The National Association for Olmsted Parks recognizes, in this Centennial Celebration Year, the wisdom of Seattle’s early leaders in bringing John Charles Olmsted to the city to design and implement an outstanding system of parks, parkways and boulevards.

This system, executed between 1903 and 1938 is nationally significant – so innovative was the Olmsted vision for this interconnected system, that it represents, nationally, the first attempt to “borrow” landscape scenery on a grand and monumental scale. As a precursor to the California State Park System, 1929, the Seattle Olmsted legacy is a pioneering masterwork and a potential candidate for a National Historic Landmark – the highest honor that can be bestowed on a historic property in America.

Today, as we congregate in Volunteer Park, we can not only witness the integrity and contiguity of Olmsted’s vision but we can also experience the “passages of scenery” intended by the Master. For example, this park contains such integrated landscape features as the reservoir, which still reflects its landscape surrounding and mirrors the overhead sky; and the sentinel water tower, providing a beacon and a welcoming invitation to Seattleites one hundred years later. Thank you city fathers and J. C. Olmsted for providing us with such a rare and regionally unique legacy.

[Signatures]