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11 BILL 010374 - Authorizing the President of the
12 Fairmount Park Commission and the Executive Director
13 of Fairmount Park, on behalf of the City of
14 Philadelphia, to enter into an agreement with the
15 Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education
16 Center, Inc. ("CCCEEC"), a not-for-profit
17 corporation organized and existing under the laws of
the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to which
CCCEEC shall be licensed to use a portion of that
certain premises known as the Cobbs Creek
Environmental Education Center located within
Fairmount Park, under and subject to certain terms
and conditions.

18 PRESENT: COUNCILWOMAN B. REYNOLDS-BROWN, Chair
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
19 COUNCILMAN RICHARD MARIANO, Vice Chair
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
20 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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Dennis Waller, Deputy Director. 5
Fairmount Park Commission

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Alan Fastman, Executive Director. 7
Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education
Center, Incorporated

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good morning. We will now proceed with the opening proceedings for the committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Before us are Councilman Mariano, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell and Marian Tasco and my colleague Councilman Rizzo and myself, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, Chair of the committee. We do have a quorum, and we're here now for this public hearing to hear testimony on Bill 010374.

13

I want to ask David Forde to read the title of Bill 010374.

15

MR. FORDE: 010384, an ordinance authorizing the President of the Fairmount Park Commission and the Executive Director of Fairmount Park, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into an agreement with the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center, Inc. ("CCCEEC"), a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to which CCCEEC shall be licensed to use a portion of that certain premises known as the Cobbs Creek Environmental Education

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1 6/5/01 PARKS & RECREATION, BILL 010374

2 Center located within Fairmount Park, under and
3 subject to certain terms and conditions.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

5 We now invite the sponsor of the bill,
6 Councilwoman Blackwell.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
8 Madam Chairperson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Surely.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: This morning,
11 we come to this committee meeting certainly to
12 support this application. We have been dealing with
13 group. So many of you know about the black cowboys
14 and (indiscernible) and the stables. Well, this is
15 that area that's redone as an Environmental Center.
16 We've been involved in this project since its
17 inception, and we've come a long way, but now we
18 have finally reached the point for the Cobbs Creek
19 Environmental Center to enter into an agreement with
20 the City and with Fairmount Park, and we certainly
21 hope that the committee would consider this
22 legislation favorably and that they would suspend
23 the rules to allow this to happen.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,

1 6/5/01 PARKS & RECREATION, BILL 010374

2 Councilwoman Blackwell.

3 My own editorial comment is that I too
4 am very much aware of the important work of Cobbs
5 Creek Environmental Center and have been aware of
6 that even before my arrival here in City Council.
7 So it is a good thing, particularly for the young
8 people in that section of Southwest Philadelphia.

9 We now invite those up who are going to
10 speak on its bill, Mr. Bill Mifflin of the
11 Philadelphia Fairmount Park, and anyone you care to
12 join you.

13 (Witnesses come forward.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We want to ask each
15 of you to please state your full name and your
16 position with the City of Philadelphia.

17 MR. MIFFLIN: My name is William E.
18 Mifflin. I am the Executive Director of the
19 Fairmount Park Commission.

20 MR. WALLER: Dennis Waller. Good
21 morning. Deputy Director, Fairmount Park
22 Commission.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good morning to you
24 both. Please proceed.

25 MR. MIFFLIN: Good morning and thank you

1 6/5/01 PARKS & RECREATION, BILL 010374

2 very much, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown. I
3 am pleased to be here this morning to represent the
4 Fairmount Park Commission in support of Bill No.
5 010374. This legislation, along with a license
6 agreement, will provide for the occupancy of the
7 Cobbs Creek Environmental Education Center.

8 This facility, a former stable located
9 near 63rd and Cobbs Creek Parkway, is presently
10 being restored as an environmental education center,
11 utilizing funding from the Commonwealth, the City of
12 Philadelphia, and the William Penn Foundation.
13 Councilwoman Blackwell has contributed directly
14 through her available capital funding as well as
15 providing her personal leadership to this project.
16 When construction is completed, it is anticipated
17 that the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental
18 Education Center Incorporated will utilize the
19 facility to provide environmental education programs
20 and opportunities in partnership with the Fairmount
21 Park Commission.

22 We look forward to working with the
23 community and City Council in realizing the benefits
24 of providing this valuable service to our citizens.

25 That completes my formal remarks,

1 6/5/01 PARKS & RECREATION, BILL 010374

2 Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're very
5 welcome.

6 Mr. Waller, anything you would like to
7 add?

8 MR. WALLER: No, but we are prepared to
9 answer any questions you may have, Councilwoman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.

11 Any members of the committee have
12 questions?

13 (No questions.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Seeing none, is
15 there anyone else here to testify on behalf of this
16 bill?

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
18 gentlemen, very, very much.

19 MR. MIFFLIN: Thank you.

20 (Witness comes forward.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good morning.

22 Please state your full name for the record and your
23 affiliation with this initiative.

24 MR. FASTMAN: Madam Chair, my name is
25 Alan Fastman. I'm the Executive Director of the

1 6/5/01 PARKS & RECREATION, BILL 010374
2 Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education
3 Center, Incorporated.

4 I have no prepared statement and I only
5 came forward to thank the committee for its
6 consideration and especially to thank our district
7 councilwoman, Jannie Blackwell, for her support of
8 the project and particularly for her investment of
9 capital dollars to the project.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're very
11 welcome. Thank you.

12 MR. FASTMAN: Thank you very much.

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1 6/5/01 - PUBLIC MEETING - BILL 010374

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I will now ask
3 Councilwoman Blackwell, can I have a motion on Bill
4 No. 010374.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you. I
6 move that Bill No. 010374 be reported out of
7 committee with a favorable recommendation and also a
8 recommendation -- excuse me, I'm sorry. I make a
9 motion that Bill No. 010374 be amended to include
10 the word "Community" after the words Cobbs Creek
11 Community Environmental Center."

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very
14 much. Councilman Rizzo has offered a second on that
15 amendment.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

17 And now, Madam Chair, I move that Bill
18 No. 101374, as amended, be reported out of committee
19 with a favorable recommendation and also a
20 recommendation that the rules be suspended so as to
21 permit consideration at our next session of Council.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

23 (Duly seconded.) Seconded.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: This bill, as
25 amended, has been seconded by my colleague

1 6/5/01 - PUBLIC MEETING - BILL 010374

2 Councilman Rizzo. Bill 010374 has been moved and
3 properly seconded.

4 May I hear an aye in favor of this
5 bill? Councilman Mariano?

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Yes, aye.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Councilwoman
8 Tasco and Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown.
9 Bill 010374, as amended, will be reported out of
10 this committee with a favorable recommendation and a
11 further recommendation that the rules of Council be
12 suspended to allow first reading at the next
13 scheduled Council session.

14 This concludes the meeting of the
15 committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural
16 Affairs.

17 Thank you for your interest and support
18 to all of those who testified on behalf this very
19 important measure.

20 (Adjourned 10:17 a.m.)

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RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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BILL NO. 010374

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,

Registered Professional Reporter