

18 April 1997

Dear Bill:

I've enclosed a copy of that sheet with the names of the committee people. I've erased my comments about the good senator etc.

I think you are doing a wonderful job with the Commission. Of course, crunchy decisions have not yet arisen, but there is a constructive attitude in the air-- for a change.

It seems to me it would be helpful if we had clear goals of how much money we need, when we can transfer the land, etc. Such goals would be useful in any fund raising, but, more important, they would lend a sense of practicality to the whole effort.

Therefore, I think we should ask John Parsons to come to the next meeting with figures on what the park would cost with different schemes of development, also an discussion of what different design treatments are being considered, what the timing of development might be, how it is to be related to the C&O Canal, Crescent Trail, Rock Creek, what kind of management is envisioned, etc. It's all too vague at the moment. I do not think all those decisions should be "internal". I would like to see Chris Brown working with us on some of this as he has a good reading of what is being done elsewhere and how the Park Service works.

Also, I think we should find out from DPW when they expect the Whitehurst work to be completed and when we might be able to transfer the land. Then we would have a goal for transfer.

As for GSA, I think we should find out just how their studies of the heating plants are proceeding, when we might learn of their findings on the West Heating Plant, or whatever they call the 29th Street plant. Bob Peck, who is in charge of buildings for GSA, is someone who would be interested in helping us, I am sure. I have known him for a long time. We once shared an office at NEA. Later he worked for Senator Moynihan. He was president, I believe, of the Preservation League for awhile. In any case, I would be willing to try to find out about this, if you think it advisable. I am always nervous about Don Shannon- who knows what he'll say or what he's after. I will work with him on a committee meeting and try to get the facts on all the Park Service requirements for the developer, the Swedish Embassy situation, the Trust for Public Land, etc.

I'm around if you have any questions.

Ann