

# QUARANTINE STATION SITE EYED AS PARK

## Board Agrees To Do Everything Possible To Acquire Land

The Park Board agreed unanimously yesterday to do everything possible to acquire the former United States Quarantine Station site at Hawkins Point for park development.

The 20-acre site was declared Federal surplus last July and the Maryland Port Authority has already submitted a bid for the land.

Friday the board submitted its bid, just a day before the final deadline.

Dr. Frank C. Marino, the board president, instructed Charles A. Hook, director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, to contact officials of the Port Authority to try to convince them that the site is better suited for a park than any other use.

### Wants Fight To Get It

"So far, we've just asked to get this property," Dr. Marino said. "Now I want you to fight to get it."

Mr. Hook described the site as "one of the most beautiful areas for recreation I've seen."

He said there were ideal locations for fishing, picnic areas, softball fields and tennis courts.

"This is one of the finest offers we've had in a long time," Mr. Hook commented.

To which Dr. Marino added, "If we get this property, it will be the best thing we'll ever do on the Park Board."

### Near City Line

The land is on the south side of the Patapsco River near the city line. The Federal Government gave it up when the quarantine station was moved to the downtown Custom House in February.

Mr. Hook said that he had inspected the area. A few men with some park equipment could clean it up and make it usable in just a week, he said.

Mr. Hook said he would discuss the matter with Port Authority personnel at the suggestion of Federal officials.

George W. Dodson, Jr., of the United States General Services Administration, had indicated that his office did not want to have to

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decide between the two local agencies seeking the site.  
cies seeking the site. He asked them to "work out the differences."

#### **Brooklyn Plan Approved**

In other matters, the board unanimously approved a preliminary plan for a 98-acre park in the Brooklyn area and gave a green light for the expenditure of about \$75,000 on the site this autumn.

Mrs. M. Richmond Farring, who has been the leading proponent of the park project, said the money would be sufficient to prepare two additional baseball fields for Little Leaguers, who have been playing in shifts on two existing fields.

Plans for the park, which have been discussed for several years, include the expenditure of about \$750,000 by 1967.

Part of the park site is still occupied by deteriorating wooden sections of Brooklyn Homes, the last temporary war-time housing project in the city.

# **PLAN IS SEEN FOR SETTLING LAND DISPUTE**

## **Use Of Hawkins Point As Interim Park Is Suggested**

**By J. ANTHONY LUKAS**

Mayor Grady moved yesterday to resolve the dispute between the Park Board and the Maryland Port Authority over use of the former United States Quarantine Station on Hawkins Point.

The Mayor said he would call a meeting with officials of the two agencies early next week to try to settle the matter.

Mr. Grady also revealed one possible basis for reconciling the plans of the Park Board, which wants the land for a harbor-side park, and the Port Authority, which wants it for future port development.

### **Concession Possible**

He said Dr. Frank C. Marino, Park Board president, indicated yesterday the board might concede the need for eventual port development of the land if it could meanwhile be used as a park.

The Mayor said Dr. Marino told him it would be several years before the Port Authority would be in a position to develop the land for port uses.

He reportedly went on to suggest that the land could be developed as a park rather inexpensively until the authority was ready for it.

Dr. Marino was unavailable for comment last night.

The Mayor said the suggestion might lay the basis for some settlement of the dispute which has grown bitter in recent days.

He also indicated he would ask the Planning Commission for an opinion on the best use of the land.

### **Authority Protested**

In a letter to the Mayor Thursday, Joseph L. Stanton, the authority's executive director, said a park on the Hawkins Point land would be "highly undesirable, impractical and detrimental to the best interests of the Port of Baltimore, the community and the State."

He said such a park "could destroy our entire port and industrial development program in this section of the harbor."

The site, on the south side of the Patapsco River near the city line, was used by the Quarantine Station until last February when the station was moved downtown to the Customs House.

The land, which has nineteen buildings on it, was declared Federal surplus property last July.

Officials of the Federal General Services Administration, which handles disposal of surplus property, have said it is "highly un-

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usual" for two public agencies to be interested in the same area.

George W. Dodson, Jr., the regional GSA officer, said that if both the Park Board and the Port Authority complete their applications the GSA would undoubtedly turn them back to Baltimore officials to work out their differences.

Mayor Grady said he agreed that the situation should be worked out in Baltimore. "I'm convinced we can settle our differences on the matter here," he said.

One snag to the compromise reportedly proposed by Dr. Marino would be the price.

Public agencies are given first chance to bid on excess property before it is put up for public sale.

Agencies may obtain the property for one or four uses, educational, health, recreation or historical, at less than the appraised value or even free.

If an agency fails to qualify under one of these programs it is then offered at the appraised value before the land is offered for public sale.

But if the city's plan involved both recreational and port uses the situation could become somewhat tangled.