

The Boston Globe

BUSINESS

Armenian tribute: right site, right time **July 15, 2007**

In Thomas C. Palmer Jr.'s reporting of opposition to an Armenian memorial on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway block known as Parcel 13, the Globe fails in its responsibility to report news fairly ("City suggests several sites for Armenian memorial," July 5). The article implies that gridlock caused by the mayor, his task force, an unnamed advisory group, and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy constitutes a legal or popular front of opposition to the memorial's location. This is inaccurate, as even Palmer describes the conservancy's role as "emerging," underscoring its unofficial standing.

Contrast this anecdotal report of opposition with the months of public hearings, commentary, and deliberations by the Turnpike Authority that led to the designation of the block's developer. Those official proceedings and the reporter's own observation that "the (Turnpike) authority effectively controls development on the Greenway" imply that the public interests have been well served by the only agency with official standing in the matter. Despite the Globe, the community will ensure that the overwhelming local support and official designation are not subverted.

Bill Martin
Boston

The Armenian Heritage Foundation's proposal to build a park on Parcel 13 bordering the North End should be a no-brainer. The design is beautiful and well-suited to the space and the people who live in the area have received it enthusiastically. Instead, we hear from unidentified city officials who propose alternative sites, which have the slight drawback of not actually being available. These unidentified officials are evidently worried about setting a bad precedent for some theoretical groups that might want to place some imaginary monument on the Greenway at some unspecified point in the future. The problem is that the residents of the North End have been living for years with the very real aggravation of the Big Dig and a very real lack of green space. So maybe our unidentified officials could give us another dose of reality -- a real park for real people.

Mary C. McGee
Boston

For umpteenth time, Thomas C. Palmer Jr. is making up a story regarding the Armenian park on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. Neither the Armenian community nor the Armenian Heritage Foundation have received any "suggestion" or proposal from the mayor's office to move the park to any other site in Boston.

Kevork Marashlian
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