

**GEORGE W. MARSTON**

OLMSTED BROTHERS SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

RECEIVED

JUL 31 3 01 PM '11

ACK'D BY  
ANS'D *LS* BY *JW*  
READ BY *JCO*

July 26, 1911.

Mr. John C. Olmstead,  
Brookline, Mass.

My dear Mr. Olmstead:

I trust that you realize that the past month has been an usually busy one for me by reason of annual stock taking and the Ground Breaking celebration; otherwise I should have kept you better informed of the situation here, and should have answered your telegram and letters more promptly.

Your letter of July 7th has been before me for two weeks and I want to thank you for putting in writing, in such clear and comprehensive terms, the reasons you have for not permitting the exposition to be placed upon the central site in the park. You were informed by Mr. Dawson of the action of the committee and I know you must be very gratified that the committee came to your own conclusion. I consider the matter virtually settled but we probably should not have had as easy a way over the difficulty if Colonel Collier had been here. The stand taken by Mr. Wangenheim, president of the new park commission, practically settled the matter. It was comparatively easy for me to secure the approval of the rest of the committee, when I told them that Mr. Wangenheim proposed.

to stand by the landscape architect's advice. I must also say that Mr. Allen yielded gracefully and that he really helped us at the end. Mr. Sefton was at first not disposed to accept the decision but nothing has been done since in the way of any opposition.

I wish to express my high appreciation of your splendid success in standing for the integrity of the park and to thank you most heartily for the hard work done and the courage and skill which you showed throughout in handling this difficult matter. While some of the rest of us had a partial conception of the needs of the case, we must surely consider that but for your unwavering stand and capable handling of the question, we never could have prevented the exposition men from securing that central location.

Mr. Goodhue arrived this morning and to-day Mr. Dawson, Mr. Allen and he are taking up the general problem of the grounds and buildings. Mr. Goodhue accepts the defeat of his cherished designs and we are all getting along very happily. As Mr. Dawson doubtless keeps you informed of the office work, I need not attempt to do so. I told him this morning that I should visit his office more frequently after this and give the business more attention. We have just got through the busy season in the store

and I look forward now to two or three months of comparatively quiet weeks.

The settlement of the personnel of the park board was a wonderful deliverance. I am glad that you did not have to stay through the whole period. The Clark Braly regime was doleful and fearful. The fact that in three weeks Mr. Braly had given twenty-three permits for shooting rabbits in the park shows what he might have done if he had kept in office for four years. We had to act in a pretty arbitrary way to bring the mayor around but the policy pursued was successful, and I cannot <sup>but</sup> think ~~but~~ perfectly justifiable, considering the desperate results that would have happened without any change. The mayor and commissioners had to surrender on account of the force of public opinion which we were able to bring out by a complete presentation of all the facts.

The celebration of last week was highly successful and I think it will have the effect of increasing the general confidence in the ability of San Diego to produce an exposition of some character. Mr. Wangenheim is going to do fine work. He told me this morning that it was his wish that the improvements of the park, exposition and water front should all be combined



Mr. John Olmstead

-4-

July 26, 1911.

and that the effort should be to make the city itself  
the great center of attraction. To do this requires more  
money but I am not sure but that Mr. Collier is right in think-  
ing that the city will rise to some measure of its great need  
to prepare fittingly for a worthy demonstration in 1915.

With most cordial personal regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

*George W. Marston*

GWM