



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

May 9, 1977

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

From: The Chairman of the Finance Committee and
The Chairman of the Public Services Committee

Re: High School Football and Track Facilities

Over the past several months Councillors Frank Duehay and Leonard Fussell have been meeting with a group of people who share a common interest in athletic, recreation, open-space and conservation issues. Primarily, they have been working with School Committeewoman Sara Mae Berman, Assistant City Managers Robert Healy and David Vickery, Conservation Commissioner Ruth Birkhoff as well as others who have dropped by to participate.

This working group was formed at the initiative of Councillor Duehay who asked the cooperation of Councillor Russell, Chairman of the Public Service Committee, who has been interested in problems relating to a disposition of the City Dump Site.

The Committee has spent nearly all of its time trying to address the problems of inadequate High School Athletic facilities. Russell Field, which serves as the City's football field and outdoor track is completely inadequate. The problems at Russell Field are compounded by the fact that construction of the Red Line extension will involve construction activity on Russell Field during 1978 which would disrupt present athletic uses at this site. As a result, any attempt to further enhance athletic facilities by investing money at Russell Field seem inappropriate.

The other two sites considered were the City Dump and St. Peter's Field. St. Peter's Field has been temporarily ruled out at least because of apparent adverse impact in the neighborhoods caused by traffic routing and also because new construction would necessitate losing the existing baseball, softball and basketball facilities. Given the scarcity of athletic facilities citywide, it seems unwise to pursue any plan which removes what we now have in place.

As a result, the Committee has recommended that the City Manager actively pursue the idea of constructing a new football field and track at the City Dump. The reasons for this course of action are compelling: No existing facilities would be sacrificed, site development would best conform to the

long-range recreational plans for the City Dump site, parking for football games would be available on the unused portion of the Dump, and traffic problems would be lessened because of superior access to the proposed site.

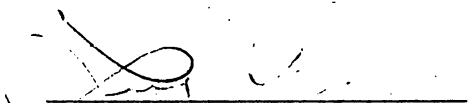
The City Manager at the request of Councillor Duehay and Councillor Russell has agreed to actively pursue this option. A feasibility study is in progress to determine if subsoil conditions permit the planned usage. This report will be ready by the 1st of August, 1977. Design work is in progress as well, for even if the site is unusable, the plans are transferable to another location.

As a result of these steps, Councillor Duehay and Councillor Russell feel confident that the City is very close to solving the longstanding problems of inadequate football and track facilities for Cambridge youngsters. If all goes as anticipated, the track will be ready for occupancy in the Spring of 1978 and the football field will be ready by the Fall of 1978.

Clearly, the City of Cambridge still has a long way to go if we are to adequately address the recreational, athletic and open-space needs of our inner-city residents. Nonetheless, this proposal, if successful, is an important step in the right direction.

Within the next week, the Council will receive a report outlining the work this group has accomplished with respect to the recently issued Hotbs Brook/Stony Brook Reservations study.

Francis H. Duehay
Chairman
Finance Committee



Leonard J. Russell
Chairman
Public Service Committee

S-295

Comm. from the City Clerk transmitting the report on the proposed development of the High School Football and Track Facilities submitted by Councillor Duehay, Chairman of the Finance Committee and C. Russell, Chairman of the Public Service Comm.

In City Council,

May 16, 1977

5/16/77

Report Accepted
Copy to the City
Manager.

Copy sent to C. Mgr. 5-18-77
CO