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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS,
RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- - -

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 12, 1998
2:10 p.m.

- - -

BILL 960886 - An Ordinance amending Section 15-201
of the Philadelphia Code, relating to areas under
the care and jurisdiction of the Fairmount Park
Commission.

- - -

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER, Chair
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO, Vice Chair

COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL ORTIZ

- - -

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1 BILL 960886

2 CHAIRWOMAN MILLER: Good afternoon.

3 This is a Public Hearing of the City Council Special
4 Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
5 to consider Bill No. 960886.

6 Will the clerk please read the bill.

7 THE CLERK: An Ordinance amending
8 Section 15-201 of the Philadelphia Code relating to
9 areas under the care and jurisdiction of the
10 Fairmount Park Commission, by adding the parcel of
11 land generally bounded by Stevens Road, Welton
12 Street, Barlow Street, and Kelvin Avenue, to those
13 lands under the care and jurisdiction of the
14 Fairmount Park Commission.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you. In
16 attendance for this committee hearing, the members
17 here today, are Councilman Angel Ortiz, Councilman
18 Thacher Longstreth, Councilman Richard Mariano,
19 Council Frank Rizzo, and myself, Councilwoman Donna
20 Miller. A quorum has been established.

21 Is there anyone here to testify for
22 or against this bill? If so, please come up to the
23 table, identify yourself for the record, state your
24 name, organization, and any other identifying
25 information that you want to give us.

1 BILL 960886

2 MR. EDWARD CRIMMEL: Yes. Good
3 afternoon. My name is Edward Crimmel, and I live on
4 Stevens Road, 11733, which is right across the
5 street from the parcel of land that we are talking
6 about.

7 My concerns are, right now, that the
8 property is not being taken care of. And that's one
9 of the reasons why I would like it to go under
10 Fairmount Park's jurisdiction.

11 The other reason is, I really would
12 like the land not to be sold or houses be built
13 there.

14 I have spoke to several residents
15 bordering the land, and basically they told me they
16 could not make it down here today.

17 I have put together a list of items
18 that I would like to present, to have improvements
19 done to this area.

20 I understand that there is some money
21 that was put aside in a budget for this property,
22 for these or some improvements, so I would like to
23 discuss them.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

25 Councilman Brian O'Neill is also here, for the

1 BILL 960886

2 record, and he wants to address your question.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,
4 Mr. Crimmel. I would, first of all, like the record
5 to reflect this is the second time we are actually
6 passing this. But the last time it was lumped
7 together with another parcel nearby.

8 There were two pieces that were going
9 over to Fairmount Park, and we found there was a
10 legal problem with the other piece.

11 Rather than muddy the waters, we kept
12 it on the calendar but didn't pass it, so that we
13 could have a clean bill just dealing with the parcel
14 in question here today.

15 And last year, in the Capital Budget,
16 I placed \$100,000 in the budget for this parcel
17 under Fairmount Park.

18 So once this bill is reported out of
19 committee today -- and I don't expect it to be
20 controversial -- but we can schedule a meeting,
21 beginning today, out at the site with the people at
22 Fairmount Park who work on the Capital Budget and
23 determine the parameters of what it is we want this
24 parcel to look like.

25 Basically, you know, cleaning it up,

1 BILL 960886

2 thinning it out, making sure that it is what the
3 neighbors want, and maybe some kind of a sidewalk or
4 border around so you can actually walk on it.

5 And if the \$100,000 is not enough,
6 the reason I want to set the meeting up quickly is
7 because we are getting ready to put our Capital
8 Budgets to bed for next year in the next few weeks.
9 So if I need to add to the \$100,000, I would rather
10 do it now, than be a year behind the schedule.

11 So with your list, just hold on to
12 that, we can make a copy of it upstairs so we can
13 get it to Fairmount Park before the meeting.

14 But I want to thank you for your
15 continued interest and passion on this one.

16 MR. CRIMMEL: Okay. There was one
17 more thing, Councilman O'Neill.

18 Last year, April 12, I organized the
19 community to come out and straighten up and clean
20 up, sweep up.

21 I got together with Philadelphia More
22 Beautiful Committee and Philadelphia Pride, and made
23 arrangements and everything to have this all cleaned
24 up and organized.

25 Well, that was one year ago. And now

1 BILL 960886

2 here we are very close to April 12 again. And I
3 really want to, you know, straighten this area up.

4 Now, I have been doing this over the
5 year myself. Some kids have been drinking and
6 whatnot. And I have taken 15, 20 cases of beer out,
7 took all the recyclables and lined them all up in
8 front of my house, put them up there, trying to keep
9 this area clean.

10 Because the way I see it is, if you
11 allow this stuff to build up, then it becomes like a
12 magnet.

13 So the thing is, we are very close to
14 that one year date. And I know you have your
15 appropriations and you are going to schedule a
16 meeting for Fairmount Park to come out again, but I
17 am just afraid that it won't be cleaned or it won't
18 happen in the time frame I think that's necessary.

19 It's been a whole year now since this
20 area --

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: We may have to
22 do it again.

23 But this is a parcel that's been in
24 question for different things for the last 25
25 years. So I think we are at the point now where we

1 BILL 960886

2 are ready to roll.

3 And if it means having other clean up
4 before Fairmount Park actually gets in there and
5 starts doing some heavier things, we will do it.

6 MR. CRIMMEL: There was another
7 gentleman who lives in the vicinity, who was looking
8 for the men's room, and he walked out two minutes
9 before you came in.

10 I know he has a couple of things to
11 say, if you might be able to hold off. I mean, I
12 know everybody is busy. He might be out in the
13 corridor. He has white hair.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I will tell you
15 what, I want to make sure this thing passes. I
16 don't want to lose any votes. With budget season,
17 people have schedules.

18 I will talk with the gentleman
19 personally and make sure that his name is on the
20 record. And we can do that now.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Does anyone
22 have any questions of this witness, any members of
23 the committee?

24 Thank you. Thank you for your
25 testimony.

1 BILL 960886

2 MR. CRIMMEL: Thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Sir, please
4 state your name and any other identifying
5 information for the record and speak into the mike.

6 MR. WASYL JEWTUSHENKO: My first name
7 is Wasyl, W-A-S-Y-L, and the last name is
8 Jewtushenko, J-E-W-T-U-S-H-E-N-K-O, and I am
9 residing at 11632 Barlow Street, 19116.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And you are
11 here to testify on this bill for or against?

12 MR. JEWTUSHENKO: I am for. I would
13 like to have this be as a Fairmount -- belong to the
14 Fairmount Park, the City of Philadelphia Fairmount
15 Park.

16 What I would like to say to you,
17 ladies and gentlemen, is that since I am retired,
18 and there is not a single day come through that I
19 did not clean up that piece of property that belongs
20 to the city right now.

21 If I didn't clean up one week, then I
22 have a hard time to clean up after that next week.

23 The people -- I guess people is the
24 problem. They keep throwing the stuff in, all kinds
25 of stuff that does not belong there.

1 BILL 960886

2 And I, for one, would like to see
3 there is around the property, have a little bit
4 cleanup, maybe 12, 15 feet from the curb have a
5 little sidewalk, make a sidewalk there, and leave
6 the rest just the way it is. And that will
7 discourage the people to throw the stuff in.

8 Maybe it would be a good idea to have
9 some little grass, instead of weeds high, very
10 high. So this is my hope.

11 And, believe me, ladies and
12 gentlemen, any time you sitting in the livingroom,
13 you looking through the window, nothing you see,
14 just trash, just like a dump.

15 I, for one, is paying a very high
16 taxes up there, and yet any day you look in the
17 window, all you can see is a dump.

18 And this would be, in my opinion, if
19 you will get this done, and assigned this to
20 Fairmount Park, then I would believe that that would
21 help a lot to discourage the people to throw the
22 stuff in.

23 That's all I can say.

24 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you for
25 coming down. Hopefully, with the passage of this

1 BILL 960886

2 bill, we will be able to move in the direction that
3 you and your neighbors, Mr. Crimmel, would like us
4 to.

5 MR. JEWTUSHENKO: Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you for
7 your patience.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Does anybody
9 have any questions for this witness?

10 Thank you for coming, both
11 gentlemen. We have to commend you for your
12 volunteerism and interest in the physical appearance
13 of your neighborhoods.

14 Is there anyone else that wants to
15 testify on this bill for or against?

16 Okay, there aren't any.

17 Well, this concludes the Public
18 Hearing on Bill No. 960886.

19 (Public Hearing adjourned.)

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2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC MEETING
4 of the
5 COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
6 - - -
7 Thursday, March 12, 1998
8 - - -
9 Public Meeting conducted by the Committee
10 on Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs, held in
11 Room 400, City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on
12 the above date, to consider action on the following:
13 BILL 960886
14 - - -
15 PRESENT:
16 COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER, Chair
17 COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO, Vice Chair
18 COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
19 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
20 COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
21 COUNCILMAN ANGEL ORTIZ
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1 PUBLIC MEETING

2 CHAIRWOMAN MILLER: We will now
3 convene the public meeting.

4 The Chair will recognize Councilman
5 Brian O'Neill for a motion.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam Chairlady,
7 I move that Bill No. 960886 be reported out of this
8 committee with a favorable recommendation.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. The
11 motion has been properly moved and seconded.

12 All in favor.

13 Opposed.

14 Motion carried.

15 This concludes the Public Meeting,
16 and we will report this bill with a favorable
17 recommendation out of this committee.

18 Thank you.

19 (Public Meeting adjourned at 2:20
20 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Thursday, March 12, 1998, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL
AFFAIRS

DEBRA A. WHITEHEAD, RPR