

Commissioner Hammerman said that if we got rid of this part of Druid Hill Park we would have the whole population against us.

The President said that the proposal is not of the Company's making, but that the Company is forced to do it this way, due to civic improvement plans.

Commissioner Kowzan suggested that our Engineering Division decide just how much park property the Company actually needs, and to limit the amount of the proposal by the amount so arrived at.

The President admitted he was in favor of such a similar limitation proposal.

Mr. Maxwell, the Director, commented about a bridle path being new and running through the parcel of park property under discussion.

Commissioner Hammerman was in favor of calling a special meeting. He said this case could very well be an opening wedge setting up a precedent whereby the Board gives us property intended for children, and transfers it over to industry.

It was the sense of the Board to call a special meeting for Wednesday evening, March 12, 1947 at 8:00 P.M., at the Madison Avenue entrance to Druid Hill Park, and to invite the Commission on City Plan, the Chief Engineer and officials of the Hooper Company.

The President reported a decision made concerning the reopening of Fort Smallwood. He said the bathhouses and concession stands would be moved over to the newly proposed location, that this set-up would be purely temporary because the present funds were insufficient to build adequate and complete facilities.

The Board expressed its approval of the report, and expressed a desire to have the swamp area filled in gradually so as to be usable at a later date in future plans. The Fort Smallwood plans as proposed by the Engineering Division were authorized by the Board, and the Director was ordered to have these plans approved by the Board of Estimates so that formal bidding could start on the contract work.

At 4:50 P.M., Mr. G. Yates Cook was introduced to the Board concerning Fort Smallwood concessions. He handed each member of the Board a copy of his personal survey and recommendations. He also furnished character references, sketches and photos concerning beach operations and involving the present Fort Smallwood site.

The President mentioned that if the concessionaire furnished much of his own equipment it would take a number of years before the original investment could be liquidated.

Mr. Cook asked for a five year contract as a concessionaire, plus a five year renewal option, based on good performance. In answer to a question by the President as to what would be a fair rental value to the City for the concessions at Fort Smallwood, Mr. Cook replied by saying that he would be willing to pay the City from 10% to 12% of the gross, subject to public audits and the making available of all records of sales for City inspection.

The President asked Mr. Cook what he would charge as swimming fees. He stated that his charge would be 40¢, plus tax, for adults and 25¢, plus tax, for children. When inquired about the cost of food and drink items, Mr. Cook answered by saying that he would never raise the prices of these commodities above regular standard City prices. Mr. Cook likewise agreed to accept the Board's control of price levels in a contract wherein such control could be established year to year. He added that a three year contract was not sufficient time for a concessionaire to build up a clientele and show a fair profit. When asked about bathhouses with or without a roof he replied that the roofless type bathhouse or dressing cubicle should be installed to take care of peak loads only.

The President mentioned that the middle of May or May 30 could be counted on as possible opening dates. He added that the April meeting of the Board would in all probability decide on the awarding of the Fort Smallwood concession. He said that the completion by the contractor of the bathhouses and other structures should be no later than May 15. Mr. Cook raised the question concerning a bus line to Fort Smallwood. The Secretary was directed to contact the Baltimore Transit Company in this respect.

Mr. Cook then asked if he would be permitted to reduce the swimming rates for groups and organizations during weekdays. The President believed that the Board would approve of such a policy. Mr. Cook said he would be able to calculate the number of patrons using the bathhouses by using a special ticket, a stub of which could be turned over to the Board for its records.

The President called Mr. Cook's attention to a clause which would be in the contract, stating that the entire contract could be voided if the concessionaire failed to comply with its terms and conditions. After making a favorable impression on the Board as to his honesty, sincerity, experience and ability, Mr. Cook withdrew at 5:20 P.M.