various public bodies are being asked to make decisions without the appropriate time for consideration of comments, observations and recommendations from other boards and commissions and the general public. The following are some of the key issues for consideration.

Lack of Community Support

To date, **not one neighborhood group or park group** has endorsed the current proposal. Instead, numerous neighborhood groups around Franklin Park have raised concerns with the current proposal to bring a professional team to their neighborhood park and signed a **Statement of Principles for the Improvement of White Stadium and Franklin Park**. (see Attachment A).

As included in the above statement, **all parties greatly desire the renovation of White Stadium**. The city has indicated that there is \$50 million dollars available for this purpose. The neighborhood groups and organizations that signed onto the attached Statement of Principles would like to partner with the city to renovate the stadium for the Boston Public School athletes and the general public. Many love women's soccer and support locating a professional women's soccer team in Boston but this historic park and landmarked stadium in these residential environmental-justice neighborhoods is not an appropriate location and the decision-making process has not been public, thoughtful or legal.

Unprecedented Objections by the Boston Landmark Commission: April 9, 2024 Statement

On April 9th, sixteen of Boston's Landmarks Commissioners, including the Chair, issued a letter to the Mayor's Office citing a "disregard by the City of Boston administration for the Commission's legislative mandate, established procedures and guidelines...[which could] create a public impression that the Commission's mandates and processes do not apply equally across all districts and properties" (Attachment B). The first project listed as an example was the landmarked park - Franklin Park - and historic White Stadium. A key concern: only half of the proposed project has been provided for review and the process underway continues to disregard the commission's guidelines. Moreover, the City of Boston bid a \$46 Million publicly- funded construction contract in February to demolish half the stadium, and indicated using an "emergency" approval to move forward without seeking approvals from the Commission. The Landmarks Commission review process, much like other elements of the public process for this project, has been incomplete, undertaken at an unprecedented pace and out of compliance with its mission and mandates.

An Active Lawsuit: City and Project Proponents "Proceed at their Own Risk" as stated by Judge Ellis

Key Points: Major State Regulations Not Followed: Public Lands Protection Act (Article 97), Public Trust Law and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA)

The **Franklin Park Defenders**, a coalition of 20 individual plaintiffs and Emerald Necklace Conservancy, including longtime community leaders Dr. Jean McGuire and Louis Elisa, filed a legal complaint concerning key regulations not followed including the Public Lands Protection Act (Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution), public trust laws (particularly the terms of the George Robert White Fund), the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) and state environmental justice policies.

One of the motions requested - an injunction to pause the planned demolition of the stadium and other actions - was not granted. However, **the legal case, facts and issues at hand remain and grow, including:**

- 1) Multiple concerns about the use of a public trust assets (the Stadium) - the George Robert White Fund and "joint undertakings"
- 2) Lack of appropriate environmental review, including no MEPA process.
- 3) Project does not comply with recent Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court precedent: in 2017, the court ruled that active recreation lands are protected by Article 97 of the Constitution, the Public Lands Protection Act. This Act proscribes how any proposed change in use for public recreation land is to be treated, reviewed and considered by the legislature.
- 4) Lack of appropriate consideration for multiple environmental justice communities in environmental review, community self-determination, public process and other considerations. (Included in the environmental justice regulations in Chapter 30, Section 62 of the Massachusetts Constitution).
- 5) The proposal suggests the disposition of acres of public land and facilities for decades at a scale, nature and duration that is significant, has major impacts and is long-lasting. Moreover, beyond this extremely important park and specific communities, the precedent set here risks public land protections throughout the Commonwealth.

Project Does Not Comply with Franklin Park Action Plan

This project does not conform to the Franklin Park Action Plan developed at considerable cost and years of city and community process (completed 2022). This comprehensive plan does not contemplate or endorse the idea of a new use, major changes to program, nor displacing current uses in the park, such as a professional sports team leasing or using White Stadium. This was not discussed with the community in the outreach process, or posed as an option to the community at large. In fact, the Action Plan “does not aim to alter the park’s purpose, character or design” (page 7, *Introduction Letter* by Mayor Michelle Wu). The plan outlines improvements requested by the existing users and members of the adjacent environmental justice communities. The proposed redevelopment of White Stadium would alter the park’s purpose, character and design – directly undermining the stated wishes and needs of the Franklin Park community.

Displacement of, Lack of Consideration for, and Decision-Making By Environmental Justice Communities

The neighborhoods that surround Franklin Park are key environmental justice communities in Boston, including Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Jamaica Plain. ([See the Commonwealth’s Environmental Justice mapping tool](#)). This proposal fails to consider or study the impacts to those neighborhoods per the environmental justice regulations included in Chapter 30, Article 62 of the Massachusetts Constitution. These include, but are not limited to, community voice and self-determination, participation in decision making, health concerns, community needs and other environmental impacts. These include traffic and related air pollution due to the thousands of additional vehicles and shuttles, urban heat island effect, sound and light pollution, and ensuring continued access to the use and enjoyment of local and vital public recreation and health facilities. This project has not included appropriate analysis or alternatives assessment, as required by law. Community leaders are deeply concerned about these and other impacts.

This proposal would inherently change the use and nature of the park and impact surrounding neighborhoods with 10,000 visitors on at least 20 of the fair-weather weekends each year, an additional 20 team practice dates, and yet to be announced events, concerts and more. Moreover, two of the Boston Public School’s football teams which currently use the stadium (and for which White Stadium was built), would be displaced to other locations for their regular season games, practices and other activities.

Lack of a Realistic Traffic Management Plan and Multiple Outstanding Questions

Vehicular traffic through and around Franklin Park is already extremely challenged. As noted in the Franklin Park Action Plan, many park users struggle to access Franklin Park, including visitors to the zoo, the golf course, existing youth sports games and practices, festivals and a myriad of other groups. The proposal has not undergone MEPA-level transportation analysis for a proposal of this nature, scale, complexity and location.

The proposal has suggested a variety of tactics to manage the 10,000+ people who will be going to and from the stadium on all of the game days, and for other events, including: a major bussing operation with 300+ shuttle trips from off-site (yet to be identified) parking locations, a new resident parking permit system for neighborhoods around the park and other ideas that are

unrealistic and have not been well received or believed feasible, resulting in additional serious concerns. (see diagram Attachment C).

In recent hearings and meetings, various bodies have been presented with incomplete plans with incomplete information with numerous critical questions unanswered. For example, in recent meetings key facts such as the proposed building height(s), number of concerts to be held, the number of trees to be removed, allowed sound and light levels, expected traffic impacts and plans were "not yet determined" and "still under consideration or development."


The proposed lease, profit-sharing agreement, and other documents between the city and private investors Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC has not been shared, so it is not possible for the public or others to understand or evaluate the possible number of non-soccer or other for-profit events that could occur.

Boston can do better and we can do better together: Let's work together to improve the public park and stadium

This is not the right plan or process for Franklin Park, the parkland and sports facilities, our historic resources or our communities. We can do better. The good news is that there are public and legal protections that if followed, can ensure community self-determination, appropriate investments in public facilities in need and protections and support for our communities.

As leaders and Commission members you have an opportunity to uphold the rules and regulations and provide for a better future for our Commonwealth, our city and our public lands in your care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen', followed by a horizontal line.

Karen Mauney-Brodek
President
Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Attachments:

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

B: April 9th Letter to Administration from Boston's Landmarks Commissioners

C: Example Shuttle Bus Transportation Diagram: Estimated Total 300 per game

D: Information on the Franklin Park Defenders

CC:

City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune
City Councilor Henry Santana
City Councilor Julia Mejia
City Councilor Gabriela Coletta
City Councilor Erin J. Murphy
City Councilor Edward M. Flynn
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City Councilor Benjamin J. Weber
City Councilor Tania Ferndandes-Anderson
City Councilor Sharon Durkan
City Councilor Liz Breadon

Adam Cederbaum, Corporation Counsel, City of Boston

State Senator Nick Collins
State Senator Liz Miranda
State Senator Lydia Edwards
State Senator Michael Rush
State Senator William Brownsberger
State Senator Sal Di Domenico

State Representative Adrian Madaro
State Representative Dan Ryan
State Representative Aaron Michlewitz
State Representative David Biele
State Representative Christopher Worrell
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State Representative Ruth Balsler
State Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley
State Representative Dan Hunt
State Representative Rob Consalvo
State Representative Sam Montano
State Representative Kevin Honan
State Representative Michael Moran
State Representative Tommy Vitolo

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.

Mayor Michelle Wu
1 City Hall Plaza, Suite 500
Boston City Hall
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

April 9, 2024

Dear Mayor Wu,

The Boston Landmarks Commission (the “Commission”) was created by Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975 to “. . . protect the beauty of the City of Boston and improve the quality of its environment through identification, recognition, conservation, maintenance and enhancement of areas, sites, structures and fixtures which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the political, economic, social, cultural or architectural history of the city . . .” and “. . . promote the public welfare, strengthen the cultural and educational life of the city and the commonwealth . . .” By its enabling legislation, the Commission has authority over the designation of landmarks, landmark districts, and architectural conservation districts.

Article 85 of the Boston Zoning Code gives the Commission the authority to review the proposed demolition of buildings within the City of Boston and to impose a 90-day demolition delay period for buildings determined to be significant in order to allow for the consideration of demolition alternatives and the potential preparation of the building. Under Article 85, the Commissioner of ISD may not issue a demolition permit receiving clearance from the Commission except in cases of a danger to public health or safety.

Boston’s historic fabric contributes significantly to its reputation and its livability, as well as to its popularity as a tourist destination, benefiting owners, residents, businesses and visitors alike. The Commission was created to protect the City’s historic resources and advance recognition, understanding and enjoyment of those resources.

We fully understand that the City has many important priorities, some of which can conflict with each other: affordable housing, education, business development and waterfront resilience, to name a few. But City government must operate within the established legal frameworks when balancing potentially competing goals; City government cannot circumvent legislative requirements or established processes to further one interest over another.

We, the undersigned Boston Landmark Commissioners, have observed in recent years a disregard by the City of Boston administration for the Commission’s legislative mandate and established procedures and guidelines. We are concerned that this disregard may impact the Commission’s ability to fulfill its legislatively defined objectives, and could create a public impression that the Commission’s mandates and processes do not apply equally across all districts and properties.

For example:

- White Stadium. Franklin Park was designated as a Boston Landmark in 1980. As a result, all changes to Franklin Park, including to White Stadium, which lies wholly within the park, must

receive design review and approval from the Commission. Franklin Park is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In January of 2024, the City of Boston, as the owner and caretaker of Franklin Park, presented to the Commission proposed improvements with respect to only half of White Stadium (the Boston Unity Soccer Partners portion of the project), while taking the position that the other half of the proposed project to be carried out by Boston Public Schools was not within the Commission's purview and therefore not subject to Commission review or approval. The Commission's enabling legislation and established regulations expressly requires Commission approval of all alterations to Boston Landmarks. The Commission is legislatively required to review the entirety of the proposed project and the Commission's enabling legislation prevents ISD from issuing a permit for any project that is a Boston Landmark prior to approval by the Commission.

- Boston City Hall. The Commission is in the process of considering designation of Boston City Hall as a Landmark. The City administration has for several months impeded Commission staff by stipulating what aspects of the pending landmark should or should not be included in a Study Report, which is the backbone of any designation. City administrators have also directed when and how the designation process would proceed, and have stated that they require Commission staff to solicit and coordinate input from various City Hall departments and divisions. In deference to the administration's requests, the Commission extended the period for public comment period to ensure that the public broadly, and all members of the administration and City Hall operations could review the posted and amended Study Report and comment on it before it moves to a vote by the Commission. After the extended period of public comment closed, members of the administration directed Landmarks staff to not place the item on an agenda, and to make changes to the report, and wrongly claimed that the process of drafting a study report for City Hall was flawed.

Only the Commission can designate Boston Landmarks; no other Commonwealth or City agencies or bodies have that ability. The Commission has duly adopted regulations relating to the preparation of Study Reports, vesting the responsibility for Study Report content and approval with the Commissioners, and not with staff. The process with respect to Boston City Hall should not have deviated from the Commission's standard practice. Input from City agencies and representatives are extremely important to the development of an appropriate Study Report and have be taken into account to the extents that City Hall operations staff have conveyed them to the Commission. As with any potential landmark, "owner" input needs to be carried out within the public process prescribed by the Commission's governing legislation and regulations, and not stipulated to Landmarks staff through the City Hall chain of command.

- Hotel Buckminster. While the Hotel Buckminster is now a Boston Landmark, that designation came only after public outcry that resulted when the City administration instructed Commission staff to pull the Hotel Buckminster's designation from the Commission's agenda on July 25, 2023. While a reason was not provided, the public impression was that the City administration's instruction likely came at the request of the property owner, IQHQ. Prior to July 25, 2023, the petition to designate the Hotel Buckminster had proceeded through the process in accordance with the Commission's enabling legislation and regulations. The City administration lacks the authority to pull any item from the Commission's agenda or insert itself in the Landmark designation process. Any Landmark designation is subject to Mayoral approval, which can be

overridden by a two-thirds vote of the Boston City Council. Those approval and veto rights should be sufficient for the City administration (or City Council) to support the Commission's standard policies and procedures with respect to Landmark designation.

- Arborway. The Commission understands that there is a redesign of the Arborway in process. The northern end of the Arborway project, which comprises Kelley Circle, is contiguous with and slightly overlaps the Emerald Necklace, a designated Boston Landmark. Any changes will impact this important Boston Landmark. While the Arborway is not itself a Boston Landmark, any changes that will impact the Emerald Necklace would benefit from an advisory review by the Commission, if not a full application for BLC design review. We understand that the Arborway plan may be undergoing review by Commission staff, but we would additionally recommend a review by the full Commission.
- Article 85 Demolition Delay. Under Article 85 of the Boston Zoning Code (Demolition Delay), the Commissioner of ISD is not permitted to issue a demolition permit for a building that is subject to review under Section 85-3 of the Code, or to issue a building, use or occupancy permit for a building site that has been determined significant unless Article 85 has been complied with or there is an "imminent and substantial danger to the public health or safety." Article 85 applies to all buildings that are (i) more than 50 years in age, (ii) located in the Downtown or Harborpark, or (iii) located in a Neighborhood Overlay District. Article 85 is intended to establish a 90-day waiting period during which the City, the applicant and other interested parties can explore demolition alternatives to minimize building demolitions where immediate re-use of the site is not planned.

Numerous times over the years, ISD has not complied with Article 85 and has issued both demolition and building permits for buildings that should have first gone through the Article 85 demolition delay process. This has occurred more frequently in some areas of the City than others, perhaps most notably in the North End (Boston's most historic neighborhood). Building permits have been issued prior to demolition permits being issued, and construction and demolition have occurred without permits. This not only impedes the Commission's (and the District Commissions') ability to fulfill their functions but also disadvantages applicants who are pursuing projects as delays and/or penalties may be imposed for failure to comply with Article 85. The City must make changes to the permitting process to ensure that Article 85 review occurs early in the project planning schedule on every applicable project.

- Commissioner Appointments. The Commission's enabling legislation provides for a very specific makeup of the Commission, with different commissioners appointed by different agencies and organizations for different terms. In addition, ten historic district commissions that review projects in different historic districts. Each historic district commission has its own commissioners, coming in part from the local neighborhood and in part from the Commission. For many years, a backlog in appointing and reappointing commissioners has impeded the ability of the Commission and the district commissions to carry out their duties, which is a disservice to the public. Certain historic districts, in particular the Ft. Point and South End Landmark Districts, have been unable to meet due to lack of commissioners and quorum. It is the City's responsibility to promptly process commissioner appointments to ensure that its constituents are well served. Commission staff can help advise as to which district commissions

are most in need of commissioners.

We, the undersigned Commissioners, are all residents of the City of Boston with an interest in ensuring that all policies and priorities of the City are advanced appropriately. We do not believe that historic or cultural priorities should take precedence over the City's other priorities, just that historic and cultural resources should be considered in line with applicable law, including the Commission's enabling legislation and Article 85. The Commission's work over the years has helped to save numerous historic resources in many City neighborhoods. The Commission has worked towards preserving Boston's historic resources, one of its greatest values, and creating innovative projects that build on historic resources. The goal of the Commission is to help move projects and development forward while respecting and preserving historic resources.

The Commission asks for cooperation from the City administration in order to fulfill its legislative mandate. We believe that all of the City's goals can be balanced and furthered while respecting laws, rules and regulations, including those that pertain to the Boston Landmarks Commission.

Thank you,

Members of the Boston Landmarks Commission:



Bradford C. Walker, Chair

Commissioners:

Justine Orlando, Vice-Chair
John Amodeo
David Berarducci
John Freeman
Susan Goganian

Jeffrey Gonyeau
Christopher Hart
Richard Henderson
Jeffrey Heyne
Kirsten Hoffman

Angela Ward Hyatt
Felicia Jacques
Lindsay Mac-Jones
Anne Renehan
Lynn Smiledge

cc:

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond,
Chief of Environment, Energy and Open
Spaces

Murray Miller,
Director of the Office of Historic
Preservation

Joe Cornish
Director of Design Review,
Boston Landmarks Commission

Ruthzee Louijeune,
President, Boston City Council

Henry Santana,
City Councilor, At-Large

Julia Mejia,
City Councilor, At-Large

Erin Murphy,
City Councilor, At-Large

Gabriela Coletta,
City Councilor, District 1

Edward M. Flynn,
City Councilor, District 2

John Fitzgerald,
City Councilor, District 3

Brian Worrell,
City Councilor, District 4

Enrique J. Pepin,
City Councilor, District 5

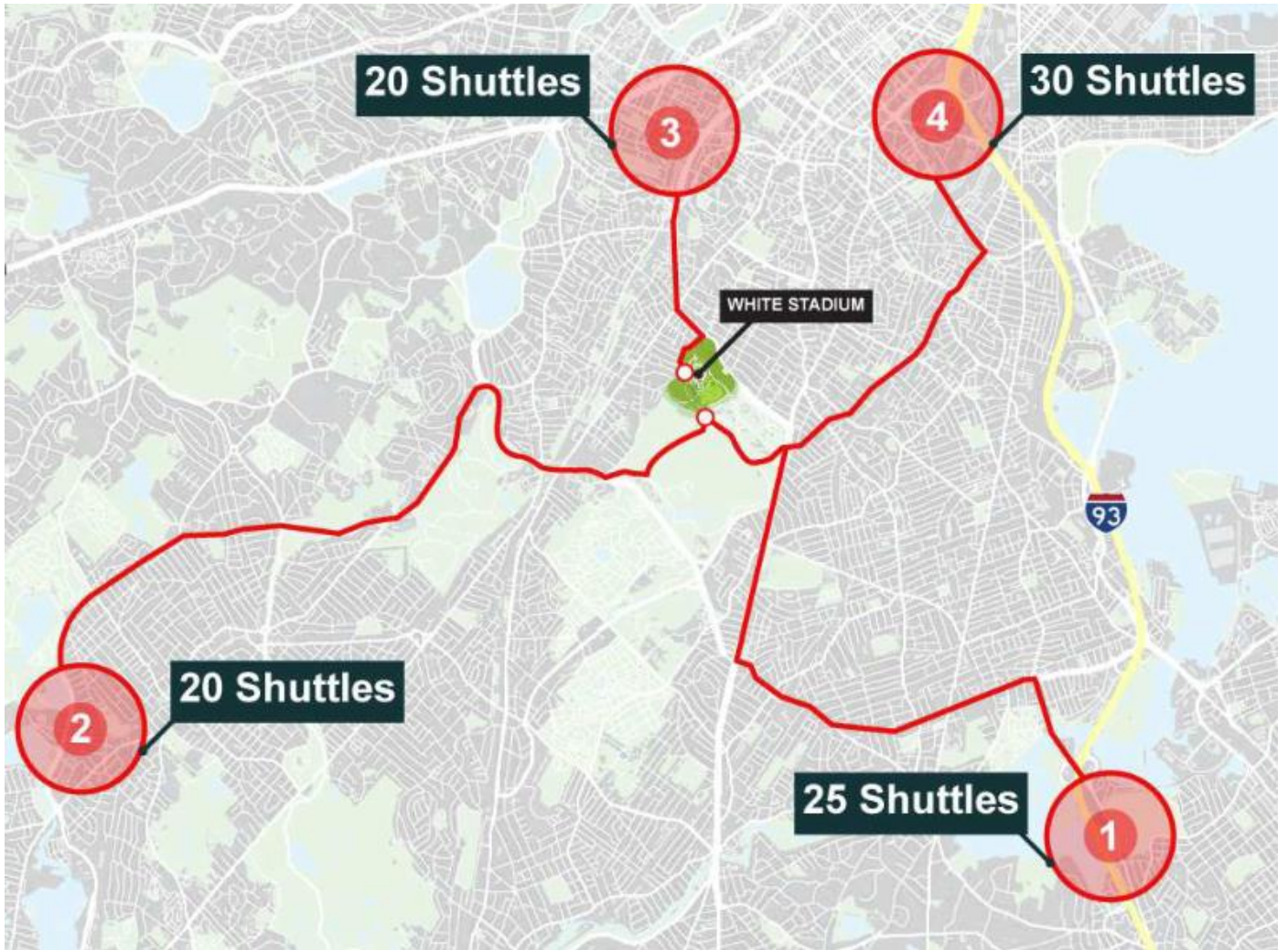
Benjamin J. Weber,
City Councilor, District 6

Tania Fernandes Anderson,
City Councilor, District 7

Sharon Durkan,
City Councilor, District 8

Liz Breadon,
City Councilor, District 9

Alison Frazee,
Executive Director,
Boston Preservation Alliance



WHO ARE THE “CITIZEN PLAINTIFFS” IN THE FRANKLIN PARK AND WHITE STADIUM LEGAL COMPLAINT & WHAT IS IT?



From left to right: Louis Elisa, Jon Ball, Carla-Lisa Caliga (“Caliga”), Derrick Evans, Dr. Jean McGuire, Beth Abelow, Jerrold Abelow, Melissa Hamel, Renee Stacey Welch, Rory Coffey and Karen Mauney-Brodek

Not pictured: Jamie Cohen, John “Jeff” Cook, Pamela Jones, Arlene Mattison, Marjorie Greville, Beverly Merz, Daniel Moon, Rodney Singleton and Benajmin Taylor

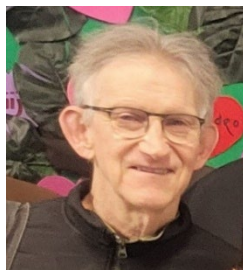
Twenty individuals and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy are collectively a group of citizen advocates for Franklin Park’s White Stadium who have submitted a legal complaint against the city of Boston, the Trustees of the George Robert White Charitable Trust and Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC regarding the proposed privatization of White Stadium. The group has requested from the court a preliminary injunction to protect Franklin Park from the unconstitutional privatization of White Stadium, in light of the planned demolition of one-half of the stadium bid, initially planned to be contracted in February 2024.

This group urges the City of Boston to reconsider its proposal, which is not endorsed by a single neighborhood or park group, and instead encourages the City to invest the already-identified \$50 Million of City taxpayer funds to restore and renovate Franklin Park’s White Stadium for **all** Boston Public Schools students and the residents who use and love Franklin Park; not for the benefit of a for-profit entity.



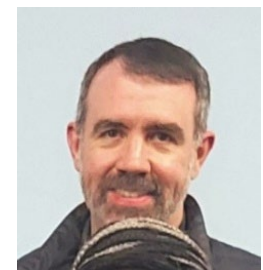
Beth and Jerrold Abelow: Beth and Jerrold reside in Jamaica Plain. Beth is involved in the community with Burnett Street Garden and Park Inc. and is an active leader in CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park. Jerrold is an early childhood educator. They are both avid Franklin Park users year-round.

Jon Ball: Jon is a Jamaica Plain resident and former Fenway resident. He is a retired UMass Boston lecturer who currently writes for the Fenway News.



Carla-Lisa Caliga (preferred name: Caliga): Caliga is a life-long Boston resident, having lived in Roxbury, the South End and now Jamaica Plain. She is a registered nurse and is active in CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park, as well as many other community efforts. She is a parent of five BPS students, two of whom are currently in BPS High Schools.

Rory Coffey: Rory lives across the street from Franklin Park in Jamaica Plain. He is active in the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association, serves as a leader of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park, developed the website Bostonheatmap.com and is a devoted father.





Jamie Cohen: Jamie is a resident of Jamaica Plain and is a member of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park.

John “Jeff” R. Cook Jr.: Jeff is a Brookline resident who serves on the Board of Directors of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and is the facilitator of the Trustees Collaborative for Parks & Open Space. Jeff was the founder of the Environmental Careers Organization, including its Diversity Initiative which introduced over 1,000 college and graduate students of color to environmental careers through paid internships, conferences, books and seminars. Alumni include USEPA Administrator Michael Reardon, environmental justice leader Mustafa Ali and Spelman College professor Dr. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, among many others.



Louis Elisa: Louis is a Roxbury resident and has spent thousands of hours of his life raking leaves and doing maintenance in Franklin Park. A founding member of the Franklin Park Coalition in 1978, he is the President of the Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association, and holds degrees from Harvard Graduate School of Design in City and Regional Planning. Louis has served in multiple local, state, national and international leadership roles, including serving as a US representative to NATO, and served three governors, numerous mayors and a variety of elected officials in myriad ways.

Derrick Christopher Evans: Derrick is a longtime educator, historian and civil rights/ environmental justice leader in both Roxbury and his native Mississippi. A former researcher for the PBS “*Eyes on the Prize*” film series and former teacher at Roxbury’s Phillis Wheatley Middle School, he has also taught US civil rights and related social science and humanities courses at Roxbury Community College and Harvard University. Derrick co-founded the Epiphany School in Boston and remains a driving force behind Roxbury’s “Wakullah Street” initiative. Another PBS film, “*Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek*” follows the painful but inspiring story of



Derrick’s 20-year fight to save his ancestral Mississippi community from racial and environmental harm before, during and after Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill. For his efforts in Mississippi and Roxbury, he was awarded the National Bob Moses Award for Community Education and Organizing.



Melissa Hamel: Melissa is a long -term Jamaica Plain resident, activist, artist and a leader of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park. She is an advocate of increasing dog park access in Boston.

Pamela Jones: Pamela is a resident of Mattapan and serves as Treasurer of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council. She walks Franklin Park five days a week.



Arlene Mattison: Arlene is a resident of Brookline and an Emerald Necklace Conservancy Park Advisor on behalf of the Brookline Greenspace Alliance. She is also a founding member of the Olmsted Tree Society and has been the President of the Brookline Greenspace Alliance since 2002.

Karen Mauney-Brodek: Karen lives on the “Roxbury Side” of Massachusetts Ave. She is the President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, serves on the board of the nationwide City Parks Alliance and is a member of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Special Commission.



Marjorie Greville: Margie is a Beacon Hill resident and serves on the Board of Directors for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. She is the Chair of the Justine Mee Liff Fund Committee of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and is a founding member of the Olmsted Tree Society supporting tree care throughout the Emerald Necklace. She has been active in Franklin Park advocacy since 2017.

Dr. Jean McGuire: Dr. McGuire needs no introduction: she is a longtime Roxbury resident and decades-long civil rights leader throughout Boston. In 1966, McGuire helped found the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunities, Inc. (METCO). In 1981, she became the first Black woman elected to the Boston School Committee where she served for 10 years. She has served as a board



member on various associations including the Boston Children's Museum, Community Change, Inc., Encampment for Citizenship, Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus and the Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM).



Beverly Merz: Beverly resides in the South End and is a writer and community volunteer who believes in public space.

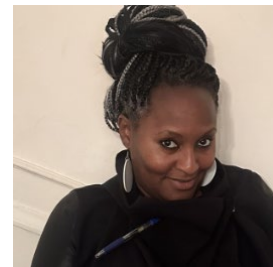
Daniel K. Moon: Dan is a Jamaica Plain resident and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. He is also the head of the Advisory Board at the Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc. and served as its Executive Director from 1973 to 2016.



Rodney Singleton: Rodney is a resident of Roxbury and is a leader in the Highland Park neighborhood. He has served on the Highland Park Neighborhood Coalition Steering Committee, and now serves as Co-Chair for the Highland Park Project Review Committee for a variety of projects, including Bartlett Yard. He is a member

of the District 7 Advisory Council, an avid gardener and loves parks.

Benjamin Taylor: Ben is a Brookline resident and serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. He formerly served as President and Publisher of the Boston Globe, and has sat on the boards of organizations such as The Conversation and Discovering Justice.



Renee Stacey Welch: Renee is a longtime Jamaica Plain/Roxbury resident, and a founding member of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park. She also serves on community on the board of directors of Lena Park CDC and acts as Council Chair for Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC).

Learn more at www.emeraldnecklace.org/white-stadium.