

April 11, 1957.

File Memorandum - New Brooklyn Stadium

While I was at a conference with Commissioner Frick at his office Robert Moses called and suggested that I drop out to his house later in the afternoon. I met Bob at his home in Babylon and we frankly discussed the general political apathy toward the new stadium in Brooklyn. Bob said there was not a chance of the Atlantic & Flatbush site being approved. Marketmen presented a problem and perhaps more important was the Borough President's determination that the site was wrong. Borough President shows some interest in the site on the other side - the one which Clarke & Rapuano recommended. I told Bob that either site would be acceptable to us although we did prefer the LIRR one. Bob suggested that I be realistic and appreciate that the political implications were such that we just could not work out a solution in Brooklyn unless we were interested in the Parade Grounds. We discussed this quite frankly and we both can see many objections to it, minimum rapid transit facilities and also minimum parking. I then suggested that inasmuch as Bob was willing to give up park land which up until this point I thought was "verboten" would he then consider letting us build our own stadium on a lease basis in Ft. Greene Park. He told me that this could not be done - that the topography was against it and also Park Department needs. I told him that if the Dodgers would have to go out of Brooklyn any site would have to be weighed against ~~such~~ available locations such as Los Angeles. In other words, the Brooklyn Dodgers would not be Brooklyn anywhere else. I then brought up the question of Flushing Meadow Park, the old World's Fair site. To my surprise Bob showed some interest and dug up some maps which he showed me. These old maps originally showed that the area was to be used for recreational purposes. He also told me that at one time they had considered building a stadium there. We agreed that we would visit the site next Monday, April 15th, and look it over. Bob added that such a stadium would have to remain Park Property and would be financed by the Park Department, that a long term overall lease could be arranged if the Mayor would take charge and deliver the necessary Board of Estimate votes which he controls. We considered what John Cashmore and Abe Stark's position would be. Bob persisted that the Mayor could do anything he wanted if he wanted to keep the team in the City bad enough. It was agreed that Jack Flynn, Frank Schroth, Emil Praeger and I would meet with Moses and his staff Monday morning at 9:30 World's Fair site.

WALTER F. O'MALLEY



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