

was simply vacant land and not a city park.

I did not give very much thought to explaining the matter specifically to Blossom. I suppose I took it for granted that he was familiar with the primary purpose of large parks as you are and that he would certainly do everything in his power to support our plans and recommendations. I realize now, as I did not before, that he actually has been kept in ignorance to some extent of what I was saying and thinking in the matter, and it was certainly very careless of me not to keep him better posted. I dictated a brief argument in favor of our site and against Allen's for Mr. Munroe a few days before I left, he having requested me to do so in order that he could set down correctly my views as expressed at the meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee at which Allen proposed his site. I have forgotten the date, but my impression is that it was May 11th. You can probably get a copy of this from Mr. Munroe.

As a matter of fact a majority of the Buildings and Grounds Committee were with me, but that does not actually count for much as against Collier and Sefton and the Park Commission. I have seen by clippings that the Braly Park Commission was expected to resign and now I hear from Blossom that they have done so.

If there is a new commission when you get there it will of course be all the more important for you to confer with them informally about the matter and try to get them to appreciate our point of view and to protect the park from the very great damage which would result from placing the Exposition in the middle of it.

If the southern site is finally decided against I should prefer for second choice the western border, notwithstanding the damage which would result to the plantations already under way. Except as regards the permanent buildings, the plantations could be restored in a few years, so that I should not consider the damage to the park scheme as a whole a very serious one — nothing at all comparable with the damage which would result from having the Exposition in the middle of the park.

If they will not agree to the western border I should prefer to move the permanent buildings as close as possible to the northern border so that they could be partially screened by plantations from the mesa views after the Exposition is over. This site would only be adopted I presume in case the Street Railway Company agreed to

build a line through the park. I think such a street railway through the park would be exceedingly injurious and objectionable, yet not nearly so much so if properly located and screened as the permanent buildings if located in the southern part of the golf grounds.

Allen has wired and written that Brazil is to put up a great building and spend a large sum on its exhibit and ^{that} there are indications of other countries and states participating which will necessitate a great increase in the area of ground to be covered by the Exposition. I think, for his own purposes, he greatly exaggerates this. I believe the 20 or 30 acres extending from the southerly site along up the Midland Drive and on Howard Hill will be ample to take care of all foreign governments and states desiring to erect buildings. But such a statement would be very much more convincing if accompanied by a plan showing the buildings and their approaches and surroundings. I will leave you and Blossom to work up such a plan.

Before leaving I asked Blossom to expand and complete my plan No. 3 over on to Howard Hill, around the lake and down the Spanish canyon, treating the latter I said in a much more simple and economical manner than our first plan. I hope he has done this.

Dawson - 5.

If not I shall be glad if you will see that it is done so that our plan No. 3 will look sufficiently complete in comparison with Goodhue's plan for the central site.

I enclose copy of the notes I made for apparently desirable corrections in Goodhue's plan for the southerly site, or at least in some cases suggestions for further consideration.

Apparently the whole site question can be determined by the new president of the Park Commission. If he is thoroughly convinced that the southern site is best for the park I feel no doubt that he and Mr. Marston can get the matter decided that way. I think everything possible should be done to get the Park Commission to understand the matter informally before it comes up in any formal meeting, and if possible to commit them to the southern site in advance of such meeting.

Very truly yours,

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(Enclosure)