

June 24th, 1941

Newton B. Drury, Director  
National Parks Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Drury:

At the time Mrs. Bliss and I were planning the transfer of Dumbarton Oaks Park to the Government, we contemplated incorporating in the deed of gift provision for the creation and functioning of an Advisory Committee to confer and advise with the District Park Commission on the care and upkeep of the Park. We finally decided, however, to carry out this plan as a separate arrangement.

We should like, therefore, to submit the matter to you and to indicate that it would be acceptable to us to have the Committee composed of five members who should be the Director of the District Park Commission, a representative of Harvard University, a designer or landscape architect, Mrs. Bliss or myself, and a fifth member to be appointed by the other four members.

Mr. Irving C. Root, the present Director of the District Park Commission, would thus become a member of the Committee, and we suggest that Mr. John Thacher, now in residence at Dumbarton Oaks, be the representative of Harvard University, that Mrs. Beatrix Farrand, who has been the consultant landscape architect at Dumbarton Oaks from the time we undertook to form the gardens, be the landscape architect member, and that Mrs. Bliss be a member.

We also propose that the Committee be self-perpetuating and that the original members of the Committee be appointed for a term of two years. It seems to Mrs. Bliss and me that this latter arrangement is the most practicable one and also allows a certain flexibility which seems desirable, at least in the beginning.

We hope that the formation of such a committee will meet with your approval and that we can count on your collaboration.

It is not our expectation to return to Washington until next autumn, but if you approve of our suggestion, the Committee could be formed and, if necessary, could function before our return.

With kind regards, and looking forward with much pleasure to seeing you when we are again in Washington, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

RWB:v

(Robert Woods Bliss)