

press release



# CITY OF PORTLAND BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION



1120 S.W. 5TH, ROOM 502  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-1976  
(503) 796-5193

MIKE LINDBERG, Commissioner

WILLIAM V. OWENS, Superintendent

For More Information, Contact  
Ross Walker, 796-5118,  
Communications Department

## INFORMATIONAL HEARING SCHEDULED FOR <sup>Proposed Park</sup> ~~PARK~~ BUREAU NAME CHANGE <sup>S</sup>

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be holding hearings in the community to request public opinion on proposed name changes for Irving Park, Alberta Park and the new Sellwood Riverfront Park.

These hearings have been established to honor the policy directive in effect at the time of the request. This policy indicated that a hearing would be held as part of the decision-making process in responding to any name change request.

The current process calls for a review of information from the following perspectives prior to making a decision on naming a park:

- the acquired names for parks and playgrounds in popular usage;
- the legal description (i.e. subdivision);
- the conditions and stipulations of the original donation or deed;
- contributions of an individual or family to the development of the specific park or playground in question.

Based on an evaluation of this criteria the Superintendent of Parks shall make a recommendation to the Commissioner in Charge in designating official park or playground names.

The proposed name changes and hearing dates and sites are listed below:

(Date) 7:30 pm Matt Dishman Center  
77 NE Knott

PROPOSAL: Rename Irving Park Lloyd "Tony" Stevenson Park

(Date) 7:30 pm Sellwood Community Center  
1436 SE Spokane

PROPOSAL: Remane new Sellwood Riverfront Park Dent Thomas Park

(Date) 7:30 pm Matt Dishman Center  
77 NE Knott

PROPOSAL: Rename Alberta Park Ira Mumford Park

ML:jke

ad placed in  
Scanner/Observer or Bee



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MIKE LINDBERG, Commissioner

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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has received a proposal to rename Irving Park. The policy of the Bureau at the time of request outlines a process for collecting information on each proposed name change prior to making a decision on the request. The hearing is strictly for information which will be considered along with other information in preparing a recommendation.

As part of this information gathering process we are inviting interested citizens to share their viewpoint at a hearing scheduled for

(Date), 1986 7:30 pm

Matt Dishman Community Center Auditorium

77 NE Knott

or submit written responses no later than (date), 1986 to Ross Walker, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, 1120 SW 5th, Room 502, Portland, OR 97204.

The proposed name change: Irving Park to Lloyd "Tony" Stevenson Park.

Proposed name change submitted by: Black United Front

Information received from the community should be directed to the appropriateness of the specifically proposed name change, particularly the contributions of the individual to the development of the specific park.

ML:jke

Letter to interested parties



# CITY OF PORTLAND BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION



1120 S.W. 5TH, ROOM 502  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-1976  
(503) 796-5193

MIKE LINDBERG, Commissioner

WILLIAM V. OWENS, Superintendent

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Ross Walker  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has recently received a request to change the name of Irving Park to Lloyd "Tony" Stevenson Park. This request was submitted by Black United Front.

Our current policy outlines a procedure for naming parks which includes receiving public opinion. If you wish to respond to this proposal, you may do so in writing to:

Ross D. Walker  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation  
1120 SW 5th, Room 502  
Portland, Oregon 97204

or attend a hearing on (Date), 7:30 pm at Matt Dishman Center, 77 NE Knott.  
before (Date), 1986

The purpose of gathering public opinion is for information only.  
Several resources will be researched before a decision is made regarding the proposal.

The Bureau is most interested in testimony relating to any specific contributions towards the development of Irving Park made by Mr. Stevenson.

The current process calls for a review of information from the following perspectives prior to making a decision on naming a park:

- the acquired names for parks and playgrounds in popular usage;
- the legal description (i.e. subdivision);
- the conditions and stipulations of the original donation or deed;
- contributions of an individual or family to the development of the specific park or playground in question.

Based on an evaluation of this criteria the Superintendent of Parks shall make a recommendation to the Commissioner in Charge in designating official park or playground names.

> Black United Front is the organization requesting the name change and they have submitted the following information in support of their request:  
RW:jke

## LLOYD "TONY" STEVENSON

A devoted husband and father, Mr. Stevenson unfortunately died while being physically restrained by a Portland policeman because he wanted to be a good samaritan.

A former U.S. Marine, Mr. Stevenson was a young man who developed a strong personal character, and was often noted working with other youth to assist in their character development. On many occasions he was noted at Irving Park, a location where many youth spent countless hours. It is, therefore, very fitting that Irving Park be renamed in honor of Mr. Stevenson. In Mr. Stevenson's case, history has once again shown a person of peace can become a victim of violence.

DRAFT

June 6

TO: Commissioner Lindberg  
FROM: Ross Walker  
SUBJECT: Hearing for Park Renaming

**DRAFT**

Writing. Need to select 3 Park people for panel. Meeting should be scheduled for last week of July or 1st week of August  
change to July 8/9/10

We have prepared information to be distributed regarding the three name change requests. The hearings are tentatively scheduled for June 24, June 25 and June 26 to be held at Matt Dishman Center and Sellwood Community Center.

I am concerned about possible misunderstandings that could result from this process.

1) First that it may not be clear to the media and community that a hearing is being held simply because our policy led people to believe we would hold one. If a hearing were a functional requirement (as opposed to literal requirement) of the process I believe we would be very vulnerable to criticism aimed at unwillingness to say no to an inappropriate request. (Certainly each request is inappropriate according to our criteria.) Recent editorials regarding decision making responsibilities make me nervous about this!

2) Secondly, I am concerned that there may be a greater harm than good done by this approach given that the current policy specifies a contribution to the park in question. Mr. Thomas does not deserve public rejection\* even though the proposal may not be appropriate to the site. Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Mumford may have relatives whose feelings would be hurt should denial come after it is taken to the public forum; however, denial prior to a public forum is an issue between the requestor and the bureau.

\* It ~~will~~ <sup>might</sup> be different if we initiated this and the public said no but this a public request open to public comment if Mr Thomas doesn't want to risk "rejection" he can request his name be withdrawn.

I doubt we'll receive any comments about having or not having a hearing. Critics will wait to see our decision.

DRAFT

3) If we are, in fact, entertaining the possibility of endorsing any one of these requests we should establish consistent criteria to

support it. We are holding a hearing because we said we would; <sup>to the best of our knowledge</sup> but our criteria effectively excludes these requests anyway. <sup>We are holding the hearing to find out if the criteria can be met.</sup>

We will certainly do our best to make this process work if you feel it is best to proceed; but I am concerned that even with best intentions we may not achieve the desired result of assuring the public involvement in this process without also creating hurt feelings and ill will. <sup>There may be some but not enough to panic about if we say no.</sup>

I told Ross that the only thing we should do is check with the organizations to make sure the ~~in~~ families involved know about the potential for intrusive media attention. I also told her to include the criteria in all press releases and ads. I told her to reschedule to the 8, 9, 10 of July to provide for adequate notification.

Anticipating press inquiries on how to change a park name, I told Ross to explain the current ~~policy~~ moratorium on requests and to acknowledge that we had a vague policy on the books ~~is~~ which we will attempt make work for the 3 applicants while we develop a new policy.

*This is press release  
with informational piece  
attached.*

**DRAFT**

INFORMATIONAL HEARING SCHEDULED FOR PARK BUREAU NAME CHANGE

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be holding hearings in the community to request public opinion on proposed name changes for Irving Park, Alberta Park and the new Sellwood Riverfront Park.

These hearings have been established to honor the policy directive in effect at the time of request. This policy indicated that a hearing would be held as part of the decision-making process in responding to any name change request. *insert criteria* ~~This policy will be revised to specify screening criteria and initial naming standards as well as a re-naming process.~~

The proposed name changes and hearing dates and sites are listed below:

June 24 7:30 pm Matt Dishman Center  
77 NE Knott

PROPOSAL: Rename Irving Park Lloyd "Tony" Stevenson Park

June 25 7:30 pm Sellwood Community Center  
1436 SE Spokane

PROPOSAL: Name new Sellwood Riverfront Park Dent Thomas Park

June 26 7:30 pm Matt Dishman Center  
77 NE Knott

PROPOSAL: Rename Alberta Park Ira Mumford Park

placed in local papers -  
Starny Observer, Bee, Oreg.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING

DRAFT

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has received a proposal to rename Irving Park. The policy of the Bureau at the time of request outlines a process for collecting information on each proposed name change prior to making a decision on the request. This <sup>hearing</sup> ~~process~~ is strictly for information <sup>which</sup> and will be considered along with other information in preparing a recommendation.

As part of this information gathering process we are inviting interested citizens to share their viewpoint at a hearing scheduled for

June 24, 1986 7:30 pm

Matt Dishman Community Center Auditorium

77 NE Knott

or to submit written responses no later than July 1, 1986 to Ross Walker, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, 1120 SW 5th, Room 502, Portland, OR 97204.

The proposed name change: Irving Park to Lloyd "Tony" Stevenson Park.

Proposed name change submitted by: Black United Front.

Information received from the community should be directed to the appropriateness of the specifically proposed name change, particularly the contributions of the individual to the development of the specific park.

These drafts would be the same for each  
with only the names/dates/places changed  
as appropriate.

DRAFT

DRAFT

TO: Interested Persons  
FROM: Ross Walker  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

This goes to neighbors  
and is attached to press  
release.

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Our current policy outlines a procedure for naming parks which includes receiving public opinion. If you wish to respond to this proposal, you may do so in writing to:

Ross D. Walker  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation  
1120 SW 5th, Room 502  
Portland, OR 97204

before July 1, 1986

or  
attend a hearing on June 24, 7:30 pm at Matt Dishman Center, 77 NE Knott.

The purpose of gathering public opinion is for information only.

Several resources will be researched before a decision is made regarding the proposal..

The Bureau is most interested in testimony relating to any specific contributions towards the development of Irving Park made by Mr. Stevenson.

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Based on an evaluation of this criteria the Superintendent of Parks shall make a recommendation to the Commissioner in Charge in designating official park or playground names.

*insert individual*  
Black United Front is the organization requesting the name change and

### LLOYD "TONY" STEVENSON

A devoted husband and father, Mr. Stevenson unfortunately died while being physically restrained by a Portland policeman because he wanted to be a good samaritan.

A former U.S. Marine, Mr. Stevenson was a young man who developed a strong personal character, and was often noted working with other youth to assist in their character development. On many occasions he was noted at Irving Park, a location where many youth spent countless hours. It is, therefore, very fitting that Irving Park be renamed in honor of Mr. Stevenson. In Mr. Stevenson's case, history has once again shown a person of peace can become a victim of violence.

### REV. IRA D. MUMFORD

A native of South Carolina, Rev. Mumford traveled extensively throughout the United States appearing with the famous Ink Spots singing group. Eventually settling in Portland, Rev. Mumford's bass-like voice could often be heard around the King Neighborhood Facility in the Northeast community. Until his unexpected death, he served as the Coordinator of Oregon State University's Urban 4-H Extension Program which provided numerous projects for youth. Rev. Mumford was often seen at public parks promoting the Urban 4-H Program within Northeast Portland using Alberta Park as a base of operation due to its peaceful nature. Additionally, he is remembered portraying two famous persons - Rev. Martin L. King, Jr. and Santa Claus. Rev. Mumford is survived by his wife and daughter.

Dent's dedication and ability to get things done had been previously recognized when Mayor Terry Schruck asked him to serve on the Oaks Pioneer Park Advisory Committee during a period when the city was developing plans to save the riverfront for Oregon's citizens. These efforts eventually led to the city's acquisition of all the riverbank land from SE Long Street to Sellwood Bridge except for Oaks Amusement Park and the land on which the Riverfront Park is being built, which was acquired in a complex negotiation two years ago. As a further result of his interest he was asked to serve on the original Willamette Greenway Commission.

He also served the state on the Oregon Economic Development Committee in 1971-72.

This one citizen who gave unstintingly of his time, money and ability in any area where he could help, no matter how small the role, exerted an influence far beyond community boundaries. We are extremely grateful for his work, his ideas and his fellowship, and would like to honor him by proposing his name for the Riverfront Park.

## ROBERT DENT THOMAS

Dent Thomas established Dent's Dry Cleaning & Radio Service at SE 13th and Lambert Street in 1947. In tune with the times, it was later changed to Dent's Dry Cleaning and TV Services, and moved to SE 13th and Spokane and continued there until it closed in 1974 upon his retirement. During these years he was active in almost every local organization in the community, serving as president of a number of them. They included the Sellwood Community Club, the Sellwood-Moreland Lions, and the Southeast Chamber of Commerce. He was an officer of two city-wide groups, the Portland President's Council and the Portland Rainmakers, of which he was a founding member. He helped found and served several years as president of the Sellwood Business Club. Among special projects he supported during this period were a boat landing at the foot of Spokane Street, a community Christmas Tree on the bluff overlooking Oaks Park, the community drive to save the Sellwood-Moreland branch library which was threatened with closure, the Sellwood-Moreland Youth Workshop which later became the Sellwood Boys Club and continues as a valuable youth resource, and the annual Easter Parade which provided happy memories to many children in the area. Dent would be the first to say he did not accomplish any of this alone, but his leadership came to be recognized by city officials and led to his major achievements.

Foremost of these was the organization of the Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League. SMILE's record and achievements were such that the organization had a city-wide impact and was the forerunner and example for other neighborhood organizations under the official Office of Neighborhood Associations in City Hall. SMILE and JUNIOR SMILE were given state recognition in June 1965 when Governor Hatfield presented a citation to Dent Thomas. The citation recognized an accomplishment of city-wide significance, the acquisition and preservation of the oldest extant Episcopal church building in Oregon in 1961. City Commissioner Ormond Bean had appealed to Dent to see whether it could be saved. Dent advanced the money to move it by barge down the river to Oaks Pioneer Park, and later headed the fund drive to support locating it there and beginning the rehabilitation of the structure. SMILE, under Dent's leadership, assisted with the volunteer landscaping efforts, and later filed articles of incorporation to enable the group to contract with the city, at the city's request, to operate the Oaks Pioneer Church as an increasingly popular wedding chapel.

During a turbulent period in 1968, when community action was creating many demands on city government, Mayor Terry Schrunk decided to open the Southeast Uplift office. He asked Dent to serve as the temporary chairman to launch this project and Dent was subsequently elected chairman. Southeast Uplift continues today as a vital link between the community and city government, contracting with the Office of Neighborhood Associations to provide citizen participation and to administer the Neighborhoods Against Crime program.