

COUNCIL/PARK AGENDA

MAYOR FARLEY INTRODUCES PET FOLLOWING OPENING REMARKS

Farley will thank you for coming and working closely with the Council and Commission in preparing the legislation.

PET:

This legislation was drafted by the Interior Department at my request. It was reviewed and revised following suggestions received from the Commission; the Council's representatives, Mayor Farley and Councilor Fleming, House Interior Committee staff members and other Congressional experts, and the Commission's consultants. As you can imagine it is not possible to please all of these parties. However, I believe that we have reached the point where we have a good bill that most everyone agrees on. You should know that we have made some significant changes following suggestions by the Council. These changes will be explained as we go over the working draft.

Representing Lieutenant Governor O'Neill tonight is Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick. I believe Mary Ellen has a few remarks on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor.

MARY ELLEN FITZPATRICK FOR LT. GOV. O'NEILL

PET:

The greatest concern that the Council has expressed is the power of the Secretary of Interior in establishing the park. I think we all realize that a \$40 million investment will not be made unless the Secretary has some assurance that a worthwhile national park can be established here. However, this does not mean that the Secretary will be granted powers outside of the park area. A number of changes have been recommended to clarify this situation. The letter I passed out earlier was written by the Acting Director of the National Park Service. The Park Service is the agency within the Interior Department that manages and plans national parks. The letter makes it clear that the Park Service is simply interested in establishing a mechanism which assures them that the character of the park will reflect 19th century Lowell.

Ross Holland, Associate Director of the National Park Service for the North Atlantic Region and a member of the Urban Park Commission is here at my invitation to talk about the role of the Park Service.

ROSS HOLLAND, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PET:

Another question which continually came up was how the intensive use zone and the preservation zone would be set up. John Lane of the Lowell Team will briefly address this subject.

JON LANE, LOWELL TEAM

PET:

We have all talked about the leeway available and the fact that this park can only be successful as a cooperative venture. The need for cooperation is essential... not only now but following passage of this legislation. The City will have to work closely with the state, federal government, and the advisory commission that would be created to come up with a masterplan for the park. We must also realize that a Lowell National Cultural Park must conform to standards and precedents established for other national parks. There are a lot of cities and states competing for federal park money. If we are going to have a chance to pass this bill we cannot ignore these facts of life.

Finally, I want to emphasize that passage of this bill is by no means assured. The new Chairman of the House Interior Subcommittee, Phillip Burton, has no special commitment to this legislation. A great deal of lobbying will have to be made just to get hearings in his subcommittee. Should we move the bill through the Subcommittee we have allies in Interior Committee Chairman Mo Udall and "Tip" O'Neill as Speaker, however, we must face the same process in the Senate. And then we still have an appropriation process and a fight for money for the next fiscal year.

To give you a rough idea of the path that this legislation must follow:

1. Subcommittee field trip to Lowell
2. Washington subcommittee hearings; passage
3. Washington full Committee hearings; passage
4. House passage
5. Senate subcommittee hearings; passage
6. Senate Committee; passage
7. Senate passage
8. House/Senate conference committee
9. House passage
10. Senate passage
11. President's signature
12. Appropriations process (which duplicates the legislative route)

I think we have to look at the opportunities here for Lowell. The potential is immense. We ought not to waste our best chance at reaching that potential.

I would suggest that we review the legislation section by section.