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Minneapolis (15)

November 17, 1944

Mr. Clinton M. Odell  
c/o Burma-Vita Company  
2318 Chestnut  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Odell:

Replying to your letter of November 16 and referring to our conversation of yesterday at Theodore Wirth Park -

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Crone, Curator of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden, Mr. Jacobsen, Tree Inspector, Mr. Johnson, Supervisor of Park Maintenance, and the writer spent some time going over the area contained in the new enclosure of the garden with special reference to designating the trees and shrubbery to be eliminated, in order to make the grounds suitable for the start of developments in the new garden. We came to an agreement with Mrs. Crone as to the trees and shrubbery to be removed and I arranged shortly thereafter to have our crew cut down the trees and grub out the shrubbery.

About a week ago, Mr. Doell and I met you at the garden and we discussed among other matters, in reference to the development of the garden, the question of cutting down more oak trees at this time. I suggested to you then that in view of the fact that operations are just starting, it would be advisable, in my opinion, to proceed slowly in the cutting down of additional oak trees until the developments indicate the desirability and necessity for so doing. There appeared to be sufficient open space in various parts of the new garden to readily permit the start of operations in the establishing of the initial plantings.

The oak trees have taken a great many years to grow and they should not be removed until it is found necessary for the proper development and best interests of the garden to do so. As I told Mrs. Crone at the garden when the trees were marked to be cut down, whenever she found it advisable and necessary (after the development of the garden got under way) for her to recommend that additional trees and shrubbery be removed, that her request would receive favorable consideration and action. My position is the same now. After our discussion of yesterday, I am still of the same opinion, and it is my suggestion that for the time being we postpone the cutting down of more trees and review the matter next summer or after one season's development and experience. I think at that time we will be in a better position to determine how many trees should be cut down in the best interests of the garden.

There may be a slight difference of opinion as to what should be done at the present time at the garden in reference to this matter, but I am certain we are all together on the proposition of making our mutual efforts count in rendering the garden project a successful undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS,

*C. A. Bossen*

C. A. Bossen, Superintendent  
of Parks.

CAB-M Copy to Mrs. Crone.