

October 19th Testimony - Part 1

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Wed 10/19/2022 9:15 AM

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Druid Hill Park Future - 290 Million Promised....

1. My story. In 1985, when I was 16, I was a non-paid Zookeeper's Aide intern in the Small Mammal House at The National Zoo in Washington D.C. Besides my duties, to the exhibit animals, there were those not or never seen by the public. I tended to their needs too. I was given an education on all stages of life, and scientific advances all over the world. Coming back to Baltimore from the other side of the continent of 15 years, I carefully studied where the best place to live was. Between Druid Hill Park and Mondawmin - a walking and meditative place to commune with nature privately, Zoo where I can volunteer again, subway, grocery store, and more. Living half a block from Druid Hill Park now, I could never imagine all the wildlife that I would be living with - at and around my home. When I was moving in, I soon saw a snakeskin. I continue to see a myriad of plants that surround and grow in my yard that come from the wind and birds. There are wasps, countless varieties of spiders, various crickets, butterflies, and myriad of other insects, vast varieties of birds, from hummingbirds to owls and red-tailed hawks that live in my trees, including woodpeckers that I learned through noise, are voracious during cicada season, to bats, racoons, foxes, snakes, and squirrels galore. This is on the other side of Reisterstown Road no less. There are also Endangered Species Rusty-Patch Bumblebees and this year, Monarch Butterflies went from, "Declining" to "Endangered Species status worldwide. What you are proposing will vastly disrupt mine and fellow citizens who live all around the entire Druid Hill Park, include the zoo animals, as, instead of for us, you want to attempt to make Druid Hill Lake, our drinking water by the way, a tourist amusement attraction. What was once at Druid Hill Park, at the boat lake that is part of the Zoo, is now at Patapsco River's Inner Harbor, where once it was all industrial and shipping ports. So first and for most, there is no use replicating, especially in the same city, just for a few wealthy developers to make money, when it well past due that Baltimore Government, especially Public Works has first and foremost priority to spend money 290 Million and more in order to save itself from the ravages of Greenhouse Effect - an Urban Heat Island, flooding, and drought, **to be livable in the first place. You also cannot build where there are endangered species. I repeat, You cannot build where there are endangered species. You cannot disturb their habitat - their homes.**

2. **Peace Resolution** A resolution is a decision that a legislative body makes. April 3rd, 2001
 "efficient land allocation"

3. **Farming versus Hunter-gatherer** Farmers - concern with planting nice neat rows. Hunter-Gathers focus on the lay of the land - the manner of which all effects everything else. A farmer only cares about tree's whom he or she has planted, and has deemed worth to tend to, as it is financial gain. A hunter-gather tends to the entire Forest's well-being, as the hunter-gather understands that it is the steward of the entire eco-system that must be balanced for its and personal survival.

1. **Imagine** Close your eyes. Imagine a Druid Hill Park where people use the current amenities, the tennis courts and newly built swimming pool. Play golf frisbee and run to your heart's delight. The rest of the park is devoted to nature and transformative education. Beautiful bat houses are

made by local artists and neighborhood projects, with bragging rights abound. The sheep and goats have returned to full residence on the sweeping hill. The Zoo now uses its original name, but is now, "Druid Hill Sanctuary," with additional grounds added. Beavers now live amicably with the ducks, hawks, Canadian Geese, and other birds, with climbing populations at Druid Hill Lake. Eco-Hot Air Balloons are available to ride; even to the Thurgood Marshall Airport, being able to measure how well the newly planted trees and vegetation are growing, to not only provide shade, but for our mental health, and ability to sleep R.E.M. sleep at night. The Preakness Balloon Festival and Race are back at their rightful place. Working at the eco-balloon factory is, as the newly working middle class of Baltimore put it, **"So much better than those seasonal dead-end jobs the developers wanted us to have!"** The ability to commune with nature at one's doorstep, with the entire ecosystem intact, with our endangered species thriving - gaining numbers so that they will soon be off lists. Streetcars on dedicated lanes bring people to events, even being able to travel completely around the park, never again spend at least an hour via lots of waiting and having to take 2 busses, and be safe instead of hostile walk across Interstate 83 ramp to get to Remington, Hampden, Johns Hopkins, and Charles Village.... Air, water, light, and soil pollutions are waning, as streetcars have taken the place of busses, reaching more territory with half the cost. With learning that tire erosion chemicals, especially the PPD varieties and plastics, creating more carbon emissions than gas exhaust, and kill more than fish, people find that they never wanted an automobile in the first place, with families reducing to one car like 40 years ago, as they know they will be punctual to work on the streetcar like it was 74 years ago. Public Works is busy, doing a great job reducing our use of concrete, cement, asphalt and tar, and uses alternative materials already available today and well in the past. Our streets are all paved white, cooling in summer, and heated in winter, resolving to never dump chemicals that leach into our water system again. It was a major decision to focus on future rather than impulsive "now" things, rather than old buildings that can be renovated even 20 years from now, as Baltimore decided we need a "NOW," as the builders do not care that people cannot use in burning heat, and will always choose to be inside. Incinerator long shut down, as we reduced buying useless disposable things, reusing much, and recycle most, leaving little to gasification system. No longer does Baltimore City accept trash from Baltimore County and other jurisdictions. We can now stare up, and see all the stars and planets, just like previous citizens did, that guided the underground railroad, and all, in the depth of darkness, because we changed and learned how to properly light. We use carbon farming, low enthalpy geothermal, hydropower, and wind energies that allow all citizens and residents to have free heating and cooling, cooling our urban heat island, while continuous cycling giving back to Planet Earth.

At the October 1860 Dedication Opening of 745-acre Druid Hill Park, Mayor Thomas Swann said, **"We are here to proclaim the equality of rights to all, and to dedicate this park, now and forever, to the people of this great city."** Mayor Swann, former CEO of Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and future Governor of Maryland, started horse-drawn streetcars with all able to ride, which then Druid Hill Park and all of Baltimore City size then, were serviced with electric streetcars starting in 1885.

2. - the quotes 6PPD

3. Sacrificing our drinking water for, The "Bridge to Nowhere," boats, and swimming.

While it is a novel idea - swimming naturally, Baltimore has extensive pollution issues, especially water, and placing people in harm's way is the worst idea, only to the "Bridge to Nowhere." The entire lake is our drinking water, not just the 2 tanks. The Baltimore destroyed the 400 block, between Mulberry and Franklin, hundreds of houses, and gave us a "Highway to Nowhere" and now, a "Bridge to Nowhere" which is nothing more than a cement and metal bridge, which is a lightning rod, heat absorbent, and at night purges heat, which, being especially in water, a systematic evaporator due to raising the temperature of proposed Druid Hill Lake. This

is our drinking water!!!! There is a brand new Druid Hill pool. Urinating and defecating in the lake. Just to be clear, our drinking water is not for bathing.

I already addressed the boats. Leave something for the Inner Harbor. The Bridge to Nowhere is a heat absorbing conduit that will make Baltimore not only hotter, as concrete etc purges heat at night, but will evaporate the Lake Water. In the 1860's, creation of a little entertainment was necessary. Today, people are addicted to entertainment, more than ever; and places of restorative nature is not only practical, but necessary.

4. Not even poor - No Design

A sidewalk between stage and the audience? Hazardous hostile ability to walk safely due to I-83 off ramp bridge from Park to Remington, Hampden, and Johns Hopkins.... No public transit to alleviate further congestion, and hence, puts burden on already abusive parkers of trucks and cars of people who do not live in surrounding neighborhoods, who dump their car trash onto the roads, sidewalks, front and backyards, and even all along house stairs. People play loud music, and hang out - tailgating.

5. People do not respect parks, because of their disconnect to nature. Dead-end seasonal jobs. Monopoly on restaurants do not help.

6. VOTE NO to this proposal, and write a new one of what I have dreamt and presented. Voting Yes is ho-hum, nothing special. Voting No is, WOW! Only one like this in the country. An Animal Sanctuary is far superior for Baltimore having a future, and will outperform the National Zoo's attendance, because Baltimore' priority complete ecosystem **TEACHES COMPASSION**

Endangered in MD

https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/rte_Animal_List.pdf

Endangered Species Act - USA: <https://www.fws.gov/law/endangered-species-act>

Monarch Butterflies were "Declining," and this year, 2022, now "Endangered"

Globally: <https://www.iucn.org/press-release/202207/migratory-monarch-butterfly-now-endangered-iucn-red-list>

"Gland, Switzerland, 21 July 2022 (IUCN) – The migratory monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*), known for its spectacular annual journey of up to 4,000 kilometres across the Americas, has entered the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered, threatened by habitat destruction and climate change. All surviving sturgeon species – also migratory, found across the northern hemisphere – are now at risk of extinction due to dams and poaching, pushing the world's most Critically Endangered group of animals yet closer to the brink."

THE QUOTES LOBBIEST Mosquitoes Bats HEAT WEATHER Statistics

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"Baltimore is already experiencing a climatic and meteorological shift towards winters and springs with more extreme precipitation events contrasted by hotter, dryer, and longer summers. These changes have led to increased property damage, economic injuries, and impacts to public health. The city must spend substantial funds to plan for and respond to these phenomena, and to mitigate their secondary and tertiary impacts. Compounding these environmental impacts are cascading social and economic impacts.... Baltimore is expected to experience a threefold increase in the average number of days exceeding 90 degrees by 2050."

- Mayor and City Council of Baltimore v. BP P.L.C., a 2018 lawsuit against 26 oil companies that reached the United States Supreme Court

Baltimore's 2022 {GROUND} OZONE GRADE = F - American Lung Association

BALTIMORE IS SECOND WORST - MOST CHALLENGED CITY IN USA TO LIVE WITH ASTHMA (2021) Still #2 "ASTHMA-RELATED MORTALITY" - "Asthma Capitals 2022" Report [Page 13] - Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)

"In Baltimore City, 20% of children have an asthma diagnosis, which is more than double the national prevalence of 9%." - "Pediatric Asthma" - The Abell Foundation (2020)

Baltimore is ranked the ninth hottest Urban Hot Zone in America . - Climate Central

"There are many neighborhoods that do not have the trees and grass and parks that keep the temperature down, and people who live there often do not have air conditioning, or reliable air conditioning, or they worry about being able to pay their electric bills. A heat wave can be really scary for people with asthma and COPD who can't escape into a cool, indoor environment."

- Dr. Meredith McCormack, an associate professor of medicine and medical director of Pulmonary Function Laboratory at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

"This harmful scenario is called the "urban heat Island effect," and it happens when building materials such as concrete and asphalt absorb heat during the day and radiate it back at night. It causes temperatures to rise more dramatically compared to rural and suburban locations, or city areas with ample green spaces, trees, and parks. - "How To Combat Urban Heat Islands" - Johns Hopkins Magazine (2021)

Harvard University: Out of 100 Cities, Baltimore City children's well-being is dead last.

Baltimore damages its "born and raised" children simply by LIVING - here. "Every extra year spent in the city of Baltimore reduces a child's earnings by 0.86% per year of exposure, generating a total earnings penalty of approximately

17% for children who grow up there from birth." - "The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility" - Harvard University Study

"Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the states with the largest runoff into the Chesapeake Bay, are not on track to meet their goals to restore the nation's largest estuary by 2025."

"During the Oct. 11 meeting, members are expected to discuss accelerating efforts to clean up the bay by 2025. Their decisions will directly affect over 18 million people and 3,600 species of plants and animals that live in the watershed's 64,000 square mile expanse." - "Maryland, Bay States Criticized Before Environmental Meeting {with EPA}" - TV 13 WJZ CBS

"Peace Resolution"

RESOLVED, an exemplary "Peace City" is a city that does not use or promote anyone or product hurting any of its citizens, chooses to concentrate its energy on mentoring, works with the vision that opportunity and prosperity is indeed unlimited for all, integrates efficient land allocation and conservation, and is not afraid to say compassionate love is the central focus of politics;

"Gland, Switzerland, 21 July 2022 (IUCN) – The migratory monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*), known for its spectacular annual journey of up to 4,000 kilometres across the Americas, has entered the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered, threatened by habitat destruction and climate change. All surviving sturgeon species – also migratory, found across the northern hemisphere – are now at risk of extinction due to dams and poaching, pushing the world’s most Critically Endangered group of animals yet closer to the brink."

About Sanctuaries [There is consensus from various resources, so I decided to use PETA's description.]

"Reputable sanctuaries make every effort to replicate an animal’s natural habitat. Animals who are members of social species should share their space with suitable partners who can provide companionship and emotional stimulation. Cramped pens with concrete floors or enclosures with pacing paths worn along the perimeter are red flags.

Habitats should offer multiple outlets for *physical and psychological stimulation*, such as expansive structures for chimpanzees to climb, ponds or pools for bears to bathe and splash in, and large fields for grazing animals to enjoy. The aim of enrichment is to provide outlets for animals to engage in natural behaviors—not to create an appealing scene for visitors.

The *social needs* of the animals must also be a top priority. Members of social species should be placed with compatible companions of the same species, as doing so allows them to use their natural social abilities to form relationships, herds, and packs. In many true sanctuaries, the animal residents act as fellow “rehabilitators” who teach newcomers who have been abused how to get back in touch with their instincts and embrace their new environment.

Depending on the specific needs of their species, animals should be provided ample horizontal and vertical space to explore, roam, climb, and forage, among other types of natural behavior. And sanctuaries never take their inhabitants out

on the road for public display—instead, animals spend their days in a comfortable and stimulating environment with minimal human interference." - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

