The NAOP Board of Trustees had its semi-annual meeting in Atlanta on April 28-30. For Daniel Charrier (Montreal), Eskey Hamilton (St. Louis), Jerry Baum (Baltimore), Wilbur McNeil (Newark) and me (Buffalo), who were new Board members in attendance, the meeting was a sweeping introduction to the problems that confront the preservation of Olmsted landscapes in the United States and Canada. The 22 Trustees present, as well as several former Trustees, divided our time between full board meetings, committee meetings, and tours of Atlanta's historic parks and Olmsted landscapes. I was impressed by how much ground we covered at our meetings, which took place on the magnolia-shaded campus of Emory University. Membership and outreach, the progress of the Olmsted Papers project, the design and content of the newsletter, plans for future conferences, and future publications projects, were all issues that engaged our attention. Perhaps the most important matter discussed was how NAOP can best use the services of Resource Network Inc., the organization that we pay for ongoing administrative support.

But to me, the three days spent in Atlanta were more like a mini-Olmsted conference than a business meeting. We heard Arlyn Levee give an excellent talk on John Charles Olmsted's work in Atlanta; and Doug Allen, professor of landscape architecture at Georgia Tech, enlightened us on the history of parks in Atlanta. We also toured Atlanta's known parks with local preservationists as our guides. In Grant Park, which still faces serious challenges to its well-being, we learned how its citizen-led restoration effort has sparked a revival of the surrounding neighborhood. Guides at Oakland Cemetery explained the restoration of this mid-19th century municipal burial ground. We walked through the tangled history of the site of Piedmont Park that served in 1896 as the grounds for the Cotton States Exposition and later had a master plan prepared for it by the Olmsted Brothers. And in Druid Hills, Frederick Law Olmsted's last suburb, we toured the once subtly charming public park land along Ponce de Leon Parkway and heard heartening news about plans for its restoration. All of these site visits, as well as others, constituted a crash course in the landscape heritage of Atlanta. Those of us from elsewhere came away with renewed enthusiasm to tackle problems duplicated in other cities.

Taking care of NAOP business and learning about local park issues were central to our weekend in Atlanta. But also important was the fact that, thanks to the vigorous legwork of the organizers of the meeting, local civic leaders and appropriate private groups were aware of our presence in town. Governor Roy Barnes, Mayor Bill Campbell and Liane Lavnet, CEO of DeKalb County, all declared April 28th NAOP Day! And the local ASLA chapter invited the trustees to its Medallion Site award program in Piedmont Park. As we tinkled glasses with our hosts after the ceremony, it occurred to me that the out-of-town attention that NAOP Board meetings bring to local preservation efforts is one of the best things the organization does to advance the cause of the Olmsted heritage.

100 Years of Landscape Architecture at Harvard

NAOP salutes the Harvard University landscape architecture program on the occasion of its centennial. Designed and launched by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., with Arthur Shurtleff, the first professional course in landscape architecture in the United States has had a rich and varied history. The centennial celebration included exhibits looking backward ("Our Heritage") and forward ("Imagining Futures") during the month of April as well as 2 day-long seminars, one looking back and one looking ahead.
The Spring Board of Trustees meeting in Druid Hills, Atlanta, was a Trustee training seminar. New Trustees are elected at the Spring meeting making this meeting the perfect time for such a focus. (Please see the brief bios on the new Trustees.) Immediate past Co-Chair Arleyn Levee and her committee turned in a stellar performance on nominations. Arleyn thanked the outgoing Trustees Carolyn Eber, Chuck Greeves, John Kael, Elizabeth Meyer, and Ann Settterthwaite for their service, including outgoing Co-Chair Don Harris of Seattle, who made a sparkling short speech at the Medallion Site Reception as his parting official action on behalf of NAOP and its mission to preserve the Olmsted legacy.

An “NAOP in Atlanta/ April 2000” Committee prepared for this meeting, beginning in July 1999. What is noteworthy about this committee is that it was the first time that the groups looking after the Olmsted landscapes in Atlanta came together around a table: Druid Hills (Olmsted Parks Society and Olmsted Linear Park Alliance), Grant Park Conservancy, and Piedmont Park Conservancy. Particular thanks goes to the Piedmont Park Conservancy and their executive director Debbie McCown for their tremendous contribution to the weekend meeting. Ken Gillett of the Atlanta Parks Department also deserves special recognition for his participation, interest, and work - including acting as guide on the tour of intown parks.

These Olmsted landscape groups chose to receive their Medallion Site awards from the Georgia ASLA chapter together at the Reception during the NAOP visit. Proclamations from the City of Atlanta, DeKalb County, and the State of Georgia certainly were welcome! Our Reception Sponsors deserve our great thanks for making it a very classy celebration indeed. Thanks to EDAWN, HOK (Helmut, Obata & Kassabaum), and Tunnell & Spangler & Associates; to Hughes Good O'Leary & Ryan and the Georgia Chapter of ASLA; to ECOS Environmental Design; to Jaeger and Company, Laubminal-Reed & Associates and Robert and Company. All landscape architects/landscape architectural firms working in Atlanta. (We sure have lots of work to do!)
New Board Bios

Jerry Baum
Baltimore

Jerry Baum has been treasurer of the Friends of Maryland’s Olmsted Parks and Landscapes (FMOP) for the past 10 years. Until 1997 he was the Executive Director of an independent non-profit, The Fund for Educational Excellence, whose mission was to provide resources and program initiatives to strengthen public school effectiveness.

Eugenie Ladner Birch
New York City and Lake Wales, Florida

Eugenie Ladner Birch is currently Chair and professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s Department of City and Regional Planning. Winner of numerous awards, she is a Fellow of both the American Institute of Certified Planners and of the Institute of Urban Design and has been a member of the NYC Planning Commission. She has authored numerous articles and chapters on a range of topics concerning planning and housing policy.

Charles Birnbaum
Washington, D.C.

Charles Birnbaum is the coordinator of the Historic Landscape Initiative of the National Park Service, where some of his many projects have included the on-line technical series, Cultural Landscape Currents; the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes; the database projects of Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography; Making Educated Decisions: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography; and A National Directory of Landscape Preservation Organizations. He is a past Co-Chair of NAOP.

Daniel Chartier
Montreal

Daniel Chartier has worked as a landscape architect for the Montreal Department of Parks for over 20 years. Since 1991 he has worked exclusively on the restoration of Mount Royal Park to ensure that the rehabilitation process would correspond to Olmsted’s original intentions. Currently, he is actively involved in planning the ASLA 2001 meeting to take place in Montreal.

Esley Hamilton
St. Louis

Esley Hamilton is the parks, preservation and sites historian for the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, engaged in a general survey of historic sites in St. Louis County. In addition he is a lecturer at Washington University School of Architecture. A consultant on historic preservation issues, Esley has also been involved in several exhibitions concerning architecture in St. Louis.

Francis R. Kowsky
Buffalo

Francis R. Kowsky is professor of Art History in the Fine Arts Department of SUNY Buffalo, where he has chaired the department. He has been actively involved for many years with preservation issues, both architectural and landscape, in Erie County and is a member of the Trustees’ Council of the Preservation League of New York State. Frank is the author of numerous publications and several books, including Country, Park and City: The Architecture and Life of Calvert Vaux (1998, Oxford).

Wilbur J. McNeil
Newark

Wilbur J. McNeil founded and organized the Weequahic Park Association to restore the 311 acres of woodland, meadow and lake of this once-sadly-neglected yet historic Olmsted-designed park in Newark, part of the Essex County system. Galvanizing community forces, Wilbur and his associates formed a 501(c)3 based on the Central Park Conservancy model and successfully pursued a $3 million award from the EPA to restore the lake and its shoreline. A community activist, Wilbur was for 32 years until 1988 a member of the New Jersey State Police Department of Law and Public Safety.

Anne Neal Petri
Washington, D.C.

Anne Neal Petri serves as vice-president and general counsel of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a non-profit organization dedicated to academic freedom. Previously, she served as general counsel of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition, Dede sits on numerous boards, among them the board of All Hallows Guild of the Washington National Cathedral, where she is chairman of the Garden Committee, spearheading a multi-year campaign to restore the Olmsted Woods, designed by FLO, Jr.

Exhibit