

Editorial; Fan Pier's possibilities

19 August 2005

Boston Herald

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The very name Fan Pier conjures up a mix of grand schemes, artist renderings and the everyday reality of, well, PARKING LOTS!

Such has been the sorry history of one of Boston's premier sites, an exquisite corner of waterfront land too long caught up in the political give and take of city development with an overlay of environmental obstructionism that combined to keep it one of the nation's most elegantly situated . . . PARKING LOTS

The news that a local team of developer Joe Fallon with the financial backing of MassMutual Life Insurance Co. put together a deal to buy the long fallow site is welcome indeed. There's a lot to be said for a hometown team, especially one with a track record of achievement in building in the seaport district.

Unlike other waterfront landowners (and gosh don't we miss them now that they've high-tailed it to the West Coast), Joe Fallon doesn't hold a lot of press conferences or go before editorial boards to explain his "vision." No, he just gets the job done, with style and with efficiency.

The job ahead won't be easy and it surely won't be cheap. Fallon and his team have inherited along with permit approvals a good deal of baggage and commitments the city forced on the Pritzker team.

The mayor couldn't be happier at the sale, knowing, of course, that development of the waterfront will be his most lasting legacy to the city. Now, however, he is obliged to hold in check anyone inclined to once again nickel and dime this project to death - AGAIN. Windows of economic opportunity come and go. Fan Pier's new developers need to be able to make the most of this one.