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May 10, 2010

Hon. Erik Kulleseid
Deputy Commissioner for Open Space Protection
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany NY, 12238
(518) 474-0456 by email: erik.kulleseid@oprhp.state.ny.us

Re: Follow up on Site Visit in response to our Feb. 16 letter on
L&WCF Debarment Request on failure to follow through on
commitments made on the re-development of Yankee Stadium

Dear Deputy Commissioner Kulleseid,

Thank you for your site visit on April 30. On behalf of the community members who were present we offer our heartfelt appreciation for your time and consideration to the situation. As we stated in our March 31st letter to Commissioner Ash, we believe we all can agree that it is not true that **“A pedestrian bridge connecting the new stadium, Heritage Field, Metro-North and Mill Pond Park opened in May 2009.”**

Given that, we all agree to start with a clean slate. So although there are things that we can not change (such as the erroneous elevation of Garage A causing the stairway to be very high and the connection to Ruppert Plaza the berm and water amenity to be redesigned), we need your help in order to get appropriate action.

Attached is our list of remaining concerns.

In addition, due to the lively debate, there was not enough time to consider some new points concerning the continuation of the greenway north of Mill Pond Park, water access at Mill Pond Park, and the public's use of the water access points at Roberto Clemente State Park, which will follow in a separate letter within a week or two.

Your help can take us to another level of environmental and economic development for this highly used, critical open space in New York State. Please keep us informed of your actions.

We thought you would enjoy some of the photos we took during the visit as well as the photo taken later on in the next day when Ruppert Plaza was opened to allow access to the Game!



These photos were taken on the weekend, when there was a scheduled Yankee Game.



Taken on the day of your visit, this is what the norm is.

Metro North Station access aka "Pedestrian Bridge."

Finally, it is our recollection that a 6f or 4f conversion impacts the whole park, not just the acres impacted. This was the reason that the full EIS was under your agency's jurisdiction and responsibility.

Sincerely,

Joyce Hogi
Joyce Hogi

Karen Argenti
Karen Argenti

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Community List of Follow up Items at Macombs Dam Park Conversion Parkland

A. Things we can not change

- a. Elevation of Garage A is not within parameters of the EIS
- b. Water Amenities and Berm for smooth connection between Ruppert Plaza and Garage A is out of proportion

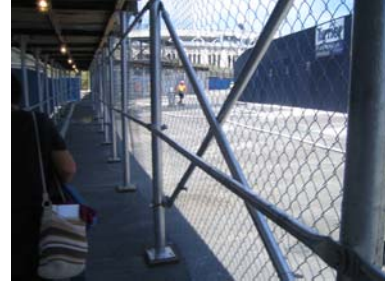
B. Pathway through Ruppert Plaza to and from Mill Pond Park at the waterfront



Game Day



Access to Metro North looks like this on non-game day



- a. Ruppert Plaza should be open to the public.
Right now: Ruppert Plaza is only open on Game Days
- b. Elevators in Garage A should be available for handicapped access to the park.
Right now: Elevators in Garage A only open on Game Days
- c. Path leading from the Metro North Station under I-87 should be an established greenway, landscaped appropriately, labeled and cleaned. It should include any and all safety measures in standard park design guidelines.
Right now: Path leading from the Metro North Station under I-87 is blacktop outlined with jersey barriers topped chain link fencing and decorated with pigeon poop (health hazard)
- d. Traffic Light to cross Exterior Street should be adjusted for Pedestrian access.
Right now: Traffic Light to cross Exterior Street is not facing pedestrian route – dangerous condition
- e. Stop Sign should be placed at end of I-87 south bound exit ramp leading to Exterior St.
Right now: No Stop Sign – dangerous condition
- f. Public Bathrooms at Building J should be open to the public the same as other parks – either open till dusk or 10 pm.
Right now: we could not get in to the building on the day of your visit. We were told the bathrooms closed at 6 pm on another visit (4.21.10)
- g. Whole length of Mill Pond Park should be open to the public the same as other parks – either open till dusk or 10 pm
Right now: Park closes at either 4 pm or some other time.

C. Pathway through I-87 to the Highbridge Community and Yankee Stadium

See section B part d. and e. above



- a. Stop Sign should be placed at top of I-87 south bound exit ramp leading to Jerome Ave.
Right now: No Stop Sign – dangerous condition
- b. Traffic Light should be placed at the I-87 south bound exit ramp leading to Jerome Ave.
Right now: No Traffic Light – dangerous condition
- c. Traffic Light should be placed at the SW corner of Jerome Avenue and 161st Street (at the site of the handicapped access to Macombs Dam Park - Yancey Field and Track (Garage A)).
Right now: No Traffic Light – dangerous condition.

D. Things we did not discuss – but part of this project

- a. Pocket Parks on River Avenue are not complete.
- b. Remediation of the southern most park has gas releases being built into the park structure (questionable remediation technique for a park)

Thank you for your help!