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February 13, 2024

Chris Nelson
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Liaison to the Board

Dear members of the Salt Lake City Council:

On behalf of the University of Utah Board of Trustees, we extend our enthusiastic support for the proposed lease agreement concerning 1.175 acres of Sunnyside Park to the University of Utah. We believe this collaborative endeavor symbolizes a generational opportunity to collaborate with forward-thinking city leadership to address the evolving needs of our campus and the city at large.

Both the city and the university agree that Sunnyside Park is a cherished communal space that warrants substantial investment and revitalization efforts. This proposed agreement will not only eliminate the need for a 35-foot wall in leftfield but also provide the city with an additional \$4.2 million to improve and enhance the amenities and green spaces at Sunnyside Park.

We want to assure you that the university is committed to being a responsible steward of the community. We have actively sought input and feedback from more than 6,400 neighbors through various channels, including an open house, survey, and online engagement. We've received valuable insights that are shaping the design and development of the ballpark. We are committed to addressing neighborhood concerns and implementing measures to mitigate potential impacts, such as safety measures for foul balls, noise containment, thoughtful lighting design, and strategic traffic and parking management strategies.

The proposed location at Guardsman Way aligns with the university's long-term vision for campus development and growth. It provides convenient access to existing campus amenities, public transit, and parking facilities while minimizing disruption to surrounding infrastructure. Furthermore, the location presents an ideal opportunity to revitalize Sunnyside Park and establish it as a vibrant community hub for students, residents, and visitors alike.

The proposed lease agreement reflects our unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our students, faculty, and neighbors while preserving the rich legacy of Sunnyside Park for generations to come. By approving the public benefits analysis, the City Council would signal its support for a transformative project that embodies the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and community engagement.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we remain eager to contribute to the continued prosperity and well-being of Salt Lake City and its residents.

Sincerely,


Christian Gardner
Chair, University of Utah Board of Trustees


Katie Eccles
Vice Chair, University of Utah Board of Trustees