

September 4, 2002

Ms. Geraldine Wang
Program Director of Environment Communities
William Penn Foundation
2 Logan Sq., 11th Flr.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: NLREEP & Public Accountability

Dear Ms. Wang:

I'd like to very much to speak with you about Fairmount Park's NLREEP program. My understanding is that you are responsible for administering the NLREEP grant.

I asked Mark Focht a while back if I could take a look at a detailed copy of his budget. He said no, that the terms of the agreement between the City of Philadelphia and the William Penn Foundation forbid this. When I asked to look at the agreement, he told me that the agreement itself is confidential and cannot be shared with the public.

Have I understood Mr. Focht correctly? Why can't NLREEP provide the public with such basic instruments of accountability as budgets and governing agreements? If the Foundation's intent is to include Philadelphians as full fledged partners in restoring their parks, what purpose is served by withholding this information?

I believe that NLREEP's efforts have brought desperately needed change to our parks. On a recent trip to the Pennypack Environmental Center, both my girlfriend and I expected to find a dirty, neglected park. What we found was a place of profound calm and beauty. My belief is that Mr. Focht and NLREEP staff played no small role in making this happen.

I understand that you are probably a very busy person, but if you get back to me before 2 pm today I will make every effort to post your response, along with a copy of this letter, in the story. Otherwise this letter will have to speak for itself.

Sincerely,



Edmund Goppelt

Cc: Mark Focht, NLREEP Program Administrator