

File No. 26050

Baltimore, January 6, 1920.

Roland R. Marchant, Esq.,
City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:

13480

I have your letter of the 3rd inst. in which you request an opinion regarding rights of the members of the Park Board, the Water Board and the Finance Commission, to engage in business relations with the City in their own behalf or on behalf of their firms or corporations while a member of such Board of Commission. Provision is made for the Departments of Public Parks and Squares by Section 90 of the City Charter which provides that:

"The head of said departments shall consist of a Board of Park Commissioners composed of five members to serve without pay***."

This Board has full charge and control of all Public Parks, Squares, Boulevards leading to Parks, Springs and Monuments belonging to and controlled by or in custody of the Mayor and City Council. It has further authority and power to rent or lease property under its jurisdiction and also to make rules and regulations for the government and maintenance of order within the parks and other property under its jurisdiction. This board also has additional power relative to the regulation of the speed of vehicles in the parks and the establishing of athletic fields, playgrounds, etc.

The Water Board is provided for by Section 87 of the Charter and is named as the head of the second sub-department of public improvements. This Board is composed of five persons, all of whom serve without pay, with the exception of the Water Engineer. This Board has charge of the water supply of the City and has full power and authority with reference to assessing and establishing water rates.

The Commissioners of Finance are provided for by Section 41 of the Charter; this Commission is the head of a sub-department of Finance and is composed of the Mayor, Comptroller, the Registrar