

TONY SMITH

July 31, 1979

The Hon. Brendan T. Byrne
Governor of New Jersey
State House
Trenton, N.J. 08625

Dear Governor:

At some time last year, I was asked to look at the site for the proposed Liberty Park. I was amazed by its wild beauty, and was then asked if I would serve on a committee as an advisor for the selection and placement of sculpture for the future park. Without hesitation it was agreed. It was proposed that George Segal be the other member of the committee. This couldn't have pleased me more.

In any case, we met several times to familiarize ourselves with the scheme, the proposals, and to discuss our views about the use of sculpture in such a magnificent setting.

Because of some mix-up in the mails, I didn't receive the Study and Planning Commission's "Guidelines for (the) Development and Financing" until just before our last meeting at the office of Mr. Geddes in Princeton.

In reading the Commission's report I was astonished and dismayed by the minority report by the Commissioner Dean K. Boorman. I am thinking specifically of the suggestion that the crescent shaped sea-wall be eliminated.

For me the sea-wall, more than any other physical feature, gives the Park its identity. This is true not only of the internal area of the Park itself, but of the image which the Park would present to the entire bay area. Aside from the magic of its tall towers, the area presents little in the way of consciously created form. Our splendid array of bridges provide a glorious exception, as perhaps, if it is built, Westway will. But all of these things, these monuments, have been built primarily out of necessity, out of utility. There is little that is built out of pure spirit, for edification and enjoyment.

The crescent sea-wall would create such a delight.

I don't know who was responsible for this visionary concept. I do know that it would provide an unforgettable impact.

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In writing the above, I wasn't trying to extend my role on the Sculpture Committee. I think of it as the expression of an ordinary citizen. I did ask the others who met in Mr. Geddes' office if they thought I was getting out of line, and was delighted to learn that they all had similar views.

Respectfully yours,

Tony Smith

Tony Smith

66 Stanley Road
South Orange, N.J. 07079

ANTHONY SMITH

Sept 9, 1979

Dear Mr. Geddes

Your sea wall could be the best thing in the state!

I regret how poorly the letter to the governor was. The typist was going out of town and so I didn't have any time to rewrite or revise it.

All the best for the wall.

Respectfully,
Tony Smith

P.S. Are you related to Patrick Geddes?

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