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May 5, 2021

Mary Page Michel
Board Chair, Roland Park Community Foundation
PO Box 16214
Baltimore, MD 21210

RE: Hillside Park, Letter of Support

Dear Mary Page:

On behalf of Parks & People (P&P), I am pleased to support you and the Roland Park Community Foundation in your efforts to raise funds, acquire twenty (20) acres of undeveloped land from the Baltimore Country Club and develop Hillside Park. P&P's mission is to: "Unite Baltimore through parks." Given this, whenever any public agency or private entity is focused on providing Baltimore City with more open and accessible green space for all of Baltimore, P&P is a supporter of such an effort. To this end, P&P wholly supports the Roland Park Community Foundation's undertaking to convert twenty undeveloped acres into one of Baltimore's next great public parks.

Given this proposed park's location in the heart of Roland Park and within a short walking distance of two of Baltimore City's stellar high schools (Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western), Hillside Park will provide a great public urban resource for students and others who visit this area. It is accessible via the JFX, Falls Road, Northern Parkway, and public transportation. Given the post COVID importance of quality public green spaces and the transformative quality of community parks, it is time for spaces like these to become more equitable and inclusive so that all of Baltimore's diverse communities can experience the mental, emotion, physical, and quality-of-life benefits of a great outdoor resource.

In closing, Parks & People supports this effort. We have many years of experience doing community engagements, conceptual designs, and construction management for park projects such as this. As you have in the past, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the team here at Parks & People should you have questions as you pursue this effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Franklin Lance
President and CEO