



הקרן לירושלים
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION
مؤسسة صندوق القدس
עמותה רשומה

רות חשין
נשיאה
Ruth Cheshin
President

August 27, 2008

Ms. Gayle Taubman Kalisman, Ed.D.
President
The Taubman Foundation
200 East Long Lake Road, Suite 180
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
USA

Ms. Jane Sherman
25001 River Drive
Franklin, MI 48025
USA

Dear Ms. Kalisman, Dear Ms. Sherman,

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2008 and for your concern.

I assure you that the Fisher-Taubman Garden at Liberty Bell Park is indeed one of the most utilized open green spaces in Jerusalem. The park is a wonderful meeting place for all the populations of Jerusalem and Jewish and Arab families regularly come to enjoy it.

As you noted in your letter, the Liberty Bell Park has always been a major attraction in the city and its Fisher-Taubman Garden is no doubt one of the focal points.

Regarding your specific concerns:

1. The Jerusalem Foundation is renewing both commemorative stones and will make sure that they are appropriately displayed in the park. My colleague Moshe Fogel, Head of the foundation's activities in America, will send you pictures of the new commemorative stones after they are installed.
2. Responsibility for maintaining gardens in the city is not in our hands, but we do draw the municipality's attention to issues concerning gardens created by the Jerusalem Foundation around town and we have done so in this case, asking them to clean the garden and tend to other needs appropriately.
3. This and every seventh year is defined as "Shmita", a period during which the Municipality observes Jewish Law, permitting "the land to rest and the earth to lay fallow". The much-needed gardening work and renewal of the garden's lawns can be carried out after the Jewish year, ending in October.



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4. Since in many cases we have been less than completely satisfied by the Municipality's level of maintenance of parks and gardens due to the lack of funds, the foundation's present policy is to provide maintenance endowments for projects in cooperation with donors whenever such opportunities arise. This was not yet the case in the 80s when the Taubman-Fisher Garden was created.
5. A temporary wire-mesh fence, which may have been present during your visit, has been removed and the gate opened, thereby providing visitors full access.

We fully share your desire to ensure the park continues serving as a beautiful place for the community of Jerusalem and a dignified memorial to your grandparents in the best possible way.

We will be happy to send you updated pictures of the area in a few months after the Jewish year ends and we have seen that the Municipality has properly addressed these issues.

Best regards,

Ruth Cheshin

cc: Dan Meridor, International Chairman