

IRVING PARK ORDINANCES

Condemnation Judgement No. H 569-  
April, 1920 - 15 acres \$58,666

Resolution No. 25379 Authorizing  
signing of petition for vacation of  
NE 9th 3-19-52

97282-10-15-52 Vacating portion of  
NE 9th

\*1

IRVING PLAYGROUND

Judgment No. H 569 - April, 1920

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that upon payment into court by the plaintiff in favor of the defendant of the sum of \$58,666.00, less the amount of said assessments, penalties, interest and taxes, the property described in the complaint, to wit:

Beginning at the intersection of the south line of Fremont Street and the east line of East 7th Street, running thence east on said south line to the northwest corner of Lot 1 Block 98 in Irvington, thence south on the west line of Lots 1 to 10, inclusive, said block and an extension thereof, to southwest corner of Lot 5 in Block 97, Irvington; thence on a straight line following the North line of Lot 15 in said Block 97 and Blocks 100, 111 and 114 in Irvington to the Northwest corner of Lot 15 in Block 114, Irvington and East line of East 7th Street; thence north on said East line to the place of beginning, containing 15 acres more or less,

shall be condemned and appropriated to the plaintiff herein, The City of Portland, for public park and playground purposes, and upon said payment said plaintiff shall have immediate and perpetual possession of said property for such purposes, and it appearing to the court that the City of Portland tendered the defendant, before commencing this action, an amount equal to that assessed by the jury; therefore it is

ORDERED that the defendant shall recover no costs or attorney's fees herein and that the plaintiff shall recover its costs and disbursements against the defendant.

April 15, 1920, the City Attorney transmitted by letter to Joseph Beveridge, County Clerk, Warrant No C-2452 of the City of Portland in the sum of \$58,666.00 to be applied as follows:

\$8,090.53 to City of Portland for street and  
sewer assessments  
809.60 to T M Hurlburt, Tax Collector, in  
payment 1919 taxes  
49,765.87 to Irving Real Estate Co in payment  
for land condemned





PARK: Irving

LOCATION: N.E. 7th-Irving

*N.E. FARMS  
N.E. 11th AVE*

ACQUIRED: Purchased 1920 - \$58,666.00

TOTAL ACREAGE: 15. Parks:      Pgs:      Lawns:      Shrubs:     

Walks:      Drives:      Natural:     

IMPROVEMENTS

COMFORT STATIONS: 2 BRICK INCLUDING TOOL ROOM

1920 - 5000.00

Dwellings:     

Shelters:     

Recreation:     

Tool Houses:     

MISCELLANEOUS: SHELTER - 1927 - 998.00 - W.O. 409

*Notes for 6 MB & W 2*



DATE

LOCATION

ACQUIRED

TOTAL ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_

Wetland: \_\_\_\_\_ Drives: \_\_\_\_\_

IMPROVEMENTS

CONCRETE STATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

Backstop - 1925 - W.O. 118 - 120.60



Dwellings: \_\_\_\_\_

Shed: \_\_\_\_\_

Restoration: \_\_\_\_\_

Planting W.O. 224 - 1926 - 266.99

Foot Housing: \_\_\_\_\_

MISCELLANEOUS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARK: Irving

STEPS: \_\_\_\_\_

FENCE: 4' Iron Pipe *1925 - W.O. 32*  
*Painting Fence 504.21*

STATUES: \_\_\_\_\_

FLAG POLES: \_\_\_\_\_

FOUNTAINS: Five

TENNIS COURTS: Four- 2-1925

2-1926 - 3258.38 - W.O. 173

HAND BALL COURTS: One - 1925 \$343.85 *W.O. 490 - MATTHEW*

SAND COURTS: One - 1928 - \$100.00

HORSESHOE COURTS: \_\_\_\_\_

WADING POOLS: One - 1928 - \$655.68

BASEBALL FIELDS: One-Large- Two Small

*FRONT TOP 1 L*  
*" 2 5*

WATER SYSTEM: 82 hose bibbs

LIGHTS: 17 - 1925 - \$2353.63 *W.O. 413*

APPARATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

Portland May 26  
Parks Superintendent  
Keiser.

Dear Sir!

You asked how the  
Park Leif Eriksons should  
be spelled it is spelled

**Leif Eriksons**

We have started in to work  
for that Plan you spoke  
of at East 12 and Everett  
and I hope them that can  
be called Leif Erikson Park

Truly  
yours

F. E. Berg  
P. O. Box 802

Bx 2019





March 29, 1930

Mr. C. C. Hall,  
President,  
East Side Commercial Club,  
114½ Grand Avenue.

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is copy of a petition signed by F. E. Berg representing in Oregon the only Norwegian Newspaper on the Pacific Coast, which is self explanatory. Following the filing of the petition I have had several conferences with Mr. Berg. It seems that the Norwegians prefer that Irving Park, at East 7th and Fremont Streets, be named for Leif Erikson. This park was named some years ago after William Irving, the original owner of the Donation Land Claim after which Irvington is named and I told him that I believed under the conditions by which the park was named that the Council would hesitate to change the name. Several other parks were considered, among them the park between East 17th and 20th and Taylor and Belmont, which some years ago on request of the neighborhood was named Belmont Park. The nearest park to their community hall is our Buckman Field just south of the Benson High School which was named very much in the same way that Irving Park was named.

Would you kindly refer the whole question to your constituency as you may see fit and recommend either for or against a change in the name of any of these three parks.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

Portland, Oregon,  
March 18, 1930.

Mr. Lawrence S. Kaiser,  
Superintendent of Public Parks,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

As the Norwegians cannot get Irving Park  
the undersigned have decided in favor of what is known  
as Belmont Park, Southwest corner of East Taylor and  
17th Streets, to be called "Leif Erikson."

Thanking you for past favors, I remain

Yours respectfully,

*F. E. Berg*

F. E. Berg  
P. O. Box 802  
Portland, Oregon.

Phone Broadway 2019.

*Approved:*

*Emil P. Sharp*

*B. I. Skulason*  
H. 13.

**City to Honor Erikson.**

C. P. Keyser, city superintendent of parks, is considering several sites with the possibility that one of them may be named in honor of Leif Erikson, early Norse adventurer. The city has been requested to name a park for him, and the bureau is considering a location at Seventy-second and Sandy, where the city has five blocks; Seventy-second and Foster road, where there are two long blocks in the city's possession, and Irving park, Seventh and Fremont streets.

Portland, Oregon,  
March 6, 1930.

Mr. C. P. Keyser,  
Superintendent of Parks,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

If you want the Norwegians' view in regard to the three places named above, the undersigned hereby declare in favor of Irving Park, East 7th and Fremont, to be named Leif Erikson,

With thanks for the progress already made,  
I remain,

Respectfully,

*F. E. Berg*

F. E. Berg

P. O. Box 802  
Portland, Oregon.  
Broadway 2019.

*Emil P. Slovark*  
*F. E. Berg*



February 20, 1930.

Mr. F. E. Berg,  
P.O. Box 802,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

The resolution which you have sent to this office will be referred to the City Council for consideration.

It is very probable that the Council will refer the matter to Commissioner Pier, who has charge of the Public Parks and I would suggest that at your convenience you get in touch with Mr. Pier personally.

I should be glad to cooperate with you in any way possible.

Yours very truly,

MAYOR.

Portland, Oregon,  
January 27th. 1930.

WHEREAS: President Coolidge in an address to about 50,000 Norwegians in Minneapolis declared there was little doubt that Leif Erikson was the first white man to discover America, and

WHEREAS: This country has sent a delegation to Iceland this year to celebrate the 1000 year anniversary and erect a monument to Leif Erikson, and

WHEREAS: The State of Wisconsin has set aside October 9th as a holiday to honor Leif Erikson, and

WHEREAS: The authorities of the United States have named one of the greatest mountains in Oregon after a mountain in Norway, namely; Dovre, and

WHEREAS: The authorities of the State of Oregon have given a Norwegian name to a farm in Tillamook County, Oregon, namely; Wolland.

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned asks the Honorable Mayor and the Councilmen of our fair city of Portland to name a park or square "Leif Erikson Park". (If a park or square is so named the Norwegians in Portland and Oregon would erect a monument to Leif Erikson which would be a pride to the City).

It is needless to say that at least 99% of the Norwegian people in Portland and Oregon are in favor of this and would be grateful to the Mayor and Councilmen of the Rose City if this could be done.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

*F. E. Berg*

F. E. BERG.

(Representing in Oregon the only Norwegian newspaper of the Pacific Coast)

P. O. Box 802  
Portland, Oregon.

*original of  
this CC 1252  
sent to Auditor  
7-10-67*

*Emil P. Stovarp*

RECEIVED  
FEB 19 1930

MAYOR'S OFFICE

## Explanation:

Attorney Skulason is one of the  
most Popular Islanders in Oregon with  
office in the Publick Service bldg

Attorney Slava is the vice consul of Norway  
with Office in Porter bldg

F. S. B.



*Irving Park file*

RESOLUTION NO. 25379

A Resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Affairs to sign a petition for the City of Portland for the vacation of that portion of N.E. 9th Avenue lying within Irving Park

WHEREAS, it appears that that portion of N.E. 9th Avenue lying within Irving Park has never been formally vacated, and that it is necessary that no streets or public ways traverse said park; and

WHEREAS, the procedure for street vacations requires signatures of all abutting property owners, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Portland in regular session assembled, that the Commissioner of Public Affairs be and he hereby is authorized and directed to sign the necessary petition for the vacation of that portion of N.E. 9th Avenue which lies between the south line of N.E. Fremont Street and the north line of fractional blocks 100 and 111, Irvington, insofar as City-owned property in the area may be affected.

Adopted by the Council : MAR 19 1952

*Will Gibson.*  
Auditor of the City of Portland

Commissioner Bennett  
3/13/52  
HBB:mp

*Extra Rec. Lov.*  
*Loving*

ORDINANCE NO. **134418**

An Ordinance authorizing the City Treasurer to accept funds and place the same in the Trustee Account for the "Reading Tree," authorizing disbursements therefrom, waiving the provisions of Chapter 7.74, Charitable Solicitations, of the Code of the City of Portland, Oregon, and declaring an emergency.

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds that a citizens committee has formed a reading program for enjoyment and recreation and also for remedial purposes; that this program has been designated the "Reading Tree" Program and is being conducted in Irving Park, a public park of the City of Portland; that a fire has destroyed a large quantity of the material available for this program; that it is desirous that this program continue and that efforts for the continuance of this program have been made; that the City of Portland should aid such a program by providing a depository for moneys for such a civic purpose and that funds should be solicited therefor and that provisions should be made to disburse the funds so collected; now, therefore, the Treasurer hereby is authorized and directed to receive funds in the form of voluntary donations from such groups or individuals as from time to time may desire to participate in this program, and the City Treasurer hereby is authorized to accept such funds as have been donated to the "Reading Tree" Program prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

Section 2. Said funds are intended to be used for the purchase of books and the payment of salaries for a part-time staff and for such other purposes as are incidental and necessary to the "Reading Tree" Program. The City Treasurer is hereby authorized to disburse said funds upon a written request from the Commissioner of Public Affairs or his designated representative, at such times and in such amounts as the Commissioner or his designated representative shall request.

Section 3. The requirements of Chapter 7.74, Charitable Solicitations, of the Code of the City of Portland, Oregon, are hereby waived by the Council as provided in Section 7.74.070.

## ORDINANCE No.

Section 4. Inasmuch as this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, peace and safety of the City of Portland in this: In order that arrangements may be made without delay for the public purpose set forth herein; therefore, an emergency hereby is declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its passage by the Council.

Passed by the Council, APR 26 1972

Commissioner Ivancie  
April 19, 1972  
SOT:at

Attest:



Mayor of the City of Portland



Auditor of the City of Portland



ORDINANCE NO. 97282

An Ordinance vacating a portion of N. E. 9th Avenue, in Irvington, an addition in the City of Portland, petitioned for by the Bureau of Parks.

WHEREAS, the Council finds that on or about August 13, 1952, there was filed in the office of the Auditor of the City of Portland a petition of the Bureau of Parks of the City of Portland, Oregon, for the vacation of all that portion of N. E. 9th Avenue which lies between the south line of N. E. Fremont Street and the north line of fractional blocks 100 and 111, Irvington, an addition in the City of Portland, County of Multnomah, and State of Oregon, the said petitioner being relieved from the payment of the filing fee otherwise required by law, and at said time filed with the Auditor a consent in writing of all abutting property owners upon the said portion of said land sought to be vacated, and more than two-thirds in area of all the real property affected by such vacation, and that thereupon the City Auditor gave notice by posting and publication for a period of four (4) successive weeks that said petition had been filed for said proposed vacation proceedings, and that said petition, together with any objections, remonstrances, or claims for damage which may be made in writing and filed with the Auditor of the City of Portland, Oregon, prior to the time of hearing would be considered and heard by the Council of the City of Portland at a regular meeting to be held at 9:30 A.M., Pacific Daylight Time, Tuesday, September 23, 1952, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall in said City. That said notice was first published in the City official newspaper, to wit: the Daily Journal of Commerce, August 22, 1952, and the said Auditor within five (5) days after the first publication further published said matter by posting three notices headed: "Notice of Street Vacation" in three conspicuous places in the area of said proposed vacation at the places therein described and designated as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Object to which attached:</u>
At the approximate intersection of the West line of N. E. 9th Avenue and the South line of N. E. Fremont Street.	On a tree
On the approximate West line of N. E. 9th Avenue approximately 375 feet South of N. E. Fremont Street.	On a stake

Location

Object to which attached:

At a point on the approximate East line of N.E. 9th Avenue, said point being the approximate Northwest corner of Block 100 Irvington, an addition in the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

On a post

and

WHEREAS, said matter came on regularly for hearing before the City Council at said time and place and no one appeared to object thereto and no objections or remonstrances, nor any claim for damage were filed or made against the same, and there was filed with the City Auditor the consent in writing of all abutting property owners upon the portion of said area proposed to be vacated, and more than two-thirds in area of all of the property affected by such vacation, and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the purpose of said vacation is for general park purposes the same as the adjacent ground and particularly for park and playground purposes, and the reasons for such vacation and the particular circumstances for the vacation are to permit the immediate grading and development of this portion of the park area, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the policy of the Council no assessment of special benefits has been made since the vacated street will revert to the City of Portland for the benefit and use of the Bureau of Parks, and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that a vacation of the property herein described will not injuriously affect the market value of the property abutting or affected by such vacation, and further finds that all things have been done as provided by law for the vacation of said area and that final action should be taken and that such vacation should now be made a matter of record; now therefore,

The City of Portland does ordain as follows:

Section 1. It hereby is ascertained and determined that said vacation will not injuriously affect the market value of the property abutting on the area to be vacated but will be beneficial thereto and is in the public interest, that the consent of the owners of all of the property adjacent to or abutting the area to be vacated has been obtained in writing, duly acknowledged, and filed as hereinabove stated; that

notice has been duly and regularly given of such vacation and a hearing thereon duly and regularly had, at which the Council found and does now find and determine that the public interest will not be prejudiced but that said vacation will enhance the public interest and welfare, all of which determinations hereby are made a matter of record.

Section 2. There hereby is vacated all of the following-described property:

All that portion of N. E. 9th Avenue which lies between the South line of N. E. Fremont Street and the North line of fractional blocks 100 and 111, Irvington, an addition in the City of Portland, County of Multnomah, and State of Oregon.

Section 3. This vacation hereby is made contingent and dependent upon the following conditions:

- (a) That the Bureau of Parks shall defray all costs incidental to this proposed vacation.
- (b) That the Bureau of Parks shall credit to the Sidewalk Rotary Account (7055) the sum of \$545.60 for the reconstruction of the sidewalk, curb, and intersection on the south side of N. E. Fremont Street at N. E. 9th Avenue.
- (c) That the petitioner herein shall file with the Auditor of the City of Portland, and the Commissioner of Finance hereby is authorized so to do, an acceptance of this vacation, signed, acknowledged, and approved by the City Attorney as to form, and the Auditor shall file for record with the County Clerk who is ex-officio recorder in and for Multnomah County, State of Oregon, a certified copy of this ordinance, and a certified copy of said acceptance, as provided by law, and likewise file copies with the County Assessor and the County Surveyor of said county.
- (d) This vacation is made upon the further condition and with the reservation that nothing herein contained shall cause or require the removal or abandonment of any sewer, water main, gas main, conduit of any kind, wire, pole, or thing used or intended to be used for any public service, and the right hereby is reserved for the owner of any such utility or thing to



maintain, conduct, repair, reconstruct, renew, replace, rebuild, and/or enlarge any and all such things; that no building or structure of any kind shall be built or erected within a distance of ten (10) feet from the center line of any such utility, except by the written consent of the City Engineer and the owner of such utility first having been had; that any and all contemplated building plans in said vacated area shall be submitted for approval to the City Engineer and to the Director, Bureau of Building Inspection to the end that such construction may be so adjusted with reference to all public utilities in said area, if any there be, as to cause a minimum amount of danger or inconvenience to the public and to the owner of such utility and to protect the same as presently constructed or hereafter reconstructed, renewed, replaced, and/or enlarged.

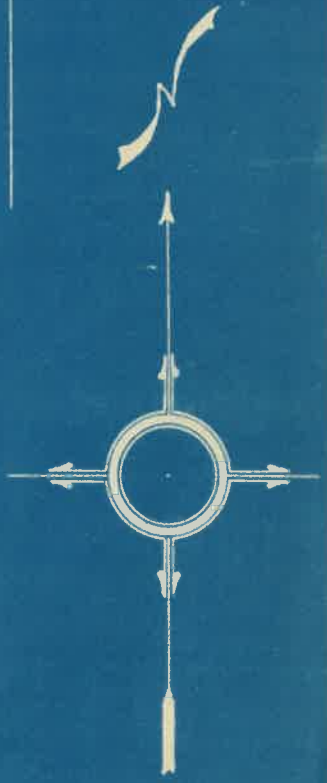
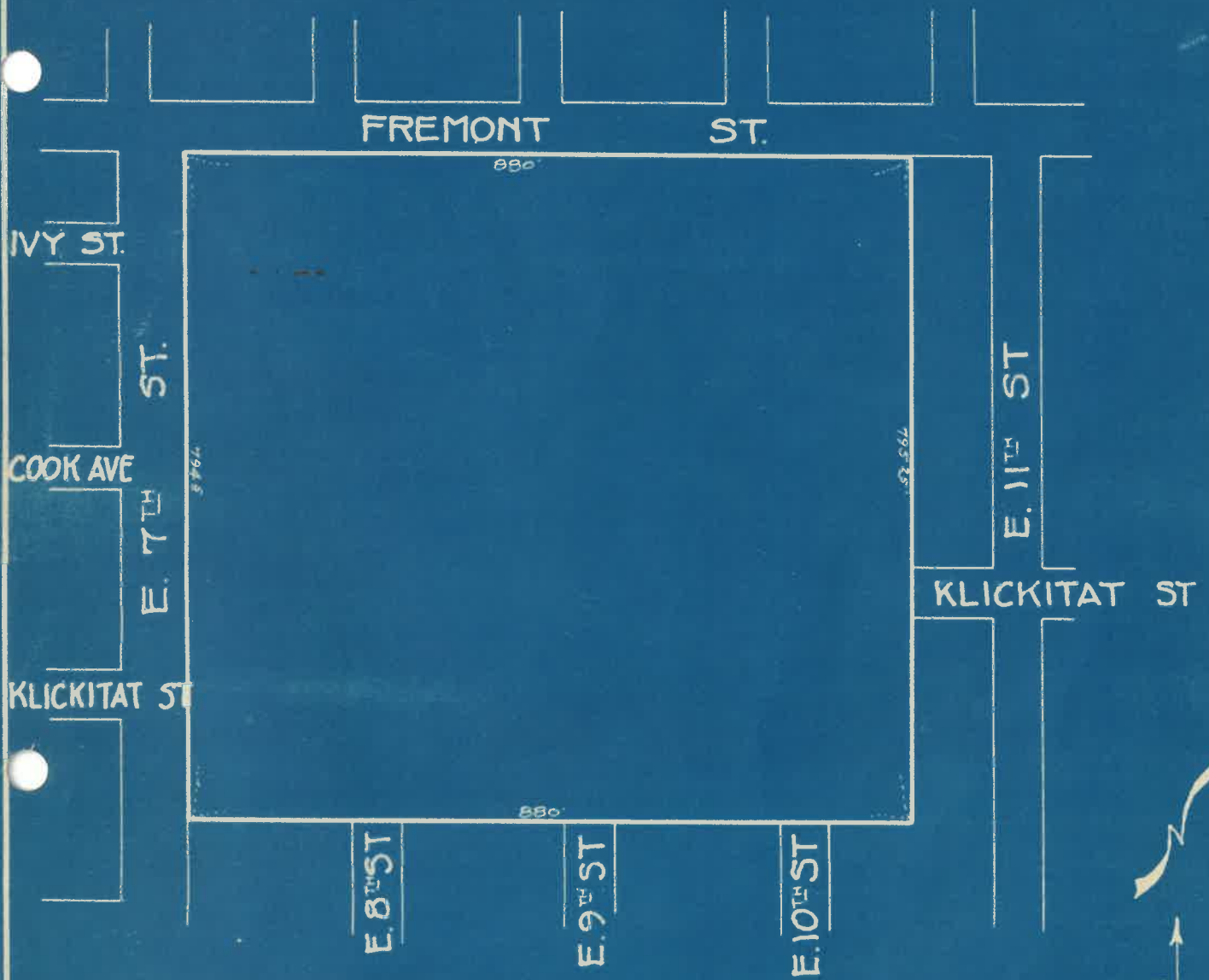
Passed by the Council OCT 15 1952

*Dorothy McLaughlin Lee*  
Mayor of the City of Portland

Attest:

*Will Gibson.*  
Auditor of the City of Portland

Order of Council  
Sept. 25, 1952  
AGB:li



<b>DEEDS</b>
COURT ORDER ORD#

**PROPERTY MAP**  
 IRVING PARK  
 IN SEC. 26 - TINNIE  
 CITY OF PORTLAND  
**BUREAU OF PARKS**  
 SCALE 1" = 200'      DATE 3-1-24  
 DR BY W.A.R.2

<b>ACREAGE</b>	
DEED	
ADDITION	
DEDUCTION	
NET TOTAL	16.98
No. 6-10-10	



1/4 SEC. 2731  
 DATE 6-6-55  
 STATE 1"=100'-0"  
 ORMOND R. BEAN  
 THOS. D. PARRELL  
 DESIGNED BY J. P. STUHL  
 APPROVED BY *Chas J. Farmer*  
 LOCATION NO. 275

NAMED BY ORD. # 38940  
 IRVING  
 BUREAU OF PROPERTY CONTROL  
 PORTLAND, OREGON  
 COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE  
 PROPERTY CONTROL OFFICER

SCALE 1"=100'-0"



AUD. DEED #	ORD #	SUP. ORD #
6524	36692	37138

TOTAL ACREAGE 16.06  
 GENERAL FUND 101

N.E. 7<sup>th</sup> AVE

794.50'

N.E. IVY ST.

N.E. COOK ST.

N.E. FARGO ST.

N.E. FREMONT ST.

880'

ORD # 97282

D # 6524

D # 6524

795.25'

N.E. KLICKITAT ST.

N.E. 11<sup>th</sup> AVE

N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> AVE

N.E. 9<sup>th</sup> AVE

N.E. 10<sup>th</sup> AVE

880'



March 25, 1965

RECEIVED

Mr. Harry Buckley, Superintendent of Parks  
City Park Bureau  
City Hall  
Portland, Oregon

APR 1 1965

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS  
No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Buckley:

This letter is on behalf of the Irvington Community Association. The Association is a grass roots citizens group in the Irvington area. I am enclosing a sheet of information about it.

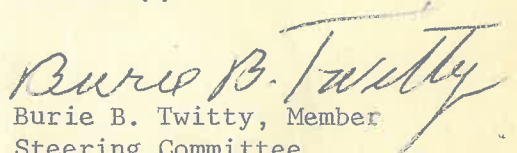
One of the concerns of the Association is recreation and the total use of all facilities within the Irvington area. With this concern in mind a committee within the Association has been formed and is now actively engaged in discussions about recreation and use of all facilities within the Irvington area.

I have been asked by this committee to write you requesting that a date be agreed upon when the committee can meet with you concerning these matters. Our meeting place is the Irvington School and we can be flexible as to date - 7:30 or 8:00 o'clock in the evening has been our custom and would seem to be best for all concerned. We would like you to indicate a number of dates within the next month that would be open for you, and we would expect to confirm one of those dates with you by phone within several days after receiving your reply.

You will be interested in learning that our organization has been developing for the better part of a year. We are now in a position to act on a number of fronts for the advancement of Irvington as a residential community, and we are prepared to act on the assistance you can give us.

We will appreciate your response to our request at the earliest possible moment.

Sincerely,

  
Burie B. Twitty, Member  
Steering Committee  
Irvington Community Association

Burie B. Twitty  
2737 N. E. 9th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97212

Copy to: Robert H. Bonthius, Co-chairman Irvington Community Association  
Clifford Low, Co-chairman Irvington Community Association  
Mayor Terry Schrunk  
Commissioner Ormond Bean

IRVINGTON IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

November 1964

Steering Committee

Herbert L. Amerson  
Burnett Austin  
Robert H. Bonthius  
Merle Enyeart  
Mrs. Lucretia Jackson  
Clifford Low  
James K. Neill  
John W. Reese  
Mrs. Wilson Walker

PURPOSE

To mobilize the Irvington community for action; to maintain the finest possible area in which to live.

AUSPICES

Everyone in Irvington interested in work for Irvington.

A Steering Committee spearheading the program.

Initial Members

Venerable F. Booker  
Robert Crowley  
Robert J. Deacon  
Mrs. Clift Driver  
Mrs. George Duke  
Richard N. Esselstyn  
Ken Evans  
Mrs. Aflene Grice  
Mrs. Ila Hamilton  
Eugene Larson  
Mrs. Robert McGrew  
Marvin McKinney  
Mrs. Kenneth Schwing  
Earl Sharp  
Mrs. Jan Walden

AREAS OF CONCERN

Achieving a truly integrated community.  
Advertising the advantages of Irvington.  
Improving homes and yards.  
Securing all needed community services.  
Maintaining street and park facilities.  
Encouraging voluntary organizations  
for children and youth.

Additional Members

Every Irvington  
Resident

METHOD OF OPERATION

Group planning by Irvington residents....  
Consultation with urban experts, city officials, business leaders, and, above all, Irvington homeowners...Hark work by all of us in Irvington.

CITY OF PORTLAND  
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE  
(NOT FOR MAILING)

*Park*

January 13, 1966

From Bureau of Parks  
To Department of Finance  
Addressed to Commissioner Ormond R. Bean  
Subject Construction of new restroom facility in Irving park



Dear Commissioner Bean:

Transmitted herewith is an estimate of cost for the construction of a new, centrally located restroom facility at Irving Park and the conversion of the two existing restrooms into utility and recreation structures.

The new structure is proposed to be of masonry and concrete and as nearly vandalproof as possible.

Detailed plans have not been drawn at this time, but it is believed that plans and specifications could be prepared for advertising by February 15. Advertising, awarding and contract signing could be accomplished by April 1.

Sixty days should be sufficient to construct the building which should place completion by June 1st just prior to the summer playground season.

This schedule is all predicated, of course, on the provision of funds not now in the budget.

Very truly yours,

*Harry B Buckley*  
Superintendent of Parks

HBB:mg

*proceed with plans  
to obtain subs.  
ORB-Jan 13-1966*

RECEIVED

IAN 25 1966

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS

No. ....

*Budget  
9545*



IRVING PARK

New Brick Rest Room	\$ 9,500
Sewer line, 400 ft.	1,200
Water line, 50 ft.	150
Power, elect. 510'	2,000
Paving & Landscape Repair	1,000
Sewer Tap	50
Street Repair	<u>500</u>

Total cost, labor and material for  
restroom \$14,400

Cost of remodeling the two existing buildings to  
maintenance and recreation use, \$4,000 ea. 8,000

\$22,000

*Paul Smith*  
1/12/44

# Irvington Community Association

Box 12354  
Portland, Oregon

COMM.	
ASST.	<i>[initials]</i>
SEC.	
STENO.	

RECEIVED

SEP 11 1967

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

September 8, 1967

Hon. Francis J. Ivancie  
Commissioner  
City of Portland  
Department of Public Affairs  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Ivancie:

Our association is interested in any future planning which may be taking place and therefore request receiving a copy of preliminary architectural plans for a swimming pool and dressing room facilities for Irving Park within the next six months.

Since we are planning for the future, and there are many deficiencies present in this park, we would like to recommend that your office draft the preliminary working plan with the idea in mind that this pool be designed and planned to fit into an overall recreational facility in Irving Park.

If we can be of any assistance to you in any way, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*[Signature]*  
JOHN WHITESIDES  
President

JW:ef

cc: Russell Peyton  
Mayor Terry D. Schrunk  
Donald C. Jeffrey

RECEIVED

SEP 14 1967

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS

No. ....

*Parks*

May 9, 1968

Bureau of Parks  
Department of Public Affairs  
Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie  
Ball fields at Irving Park

Dear Commissioner Ivancie:

Reference is made to the police report of May 3 on a juvenile problem at Irving Park.

Inquiry was made of Mr. Charles Walker, Assistant Recreation Director, who is the liaison staff member in that area, if reports that the Sports Division had issued field permits to Little Leagues in that general vicinity.

There are two ball fields in the park and neither one has been enjoying much use since the non players made such use undesirable about two years ago.

Fields are at a premium and the baseball program has expanded to a point where every available facility must be scheduled so that everyone can have a chance.

However, at Irving Park the Sports Division will henceforth issue permits for only one field, leaving the other open for neighborhood use on a first come, first served basis.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

HBB:mg

cc - Walker  
Owens  
Christiansen

NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE  
2735 N. E. 19th Ave.  
Portland, Oregon 97212  
May 1, 1969

Commissioner Francis Ivancie  
City Hall  
Portland, Oregon 97205

COMM.	
ASST.	
SEC.	

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1969

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Subject: Little League Baseball at Irving Park

Dear Mr. Ivancie,

Knowing your interest in young people and in all Portland recreation programs, we of Northeast Little League would like to bring to your attention some facts and some needs in connection with Little League baseball at Irving Park.

Northeast Little League provides its program of supervised baseball for all boys, ages 8 through 12, who live in the area bounded by N. E. Prescott St., N. E. 22nd Ave., East Burnside St., and Union Avenue. This year we have more boys than ever before... a total of almost 200, on fourteen different teams, playing a 99-game schedule in three different leagues. All games are played at Irving Park, except for twelve games for the youngest group of boys that had to be squeezed out to Sabin school. The Northeast Little League is administered entirely by volunteers from the neighborhood, parents and other interested adults who want to help our boys enjoy their baseball and learn the valuable lessons of teamwork, friendly competition and good sportsmanship that go with it.

Now for our needs at Irving Park....none are very costly, none are unusual, but all are important.

1. There are two baseball diamonds at Irving Park, not enough to provide adequate practice and game space for the boys. At the north end of the park, along Fremont Street, a third diamond could easily be located without conflicting with the present north diamond. The new third backstop would be in a corner of the playing field, well out of the way of the football area. This third diamond would utilize existing park space, thus relieving some of the need for additional park space in this part of the Model Cities area.
2. Maintenance of the baseball areas of Irving Park seems always to be more of a problem than it should be. The park staff is very cooperative and tries to do their best, but it appears their time must be divided between Irving and other parks, and there is not sufficient time to do a really good job on the baseball fields. The infields are extremely muddy, even after small amounts of rain, and

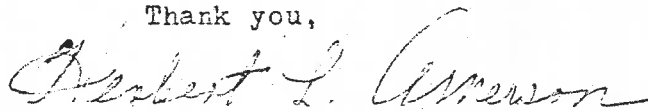


surely this can be improved by proper soil conditioning treatment. The outfields are rutted and very rough...they should be leveled and rolled before a boy sprains an ankle or breaks a leg. Really, we are asking only that the Irving Park fields be put into the same good condition as other city parks, such as Wilshire, Normandale and others.

3. At the north diamond, the backstop fence was extended a few years ago...but only on the first base side! Along the third base side, where most right-handed batters pull the ball, one team sits on their benches unprotected from batted balls. At the south diamond, neither side of the backstop has been extended, so that not only the teams but the spectators sit unprotected. In the interest of safety, we ask that all backstop fences at Irving Park be extended properly.
4. Finally, would it be possible to provide an outfield fence to divide the two diamonds at the north end of the park...i.e., the existing north diamond and the new third diamond? This could be a portable canvas fence made in sections, so that the Little League boys could take it down for storage after each game...or it could be a more permanent short wooden fence that could be removed after the baseball season. If a fence could be provided, Northeast Little League would assume the annual cost of painting. If acceptable to the Park Board, sponsors' advertising could be solicited to help defray costs of equipment, umpires' fees, uniforms, etc. This fence would also serve the interests of safety by defining the playing area for each of the north fields, and keeping boys from backing up into a potential danger zone.

In conclusion, may we emphasize again that Northeast Little League is a truly important part of our boys' lives, and one of the greatest forces for mutual understanding in our integrated area around Irving Park. The City Council and/or the Park Department of Portland, by attending to these relatively simple requests, will do a great deal, at small expense, for the youth of this community. Please give our requests your most serious consideration, Mr. Ivancie...it will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



Herbert L. Amerson, president  
NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE, INC.

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



FRANCIS J. IVANCIE  
COMMISSIONER

CITY OF PORTLAND  
OREGON

May 5, 1969

Mr. Herbert L. Amerson, President  
Northeast Little League, Inc.  
2735 N.E. 19th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97212

Dear Mr. Amerson:

This will acknowledge your letter of May 1, 1969, in regard to Little League Baseball at Irving Park. I appreciate your bringing your needs to my attention for we are interested in making the maximum use of our park and recreation facilities. I am sure you will realize, however, that our requirements must be treated on a priority basis because of limitation in funds and manpower. Because of this fact in many cases, it is necessary for organizations such as yours to assist the City in this regard.

I am referring your letter to Mr. Harry Buckley, Superintendent of Parks, for his investigation and report. Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Francis J. Ivancie*  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FJI:w

cc Harry Buckley

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1969

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS  
No. ....

CITY OF PORTLAND  
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE  
(NOT FOR MAILING)

May 21, 1969

*From* Bureau of Parks  
*To* Superintendent of Parks  
*Addressed to* Harry B. Buckley  
*Subject* Irving Park ballfield maintenance and improvements.

Dear Harry:

After a thorough investigation of Irving Park, I don't believe a third diamond at the north end of the park and along Fremont Street is practical or feasible.

Irv Thoreson tried to fit a field in, but the amount of room available is inadequate. The new field would play into the old field. The field would have to lie alongside of Fremont Street and would be a possible hazard to traffic.

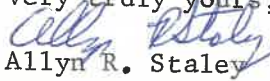
The matter of installation of wings onto the existing backstop is desirable. However, we have no money budgeted for ballfield improvement. If the Little League provided funds for material, we could provide labor for installation.

The maintenance of ballfields at Irving is the same as it is for the rest of the system. The infields are muddy after it rains. This problem exists on all our fields. There are no simple or cheap solutions for the elimination of muddy fields. At the Civic Stadium we had a tile drain system, 12" of rock, 2" of topping and still had a muddy field after a rain storm. The outfield did have some ruts in it from trucks doing winter cleanup work but they have been leveled and repaired.

In conclusion, my recommendations are as follows:

1. Do not construct an additional ballfield.
2. If Little League provides material, the Park Bureau could install wings on the existing backstops.
3. Discourage any portable or temporary outfield fences.

Very truly yours,

  
Allyn R. Staley  
Director of Operations

S:a  
cc - Hall

*Parks*

May 27, 1969

Bureau of Parks

Department of Public Affairs

Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie

Request for an additional baseball field in the northeast corner  
of Irving Park

Dear Commissioner Ivancie:

Reference is made to the letter from Mr. Herbert Amerson, President of the Northeast Little League Inc., in which a request is made for an additional baseball field in the northeast corner of Irving Park.

The Park Bureau staff has investigated the possibility and finds that there is not sufficient space available to construct an additional field and play two games simultaneously.

Scale sketches (attached) indicate an overlap in centerfield to the extent of some 105 feet and the proposed field should not be nearer than 60 feet to Fremont St. Also, considerable grading would be required along the first base line to provide a playable field.

Relative to additional wing fences on the present installation, the Park Bureau would provide labor for installation if the Little League would supply the material that we specify.

We would not agree to any outfield fence which could not be removed after every game because of other scheduled uses in the park.

The outfield condition has been bad but is being corrected as rapidly as possible.

Attached are copies of staff comment and a sketch map of the park.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

HBB:mg

cc - Hall  
Staley  
Thoreson



## LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL AT IRVING PARK

### Item I

I do not believe there is room for a second baseball field. The outfields would overlap, resulting in confusion and present a safety hazard. It would also be necessary to erect a fence to stop over-thrown balls from going into the street. Perhaps some games could be scheduled at Albina which doesn't appear to be used so heavily.

### Item II

Outfield is rough since it was used heavily during wet weather for football. Rolling with a heavy roller has not been successful in the past; however, we will order soil and attempt to eliminate the more hazardous holes. Some dirt can be used around south diamond to elevate area around home plate. However, we have never worked out a system of soil conditioning whereby a ballfield drained and dried quickly following wet weather.

### Item III

It would be desirable to extend fences on both diamonds. Lack of money is the only deterrent.

### Item IV

No objection to a fence being used to stop balls. Should not be semi-permanent as it would restrict play to younger players only. So should be removed after each game. Permanent fence would also increase the amount of maintenance necessary.

A. Steinle

Subject - Little League Baseball  
Irving Park

- Item I I do not believe there is room for a second baseball field. The outfields would over-see cutting in confusion and present a safety hazard. It would also be necessary to erect a fence to stop over thrown balls from going into the street. Perhaps some games could be scheduled at Albina which doesn't appear to be used so heavily.
- Item II Outfield is rough since it was used heavily during wet weather for football. Rolling with a heavy roller has not been successful in the past however we will order soil and attempt to eliminate the more hazardous holes. Some dirt can be used around south diamond to elevate area around home plate. However we have never worked out a system of soil conditioning whereby a ballfield drained & dried quickly following wet weather.
- Item III It would be desirable to extend fences on both diamonds. Lack of monies being the only deterrent.
- Item IV No objection to a fence being used to stop balls. Should not be semi-permanent as it would restrict play to younger players only. So should be removed after each game. Permanent fence would also increase the amount of maintenance necessary.

Irving Park

March 10, 1970

Mr. Al Davidson, President  
Portland Amateur Baseball Assn.  
1107 S.W. 4th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Reference is made to your letter of March 5, 1970, in which you state that the P.A.B.A. has funds available for the purchase of materials to construct three 60' wing fences at the baseball fields in Irving Park.

The Park Bureau regrets to advise you that the lack of personnel and the heavy commitments for the completion of work budgeted to be done by the personnel available to us; we feel that we can not participate with you at this time.

If you wish the work to be accomplished for this season's play, it is suggested that you engage one of the fence contractors to do the work.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

HBB:k

CC: Ivencie  
Gustafson  
Hall





## Portland Amateur Baseball Assn.

CITY HALL ANNEX - 1107 S.W. 4TH AVENUE  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

March 5, 1970



Mr. Harry B. Buckley  
Supt of Parks  
1107 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Buckley:

The Portland Amateur Baseball Association has authorized funds to pay for the materials for three (3) 60' wings and dugout enclosures at Irving Park for fields #1 and #2 used by Northeast Little League.

The P.A.B.A. and Northeast Little League feels that these improvements are extremely important for both protection for the youngsters participating in the program, and spectators, observing the baseball games.

It would be appreciated if these improvements could be made this spring if at all possible.

Respectfully,

*Al Davidson*  
Al Davidson  
President

CC: Newell Joy  
Ed Jackson



*Living Park*

March 27, 1970

Bureau of Parks

Department of Public Affairs

Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie

Little League Request

Dear Commissioner Ivancie:

Reference is made to the attached memorandum from Roland Hall.

This request from the Commissioner's office will be taken care of as soon as efficient scheduling will permit and future requests will be handled the same way. It should be kept in mind however that when unplanned and unbudgeted work is done, there will be a corresponding delay or decrease in some other project. In this case the Delta Park Golf Course, a tennis court and several other small projects will have to wait or be eliminated.

Unless care is taken it is possible that low priority work may be done while something more important or of higher priority is not.

Very truly yours,

Harry B. Buckley  
Superintendent of Parks

By

Assistant Superintendent

RGG:k  
Encl.

CC: Hall

Irving Park

March 26, 1970

Director of Operations  
Department of Public Affairs  
Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie  
Little League Request

Dear Commissioner Ivancie:

In reference to the Little League baseball managers request for constructing three additional wings on the existing backstops at Irving Park I wish to point out that although this construction is desirable the time spent on these additions is subtracted from previous commitments and the necessary general park maintenance.

The only redeeming facet of this work is that the cost of materials is paid by the Protland Amateur Baseball Association. The labor is estimated at \$550 and equipment costs at \$75.

The construction of this fencing will possibly be completed by the middle of April.

It would be desirable to schedule any future similar construction until the fall and winter since any loss of time can delay the construction of the Delta Golf Course and as you know an additional two weeks of work last year would have placed us a month ahead on the construction this year.

Very truly yours,

Harry B. Buckley  
Superintendent of Parks

By

Director of Operations

RBH:k

CC: Staley  
Gustafson

*Statistics*

CITY OF PORTLAND  
**INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**  
(NOT FOR MAILING)

April 13, 1970

*From* Administrative Assistant  
*To* Superintendent of Parks  
*Addressed to* Mr. Harry B. Buckley  
*Subject* Irvington Community Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Buckley:

The attached report entitled "Irvington Community Improvement Program" was left by Rod O'Hiser, City Planning Commission, for comment regarding their approach and answer to the sections relating to parks and recreation.

Generally, the report is quite comprehensive and does attempt to give an answer to the needs of the neighborhood.


As indicated on illustrations 18, 22 and 38 the needs are evident. With the application of the School-Park concept, the Irvington School site could be transformed into a varied and flexible recreation program.

Even though the "typical" neighborhood school-park plan for Irvington is more than adequate, it would be rather difficult to justify such an elaborate plan at the neighborhood level.

Attention is called to illustration No. 40 and the first and second paragraph of 40A where projections are made by the ICA which are definitely contrary to the Park Bureau's projection relating to swimming pools and Community Centers. Again it would seem illogical to propose a swimming pool or community center in an area which is located only a few blocks from Dishman Community Center (Knott St.) where the latest priority has been honored. That priority being a regulation sized swimming pool.

As was proposed in the report the thoughts related to establishing boulevards and parkways seem like a good approach, with minor adjustments.

Very truly yours,

  
Administrative Assistant

ELE:k  
Encl.

*Mr. Buckley*  
**PORTLAND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**

424 S.W. MAIN STREET  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204  
228-6141 EXT. 296

FRANCIS J. IVANCIE, Commissioner, Department of Public Affairs

HERBERT M. CLARK, JR., Chairman  
JAMES K. NEILL, Vice Chairman  
DALE R. COWEN  
DALE F. GILMAN  
HAROLD M. GOWING  
HERBERT C. HARDY  
PHILIP H. MILLER  
MILDRED A. SCHWAB  
MARVIN WITT, JR.

March 17, 1971

LLOYD T. KEEFE, Planning Director  
DALE D. CANNADY, Assistant Director

Mr. Andrew F. Fink, President  
Irvington Community Association  
P.O. Box 12354  
Portland, Oregon

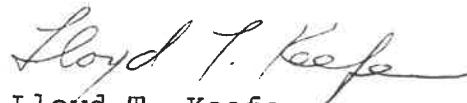
Dear Mr. Fink:

I have a copy of your announcements to people in the Irvington neighborhood concerning selection of sites for the mini-parks. As a matter of procedure, you should be informed that the establishment of new parks comes under provisions of the Portland Zoning Code. Accordingly, it might be wise for you to submit to the Planning Commission the various sites which you deem to be possibilities before making a final selection. By this cooperation we can smooth the way at the time the mini-parks are up for official approval.

It had been my hope that, in accordance with the comprehensive plan which we have prepared for Irvington, the people would have chosen to enlarge the Irvington School site. I think that this still must be done; however, I do appreciate the desire to have space for play off the streets in several locations in the neighborhood.

I shall be pleased to meet with you to consider your mini-park program when you are ready.

Sincerely yours,



Lloyd T. Keefe  
Planning Director

LTK/mm

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MAR 23 1971

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS

No. \_\_\_\_\_



DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



FRANCIS J. IVANCIE  
COMMISSIONER

*Loving*

CITY OF PORTLAND  
OREGON

RECEIVED

March 23, 1971

MAR 24 1971

Mr. Walter Bridges, President  
Northeast Little League  
1130 NE Fremont Street  
Portland, Oregon 97212

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Bridges:

Thank you for your letter of February 24 regarding the desire of the Northeast Little League to build a concession building in Irving Park.

While I understand your need, and certainly appreciate the public spirit involved in your offer to provide the building yourselves, I regret that it has been the policy of the Park Bureau for many years to keep such installations of a temporary nature. This policy evolved from many and varied experiences which made it almost mandatory.

I do hope that you will be able to modify your proposal somewhat so that it will meet with the approval of the Park Bureau. I am certain that Mr. Robert Gustafson would be helpful in working out a compromise. It could be that a permanent structure could be worked out that would be for public use with only a locked storage area for the Little League, or, of course, a temporary structure, as suggested by Mr. Buckley.

Again I wish to express my appreciation for your understanding of our fiscal matters and your interest in the park. We will try to help the Little League in any way we can. It is truly an outstanding program with far-reaching results - all good, as you know.

Sincerely yours,

*Francis J. Ivancie*

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FJI:1  
CC: ✓ Mr. Gustafson *RG*

*Irving*

February 26, 1971

Mr. Walter Bridges, President  
Northeast Little League  
1130 N.E. Fremont Street  
Portland, Oregon 97212

Dear Mr. Bridges:

Reference is made to your letter of February 24, requesting permission to construct a permanent concession building in Irving Park, by and for the Northeast Little League.

It has been the Park Bureau policy of long standing that only portable and readily removable concession facilities be permitted to be placed in City parks by patrons of the parks.

We believe that any deviation from this policy could result in chaotic placing of facilities in parks because it would be improper to allow one permittee a privilege refused to others.

We therefore can only recommend that any concession facility you desire to place in Irving Park be of a portable and readily removable construction.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

HBB:k

CC: Ivancie  
Hall  
Orens  
Gustafson

February 25, 1971

Bureau of Parks

Superintendent of Parks

Harry B. Buckley

Request of Walter Bridges of Northeast Little League to  
construct a permanent type concession building at Irving  
Park

Dear Mr. Buckley:

In reference to the letter from Mr. Walter Bridges, the President of the Northeast Little League, wherein he has requested permission to construct a permanent type concession building at Irving Park, I must express my opposition to this proposal since it deviates from the past policy of not allowing concession structures that are not readily moveable.

As you know, permanent structures are a continual target of vandals and this building will be no exception.

I shall therefore recommend that if any concession structure is allowed, it must be portable in nature and in addition this building must be removed from the park when not in use.

Very truly yours,

Director of Maintenance

H:a

cc - Wm. Owens  
Davis

February 24, 1971

Mr. Harry Buckley, Superintendent  
Park Bureau, City of Portland  
1107 S. W. 4th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

The Northeast Portland Little League, which has conducted an extensive baseball program at Irving Park for many years, is in urgent need of a small concession and storage building at the park.

Since we are aware of the many demands on the limited funds which you have available for park improvement, and having been self supporting since our incorporation in 1952, we are willing to provide the necessary money, labor and materials to erect this building. There will be no cost to the park department initially, or in future upkeep.

The building we have designed will be a cement block structure, using first class materials throughout, and will conform to all codes. Plans will be cleared through City Hall before construction starts.

Our preliminary plan is attached for your use. We feel, as citizens of the Irvington area, that this building will be a valuable addition to the park facilities and will benefit the users of the park for many years.

Since our 1971 season is rapidly approaching, we are anxious to begin construction and request your prompt consideration and approval of this project.

Very truly yours,



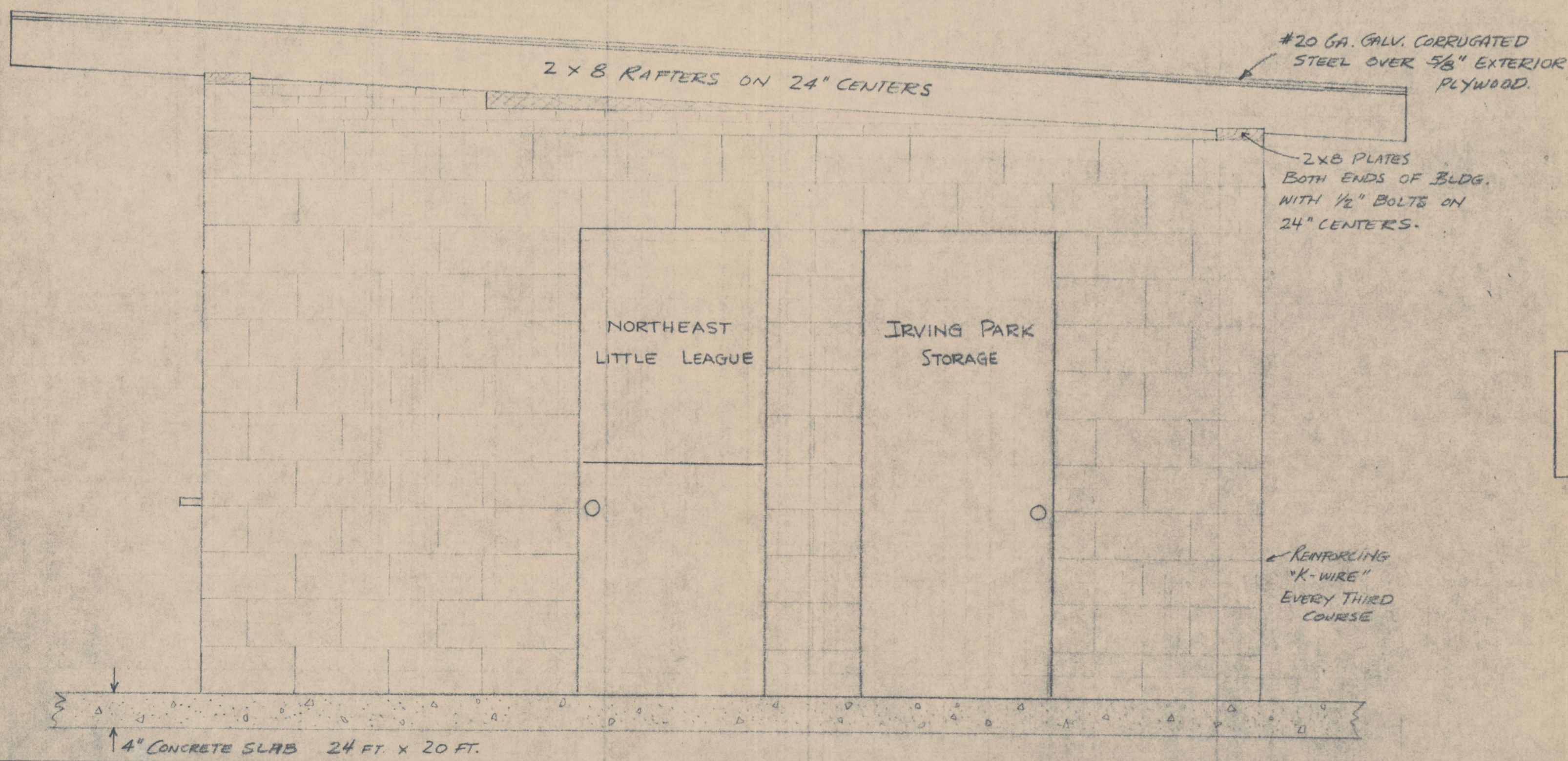
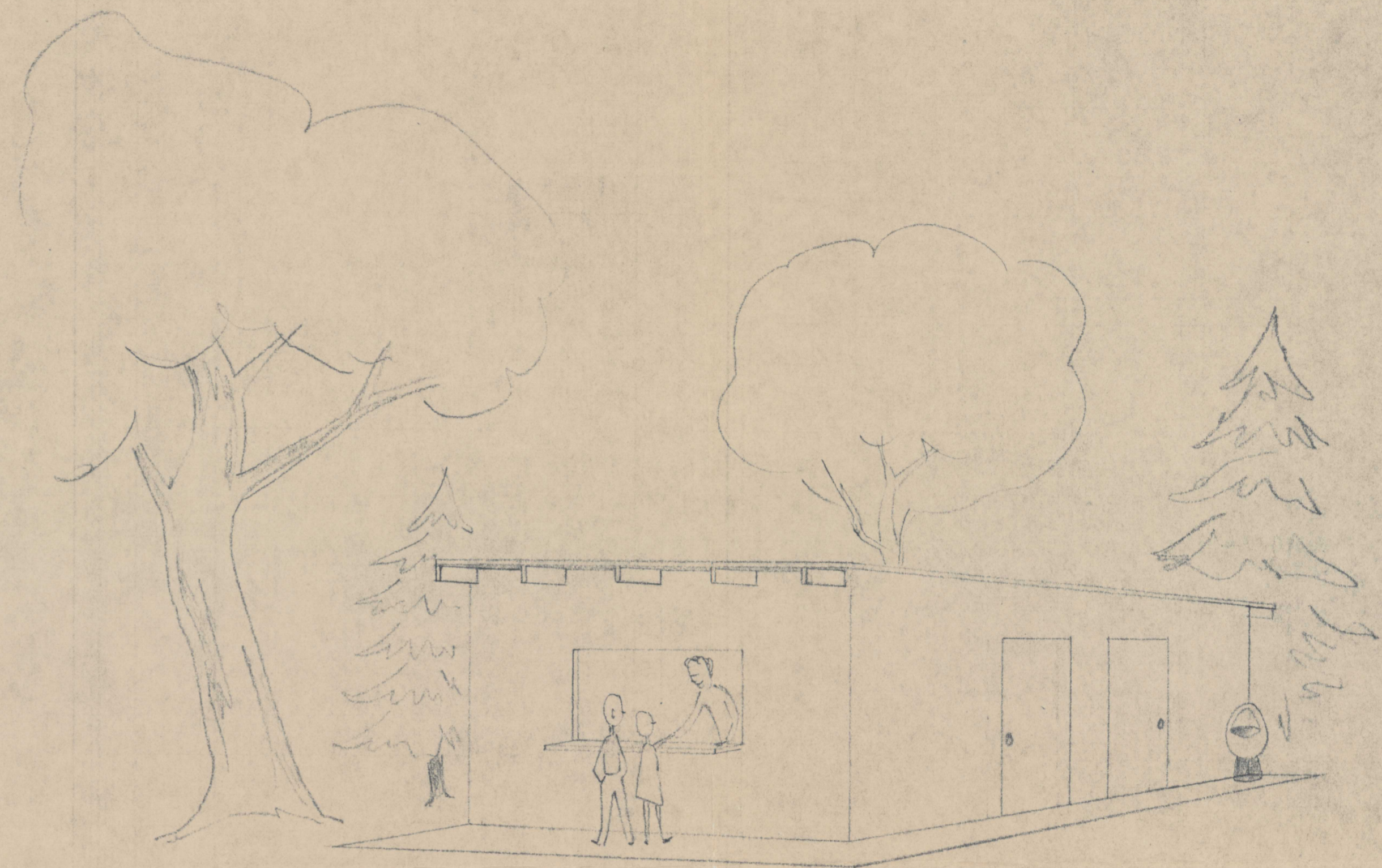
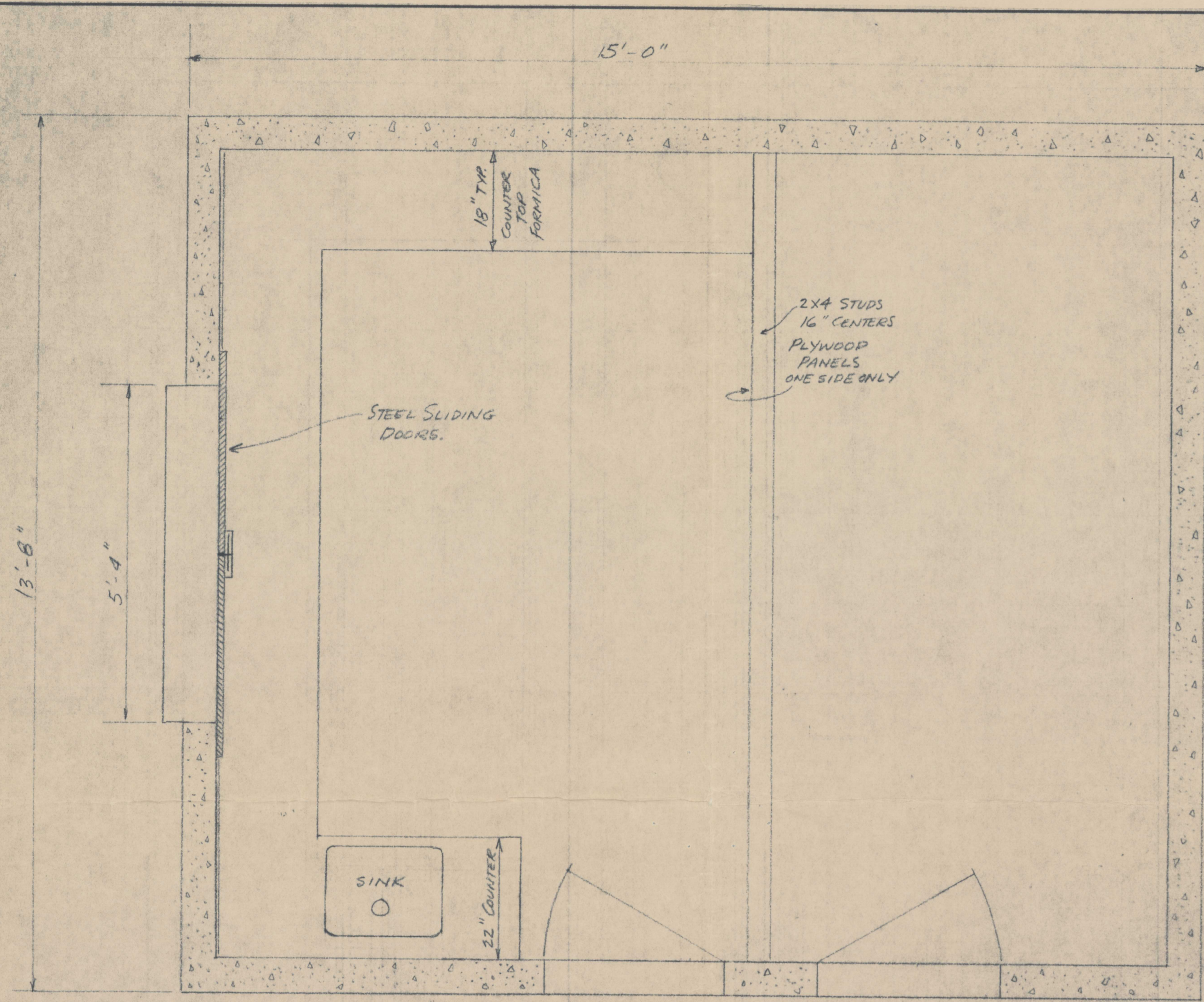
Walter Bridges  
President  
Northeast Little League  
1130 N. E. Fremont St.  
Portland, Oregon

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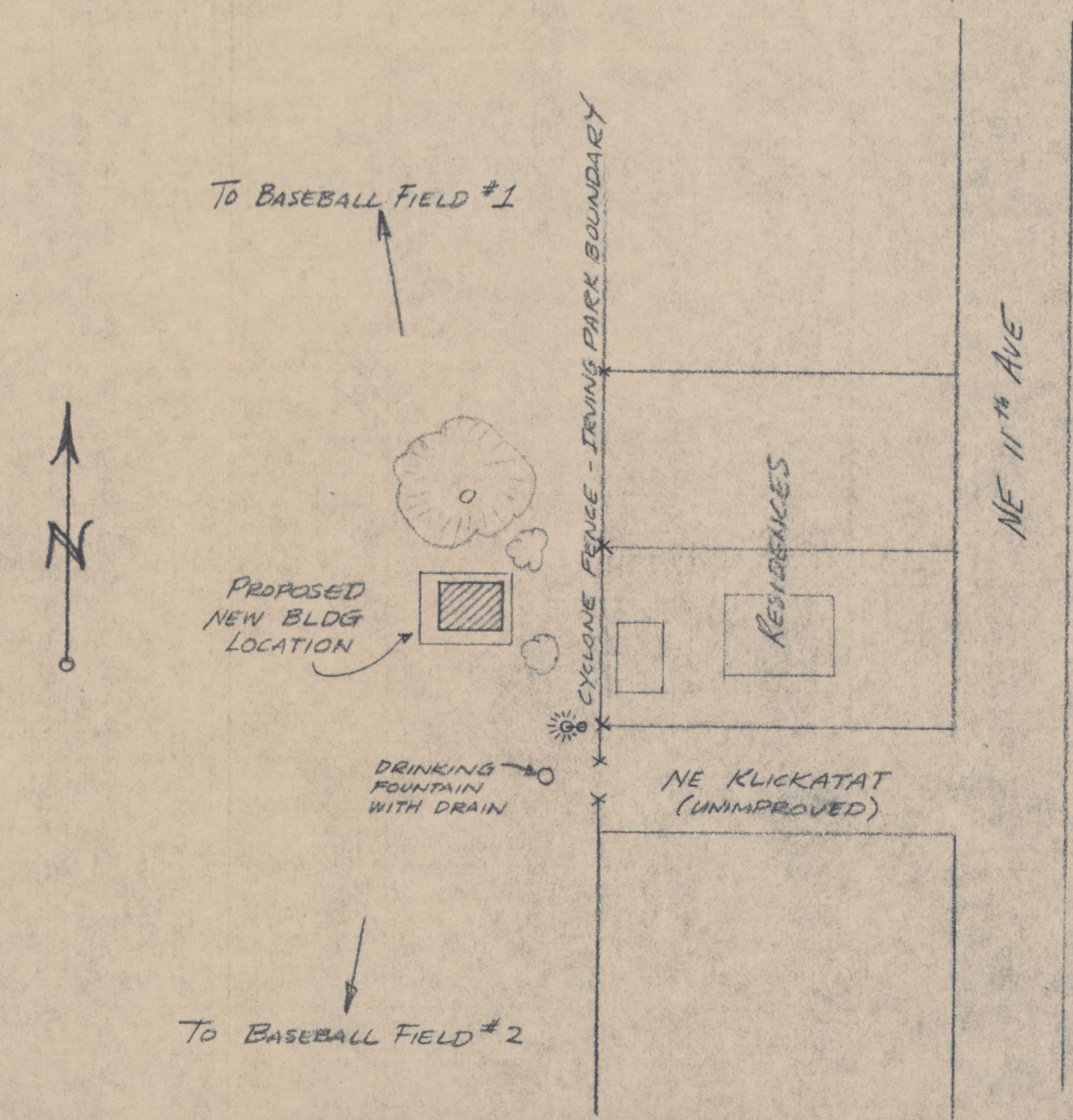
FEB 25 1971

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS  
No. ....





DETAILED PLANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
CITY BUILDING CODES WILL BE  
PREPARED AT A LATER DATE.



RECEIVED

FEB 25 1971  
BUREAU OF PARKS &  
RECREATION  
No. \_\_\_\_\_



*File*

CITY OF PORTLAND  
**INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**  
(NOT FOR MAILING)

January 13, 1972

*From* Roland B. Hall, Director of Operations  
*To* Superintendent of Parks  
*Addressed to* Mr. Dale R. Christiansen  
*Subject* Irving Park

Dear Dale,


The recent display of the proposed changes to Irving Park indicated both good and bad features with those on the plus side such things as lighting, paved paths and basketball court areas.

The disruptive feature is the indicated parking area parallel to N.E. 7th Avenue to be constructed in an area of mature shade trees. This parking area will not only obliterate trees and ruin the appearance of the park it will also discharge vehicles into a heavily traveled street within a short distance of a controlled intersection.

If parking is needed it should be adjacent to the ballfields along 11th Avenue and this can be accomplished by acquiring those residences directly adjacent to the park. This acquisition will solve the parking problem and allow direct access to 11th Street and the residential area to the east.

Do not allow so-called improvements create more problems.

Yours truly,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roland B. Hall  
Director of Operations

RBH/jh

# IRVING PARK REPORT

## IRVING PARK DESIGN COMMITTEE

As many of you know, last summer Irving Park had inadequate staff and program except for volunteers working with the Reading Tree. After a fire in the park building destroyed many of the Reading Tree's books, our forgotten park finally received some attention. A long article in the Oregonian and a "coffee" with Neil Goldschmidt brought the problems in Irving Park to the attention of the public. At this "coffee", at area resident Jane Quinlin's home, at least forty residents met with park officials, police department community relations officers and Mr. Goldschmidt to discuss what could be done to present similar problems from occurring in 1972. We met the new park director, and were assured that next year's director would conduct a program in Irving Park similar to what other Portland Parks have, and that area residents could be involved in planning. A meeting shortly after this one at the home of area resident, Harriet Levi, resulted in the 1971 parks' program being extended two extra weeks, and a "happening" in the park in late August. This "happening" brought out 200 to 300 residents to the park to picnic, listen to music, and offer their ideas about what they wanted to have happen in our park in the future. These ideas were used by the Park Committee in forming the final park plan.

Irvington Community Association President, Andy Fink, appointed Herb Amerson to chair a committee to implement change in Irving Park. On October 12 this committee submitted a proposal to the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to use Neighborhood Development Program (NDP) funds to improve the park.

On November 23, PDC brought together architects and citizens. The firm was contracted to redesign the park and the committee, architects, and PDC have been working together with the cooperation of the Parks Department to produce the plan that is reproduced on the backside of this newsletter.

## NEXT MEETING

The Irving Park Design Committee, Herb Amerson, Harriet Levi, Jan Quinlin, Mary Stillwell, Jim Sumner, Marion Scott, and Betty Walker, welcomes all of you to participate in the decisions affecting your park. Our next meeting will be Friday, February 4th at 12:30, at the NDO office next to Tradewell on 15th and Fremont.

## PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL

Last Thursday evening ten residents of Irvington and Sabin met with Dorothea Lensch, Director of recreation for the city, to discuss Irving Park program and personnel for the summer of 1972. We were pleased to learn that a park coordinator would be hired to work out of Irving Park. The new co-ordinator will be responsible for outlining programs and activities within the park, supervising park bureau and auxiliary personnel, and involving and informing the community of park programs and facilities throughout the city. Special emphasis will be placed on active correlation with the many fine facilities at the Matt Dishman Center.

Hopefully, strong volunteer corps of neighborhood residents will be utilized in working with the Reading Tree, transportation to other areas, supervision and special programming.

Our dedicated Northeast Little League organization, under the direction of Herb Chilton, President, will be ready for another season of organized baseball on two new Little League diamonds.

TRUCKIN, the creative mobile unit of small equipment, parachutes and plastic inflatable toys will again be scheduled for visits to Irving Park this summer.

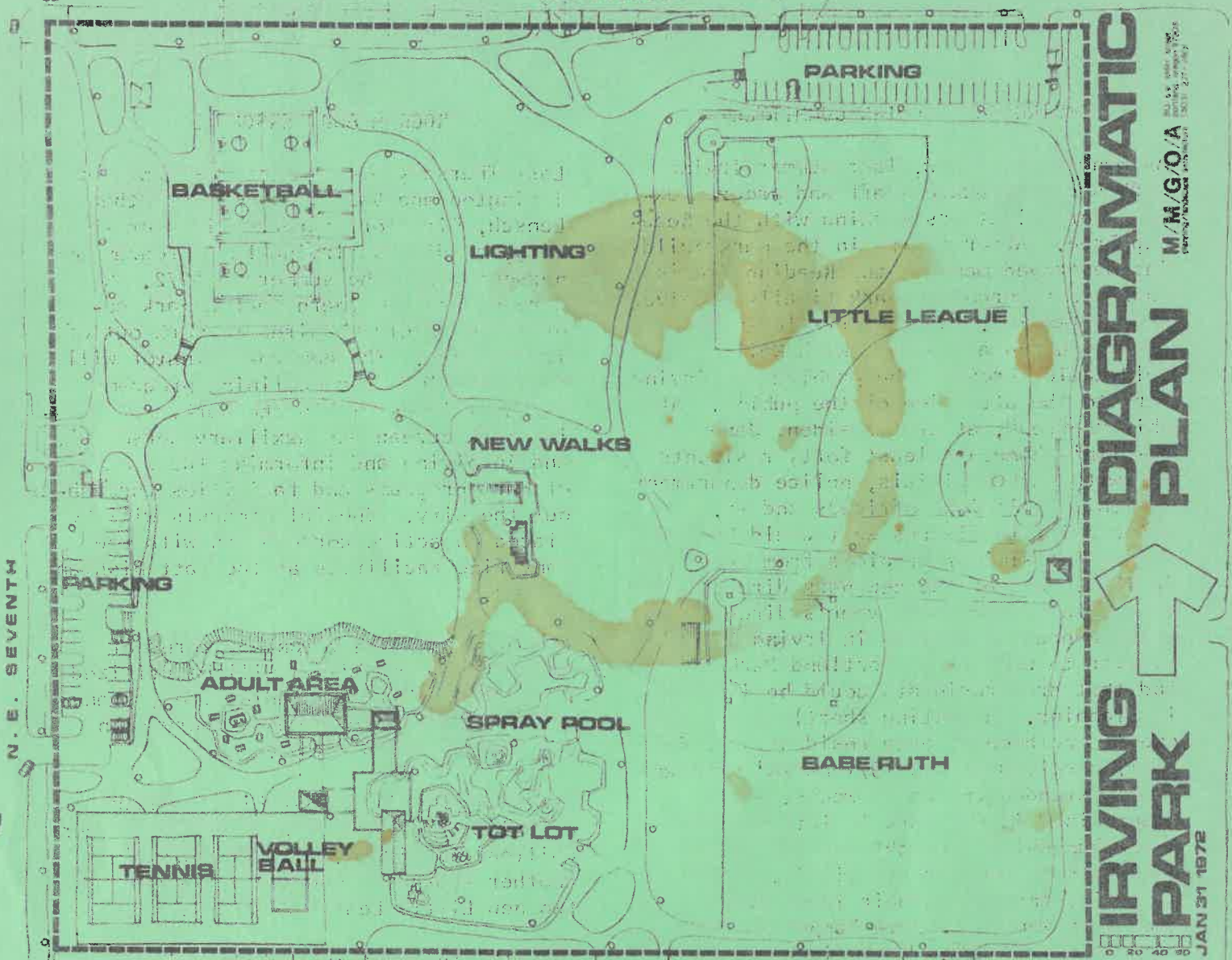
## "IRVINGTON RACE TRACK"

Many long time area residents will, no doubt, recall the day when our present Irving Park was a small portion of an active, privately owned, horse racing facility. From the late 1800's until the early 1900's when betting was made illegal, the track property extended over a broad expanse from Fremont to Thompson and from 7th to 14th Streets with a large stand of Poplar trees outlining the north end of the area. Irvington School was just beyond the southern end of the turf.

The city acquired the northwest corner of the abandoned race track property in 1920 for use as a city park. At this time, it was renamed Irving Park after Captain William Irving, a prominent Oregon pioneer.



N.E. FREMONT



### WHAT'S NEW IN IRVING PARK

An \$80,000 first phase federal grant to develop Irving Park will result in many new changes and additions by July 1972.

The first phase of development includes an additional Little League baseball diamond, both cinder jogging and paved paths through the park, 90 new light fixtures, playground equipment, a "tot lot" for pre-schoolers, new facilities for basketball, volleyball, roller skating and more.

Phase two of the development, scheduled to be completed in 1973, will include parking facilities, enclosing one basketball court with handball courts along the outside walls, further improvements and grading of the three baseball diamonds, a fountain, more playground equipment and picnic facilities, checkers tables, resurfacing of the tennis courts, and many other new, exciting features. Members of the committee are visiting area schools to discuss the plans with the children and to incorporate their ideas into the design.

The park is being designed by the Landscape Architects, Mitchell, McArthur, Gardner and O'Kane Associates. They are striving to maintain the natural beauty of our park while expanding the facilities to provide special interest areas for all ages of children and adults.

This newsletter was prepared for the Irving Park Design Committee by Harriet Levi and Jane Quinlin. If anyone wishes to voice approval or disapproval of any aspects of the plan or to make suggestions, please call Harriet Levi, 287-6653; Jane Quinlin, 281-1652 or Betty Walker, 281-1768.

February 1, 1972



February 29, 1972

Mitchell-McArthur-Gardner-O'Kane Associates  
Planning-Landscape Architecture  
313 S.W. Alder  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Gentlemen:

RE: Irving Park Design

I'm sure you will understand our concern and sensitiveness to the maintenance aspects of our City Parks and recreation apparatus.

Likewise as a professional designer myself I can well appreciate the frustrations any other designer has to face when working within the framework of certain design criteria or limitations.

As you can imagine that there are certain minimum maintenance standards we apply when employing the use of power equipment. In order to effectively meet the demands made upon our working personnel a concentrated effort is made to meet these standards and to minimize as much hand labor as possible.

A step in the right direction would be the careful incorporation of the following design principles into the basic layout:

1. Provide the continuous mowing patterns by eliminating sharp corners around buildings, retaining walls, fences, plant beds, and other above-grade landscape features.
2. Use paved mowing strips against walls, buildings and under fences to eliminate hand trimming.
3. Keep grass surfaces flush with paved areas such as walks, terraces, roads, playgrounds and parking lots to prevent unnecessary trimming and easier movement of equipment from one surface to another.
4. Space groups of trees and/or shrubs far enough apart to accommodate the equipment you plan to use comfortably.

Irving Park Design

February 29, 1972

- Page 2 -

5. Avoid hand trimming around trees by using grass barriers such as a flush metal edge. The edging will also minimize mechanical damage to the trees.

6. Use flush paving around lawn obstructions such as light poles, fire hydrants, drinking fountains, etc.

7. Avoid impossible-to-mow situations. Use low-maintenance ground cover on steep slopes, bumpy areas and otherwise hard-to-mow terrain.

8. Provide for free movement of equipment from one level to another. If topography dictates the need for an abrupt change in elevation, be sure to provide ramps for moving equipment up and down safely.

9. Plan all roads, walks, entrances and ramps wide enough to comfortably accommodate equipment.

10. Keep lawn areas clear of unnecessary obstructions. Minimize the use of fussy flower beds and shrub plantings in order to achieve a continuous mowing pattern.

Please feel free to contact me for any further explanation.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Erickson  
Administrative Assistant

ELS:k

CC: Ivancie  
Christiansen  
Gustafson  
Hall  
Malney  
Amerson Johnson



TOM McCALL  
GOVERNOR

MARVA GRAHAM  
Administrator

EDWARD PRESS, M.D.  
Deputy Administrator  
and  
Public Health Officer

## HEALTH DIVISION

# RECEIVED

MAR 6 1972

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES No. ....

STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 1400 S.W. 5th AVENUE • PORTLAND, OREGON • 97201

March 2, 1972

Mr. Michael Whitmore  
Mitchell, McArthur, Gardner, O'Kane Assoc.  
813 S. W. Alder  
Portland, Oregon 97205

Re: SP - Portland  
Irving Park Spray Pool

Dear Mr. Whitmore:

We have examined your preliminary plans for the spray pool/fountain proposed for Irving Park at N. E. 7th and Fremont in Portland, and submit the following comments:

1. We note that there will be two separate spray areas and that the water will be recirculated. We presume that the water will be sprayed, but not allowed to pool in the low areas.
2. In addition to being circulated, the water must be filtered and chlorinated. Possibly some means of warming the water may be desirable also.
3. Controls must be provided so that each section can be operated separately.
4. A sump must be provided on the suction side of the pump(s) so as to permit the recirculation pump to operate efficiently.
5. The slope of the slab must be sufficient to provide good drainage to the drains but not so steep as to create hazards from slipping.
6. The surface finish of the slab and walkways must be non-slip and also must be easy to clean.
7. There must be a fence around both pools to keep out dogs.
8. Toilet facilities must be provided nearby.
9. There should be a concrete walkway or deck around each of the spray areas.

# COPY

Telephone: Area Code 503 - 229-5599 - 24 Hours a Day  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 231, Portland, Oregon 97207



Re: SP - Portland  
Irving Park Spray Pool

- 2 -

March 2, 1972

10. The use of barkdust, gravel, sand or any other loose ground cover should be avoided within the fenced area.
11. Signs directing users to follow good practices of hygiene and safety must be posted at the entrance gates.
12. Piping to supply fresh water for the facilities must not be interconnected with the recirculation system. City water can be sprayed onto the spray area if the spray heads are installed above the level of the deck, or the city water can be admitted to the sump through an airgapped, over-the-rim fillspout.
13. The backwash wastewater from the filter must be airgapped at the point where it discharges to the sanitary sewer.
14. Final plans must be submitted for our review prior to construction.

We trust that these comments will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

A. D. Smythe,  
Senior Sanitary Engineer  
Public Health Engineering

ADS:rrs

cc: Jim McAllister, County Health Services, 104 S. W. 5th, Portland 97004  
cc: George Wallace, City of Portland, Bureau of Buildings, 1220 S. W. 5th, Portland  
cc: City of Portland, Park Bureau, 1107 S. W. 4th Avenue, Portland 97204  
cc: District Office



2547 NE 4th  
Portland, Oregon  
March 18, 1972

Ed Erickson  
Portland Park Bureau  
1107 NW 4th  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mr. Erickson,

Thank you for taking time to attend the meeting in Dr. Winters' office last Wednesday concerning Livingston School playground improvements. We really appreciated your support and helpful suggestions and hope that as we continue to work on development of the site, we can draw on your experience and insight in helping to work out a plan acceptable to all parties concerned.

Sincerely,

Jean McNamee, Chm.  
Livingston Sch. Playground  
Committee

*Leaving*

April 14, 1972

Mr. Don Peake, Chairman  
Northeast Portland Rotary Youth Committee  
Peake Industries, Incorporated  
2122 N.E. Sandy Boulevard  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Peake:

I recently talked to Ray Conkling about the possibility of the Northeast Portland Rotary Club assisting in funding the Reading Tree Program in Irving Park. Ray suggested that I write to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Club's Youth Committee.

The "Reading Tree" is a community program that provides reading training for hundreds of children in Irving Park. Staffed by the community and equipped with hundreds of donated books, the program completed a very successful year in 1971. In order to carry on the program during 1972 \$1,500 was needed. To date generous citizens and organizations have donated \$1,100 for the program in amounts from \$100 to \$300. We felt the service organizations in the northeast area should also have an opportunity to assist this excellent program; hence our request to Northeast Rotary for \$200. An appropriate press release acknowledging the support given the program will be made upon reaching our goal. Your club's support would be greatly appreciated by all the children that will benefit from the "Reading Tree." Incidentally individual contributions are tax deductible and checks should be made out to City of Portland-Trustee Account for Reading Tree.

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Parks

DRC:k  
CC: Raymond Conkling

## Irving Park

Children are allowed  
in recreation depts and  
are turning off main  
breakers.

DATE

Loving  
Park

File  
all

SITUATION IS CORRECTED ; MR.  
GLEN HAS BEEN CONTACTED AND  
THANKED FOR NOTIFYING US!

Ally



CITY OF PORTLAND  
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE  
(NOT FOR MAILING)

July 27, 1972

*From* Pat Bell  
*To* Dale Christiansen  
*Addressed to*  
*Subject* Lighting at Irving Park

This morning we received a call from Mr. Howard Glen, 3132 NE 9th, Phone 282-4189, concerning lights not working in Irving Park.

He advised that although he had called the Park Bureau Maintenance several times, the light by the rest room and the light by the "Jungle Gym" were still not working and that these were very troublesome areas.

He evidently has been trying to give some assistance to troublesome events taking place across from his residence at the 9th and Siskiyou entrance of the park. He said the light at that location had not been working for three or four months --- that it had been broken, had been repaired, but still is not working.

Would you please personally see that this matter is taken care of properly and, if possible that Mr. Glen is thanked and reassured by phone?

Thanks.



Pat Bell

ad

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1972

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS

No. ....

~~Rec. Comm.~~  
Irving Park

July 20, 1972

Mr. L. F. Newlands, President  
Rotary Club of East Portland  
11808 S.W. Riverwood Road  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Newlands:

I want to extend a somewhat belated but sincere vote of gratitude to the Foundation of Rotary Club of East Portland for the \$200 donation for the Reading Tree Program. The program is underway at Irving Park and I am sure that Ann James or Mrs. Hertzog would welcome a visit from any of the contributors that have made the program possible. I found my visit most gratifying.

Again thanks,

Superintendent of Parks

DRC:k

Save Christmas



Send Checks

ROTARY CLUB OF EAST PORTLAND

RECEIVED

JUN 12 1972

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

June 1, 1972

RECEIVED

JUN 7 1972

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS  
No. ....

COM.	
EARL	
PAT	
SEC.	
STENO.	

City of Portland - Park Bureau  
1107 S. W. 4th Ave.  
Portland, Oregon

Gentlemen:

We enclose our check in the amount of \$200.00 representing donation from the Foundation of Rotary Club of East Portland for the Reading Tree Program.

We trust this check will be of value toward this program.

Sincerely,

FOUNDATION OF ROTARY CLUB OF EAST PORTLAND

L. F. Newlands  
President

LFN/els

Enclosure

RECEIVED

JUN 13 1972

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS  
No. ....

100

RECEIVED

1972

PLANNING & RELATIONS

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO URBAN RENEWAL PLAN  
FOR  
IRVINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
(ORE. A-5-2)

THIS WAS NEVER ADOPTED  
Full  
On file with  
11-7-72

The Urban Renewal Plan for the Irvington Neighborhood Development Project approved by the City of Portland by Resolution No. 30662 adopted on March 4, 1970, as supplemented by Resolution No. 30798 adopted on September 23, 1970, is hereby further supplemented as follows:

1. Section C, Subsection 3.c.(2) is hereby supplemented by adding a paragraph thereto to read as follows:

Small scattered parks designed to serve their immediate vicinity and described as mini-parks may be established. The standards for establishing location, size, and use of mini-parks are as follows: (a) location to be appropriate to neighborhood need, acceptance, and physical conditions; (b) size to be, except in special circumstances, generally, a minimum of 10,000 square feet and a maximum of 30,000 square feet; (c) use will be primarily directed toward young children and older residents. The location, size, and use of mini-parks to serve the Project Area will be established only after further planning and consultation with the City Park Bureau and residents of the neighborhood.

2. Section D, Subsection 2.c. is hereby supplemented by adding a subparagraph thereto to be designated, entitled, and to read as follows:

"(2) Irvington Mini-Park No. 1.

The properties identified on the Irvington Area Mini-Park No. 1 Property Map (Exhibit D) will be acquired and cleared for redevelopment as a mini-park within the Project Area.

Such properties comprise the area bounded generally as follows:

24



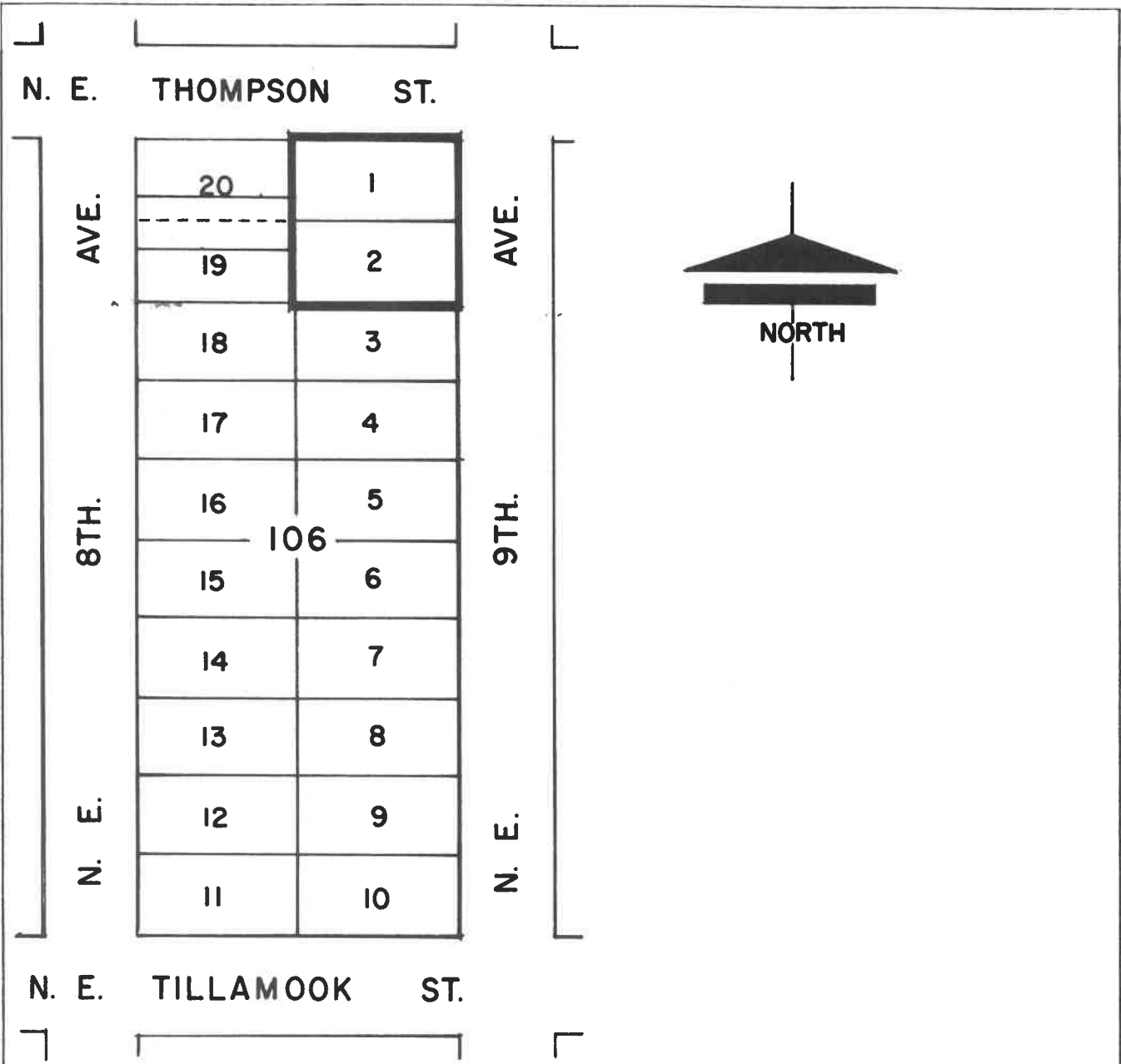
That portion of Block 106, West Irvington Addition, located in the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of said Block 106, thence West along the North line of said Block 100 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 1; thence South, along the West line of Lots 1 and 2 a distance of 100 feet to the Southwest corner of Lot 2; thence East along the South line of Lot 2 a distance of 100 feet to the East line of Block 106; thence North along the East line of Block 106 a distance of 100 feet to the point of beginning;

and include the following described parcels of real property

<u>Parcel No.</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
106-1	Lot 1, Block 106, West Irvington
106-2	Lot 2, Block 106, West Irvington

3. The Urban Renewal Plan is hereby supplemented by appending thereto an exhibit to be designated and entitled "Exhibit D - Irvington Area Mini-Park No. 1 Property Map."



PARCEL NO.	OWNER	LEGAL	AREA SQ. FT.
106 - 1	GARBARINO, J. A.	LOT 1, BLOCK 106, WEST IRVINGTON	5,000
106 - 2	BASTASCH, ADOLPH W.	LOT 2, BLOCK 106, WEST IRVINGTON	5,000
		TOTAL SQ. FEET TO BE ACQUIRED	10,000

<b>IRVINGTON AREA</b> <b>NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b> PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH CO. OREGON 7-13-71 WFW	<b>MINI-PARK NO. 1</b> <b>PROPERTY - MAP</b>	Revisions
		EXHIBIT D

August 15, 1972

Mr. Jim Robertson, Chief Engineering  
Portland Development Commission  
1700 S.W. 4th  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Jim:

RE: Irving Park Basketball  
Backboards & Supports

I have been approached by Mr. Al Dixon, a representative from the Game Time Inc., requesting an approval to one of their basketball standards and backboards as an equal to the one specified in the specifications for Irving Park under the Phase-I Contract.

Inasmuch as the one specified in the specifications is mounted on a double support, it would be unfair to judge one better or stronger than the other. It would seem better to evaluate the standards on the basis of whether one or the other would not be satisfactory. I would have to agree that either one would be satisfactory and that Game Time's Basketball Post Extension No. 460 with Backboard No. 441 is considered an equal.

I have requested from and been assured by Mr. Dixon that the outside corners of the backboard net support plate be rounded off at the time of installation at no extra cost to the City of Portland or Portland Development Commission. I have also been assured by Mr. Dixon that the price of these basketball standards and backboards will not exceed the original bid price.

Sincerely,

Dale R. Christiansen  
Superintendent of Parks

By

Edward L. Erickson, Administrative Assistant

ELS:k

CC: Ivancie, Hall

*park Bureau  
mar  
Full*

# OFFICE of FIRE MARSHAL

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION  
CITY OF PORTLAND

RECEIVED

MAY 25 1972

## RELATIONS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

DATE May 13, 1972 DAY OF WEEK Saturday TIME 10:47 AM

1. LOCATION OF FIRE N. E. 7th & Fremont

2. Use of Premises IRVING PARK

3. Description of Premises caretakers building 15 x 25, type 3

4. Occupant \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Owner CITY OF PORTLAND PARK BUREAU

5. Location and Activities Prior to Fire \_\_\_\_\_

6. Insurance Information \_\_\_\_\_

7. Person Discovering Fire \_\_\_\_\_

8. Weather Conditions Affecting Fire \_\_\_\_\_

9. Estimate of Time Fire Burned Before Discovery 5 minutes

10. Photographs Taken yes, DRM

11. Evidence and Disposition of Same \_\_\_\_\_

12. Deaths - Civilian Injuries \_\_\_\_\_

13. Coroner Called By \_\_\_\_\_

14. Officer in Charge of Fire Captain TUCKER, E-14

15. Should Investigation Be Continued? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Estimated Value of Building \$3,000 Contents \_\_\_\_\_

17. Estimated Loss to Building \$ 50 Contents \_\_\_\_\_

DONALD R. MURPHY  
FIRE INVESTIGATOR

*DM*



## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

City of Portland

DATE OF REPORT May 13, 1972

Page #2

LOCATION 7 N. E. Fremont  
Irving Park  
Caretakers BuildingDATE OF FIRE May 13, 1972  
10:42 A.M.

Fire #3439

SUMMARY

The cause of this fire was juvenile arson, again occurring in Irving Park, involving the caretakers building.

NARRATIVE

Responded to this fire after clearing from a false alarm at Union and Killingsworth, and took photos of this fire. The paper debris from a garbage can had been dumped against the north wall of the structure, outside of the building, and set on fire.

A small Negro boy said that he saw who set the fire, and then changed his story to say that his sister had seen who set the fire. He led Investigator PETRUZZELLI and me through Irving Park to the ball park diamond, where a baseball game was in progress. He pointed out a Negro male who was sitting on the grass as the suspect.

We talked to the alleged fire setter for about five minutes, and he denied having anything to do with the fire; he seemed very truthful, and he was alibied by several young children with him.

The suspect then said that he had heard that somebody else by the name of MICHAEL and STEPHANIE, a brother and sister who go to Boise School, saw who set the fire, and that it was two boys, who then ran west across 7th Street.

In other words, there are no suspects in this fire.

DONALD C. MURPHY

INVESTIGATING OFFICER

Parks  
(Erving)

December 1, 1972

Mr. Herb Chilton  
2943 N. E. 16th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97212

Dear Mr. Chilton:

One of the basic responsibilities of the Bureau of Parks is to review every request for its impact on the bureaus total ability to continue to serve the park and recreation needs of the City as a whole.

Unfortunately, your request that we make an exception to our policy of not allowing the construction of permanent facilities to house the needs of special-interest groups would make it impossible for us to deny similar privileges to any group or organization that made a similar request city-wide. Such a situation could jeopardize the entire system of parks we enjoy in Portland. Consequently, your request must be denied.

Sincerely,

Dale R. Christiansen  
Superintendent of Parks

DRC.d

bc- Bill Owens and Roland Hall

November 26, 1972

Mr. Dale Christiansen  
Superintendent of Public Parks and Recreation  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

This is to request that the permanent storage building included in the proposed Irving Park improvement program be approved by the Park Bureau.

The Irving Park Committee met on November 6th to vote on the priorities of Phase III at Irving Park, which entails the use of federal funds for the park improvements. The committee voted to use some of the remaining funds for the storage building. The construction of the permanent building will give the residents of the area additional rest room facilities and an area for concessions that will be of benefit to the community.

Northeast Little League has no place to store any equipment, which necessitates needless effort by the people involved to carry on a good program. The existing rest rooms have, by their location, presented a real problem, with numerous incidents occurring when not supervised by a park director.


The proposed storage structure can be a valuable aid, not only to the more than two hundred boys and their families involved in our program, but also to other community groups which may want to use it. For example, the Reading Tree program has been severely hampered by lack of storage. This facility would greatly assist that worthwhile program.

With the construction of the new ninety foot diamond at the park, this permanent structure can prove very desirable, especially if the field is used later on for night baseball.

We are aware of the Park Bureau policy of not building permanent structures in the city parks. However, we feel that Irving Park is a special case, in that it is the focal center of a community-wide improvement program designed to alleviate some of the problems peculiar to the Irvington area. We therefore request your consideration and approval of this request.

We can assure you that this permanent building is vital to our program and to the community.

Very truly yours,

  
Herb Chilton, President  
Northeast Little League

RECEIVED

NOV 28 1972

BUREAU OF PARKS &  
PUBLIC RECREATIONS

No. ....

0 8/5/72

# Officials hail start of Irving project

City officials and residents of the Irvington Model Cities neighborhood gathered at Irving Park Friday morning to mark the beginning of an extensive rehabilitation of the community recreation area.

On hand were City Commissioner Francis Ivancie and John Griffith, chairman of the Portland Development Commission, who congratulated the Irvington Community Association for its work in pre-planning park improvements.

Phase one of the project, begun this week, involves construction of a children's play area and new basket-

ball facilities. Other improvements include regrading of the baseball area for two small diamonds and one regulation size baseball diamond, including the installation of backstops and a drainage system.

Contractors for the first phase, to be completed within 90 days, are Clear Construction Co., Portland and H.W. Craig, West Linn.

Planners and landscape architects Mitchell McArthur Gardner O'Kane and Associates were contracted through the PDC to work with residents and the Bureau of Parks on the project.

Also present Friday were Herbert Amerson, chairman of the Irving Park Committee; Dale Christianson, Park Bureau superintendent, and John Kenward, executive director of the PDC.

Planned phase two projects call for a covered shelter over one basketball court, renovation of tennis courts, additional creative play equipment for grade school - age children, walkways and miscellaneous park furniture.



0.5/15/68  
**Greg's Gossip**

By **L.H. Gregory**

Sports Editor, The Oregonian

Precious little enthusiasm in any of the exchanges we've glanced at over the Jimmy Ellis WBA heavyweight championship from that stand-at-a-distance, no knockdown, no action, almost no punching affair with Jerry Quarry. Best descriptive line, by Arthur Daley in New York Times, after comparing it with a half-mythical "horror fight" of long ago between two counter-punchers, Sid Terris and Benny Valgar. Terris threw two punches in ten rounds, hence in the newspaper account was tagged a 2-1 winner over Valgar, who threw only one. Daley observes, "The Ellis-Quarry waltz wasn't quite that bad. But it sure was a study in controlled pacifism."

Quarry himself in a pre-fight comment on Ellis' style against Oscar Bonavena, whom he knocked down twice, made the prophetic comment of the year: "He (Ellis) looked at times as if he wanted out of the ring." Just perfect, if Quarry had added that in their own confrontation he himself several times looked the same.

One thing the fight certainly hasn't done is generate any strong feeling for Ellis, for on his Oakland showing (and one has a right to judge him from that) he won't take any chances at all, and what kind of champion is that? Conversely, it has added immensely to the prestige of Joe Frazier, earlier ranked by the WBA only No. 9. He comes tearing in, Jack Dempsey style, to lick or get licked, taking chances that would make Ellis' manager, Angelo Dundee, turn ashen. But that's the kind of champion folks flock to, never to a safety-first man.



**CHARLES P. KEYSER**  
Where Irvington Track Was

★ ★ ★ ★  
Thanks to Charles P. Keyser, retired superintendent of city parks, we have a complete answer for George Penketh, 5711 NE 24th, who was wondering just where the old-time Irvington race track stood in the Irvington area, and also about Emerinus Versteeg's brickyard. Mr. Keyser tells it in minute detail, and where he ends Dr. Collie Wheeler takes on.

"The Versteeg brickyard is now covered by the U.S. Grant athletic field," Mr. Keyser relates, "with its bowl and quarter mile track enclosing the field. This property was acquired by the city for Park purposes about 1920 in a combination development with the School Board — a 40-acre acquisition enclosed by NE 33rd Ave., NE Brazee, NE 37th Ave. and NE Tillamook. Immediately north of the brick yard was a 15-acre tract covered with second-growth forest trees, owned by Dr. B. E. Wright, a well-known advertising dentist. The School Board, Mr. Woodward, chairman, bought the Wright property and deeded it to the city. Then the city deeded back ten acres to the School Board, and platted four marginal acres to the east and south into abutting lots and streets. Both Versteeg and Wright properties fronted on NE 33rd.

"The city in the same program of developing the Park system acquired 15 acres in the northwest corner of the

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)

# Greg's Gossip

(Continued from Page 1)

Irving donation land claim which had theretofore been covered by the Irvington subdivision of lots and blocks, separated from Albina by NE 7th and bounded on the north by Fremont and on the east by NE 24th. The east and west long axis of the Irving race track was parallel with Fremont. Some of the Lombardy poplars that surrounded the oval were still there to outline the track at its west end when the property was transformed into a neighborhood park named Irving.

"Our dealings in this case were with Capt. E. W. Spencer, owner of a river steamboard, ex-chief of police and one of Portland's most notable sports in his day. He was the son-in-law of Mr. Irving, the pioneer original owner of the donation land claim. His name also was attached to the Irving dock on the Albina water front.

★ ★ ★ ★  
"Incidentally, the Park department took over four abandoned race tracks in its acquisition program of the bond issues of 1907 and 1919. The first was Liverpool Liz's quarter mile track at Albina Ave. and Ainsworth. The second was the City View track in what is now Sellwood Park. The third was above-mentioned Irving (the western one-third, more or less). Fourth was the Rose City 1-mile tract, now occupied by first nine of Rose City golf course.

"Glad somebody cares to know!"

Dr. Collie Wheeler lived as a boy near the Irvington track and not far from Emerinus Versteeg's famous brickyard. He locates the Irvington track in the middle of area bounded by NE 7th and 14th avenues and NE Thompson and Fremont streets. The Irvington school in this area, near Thompson, was just outside the track. East of NE 33rd was a forested area where folks sometimes chopped down Christmas trees, and one summer a hot forest fire broke out and the neighborhood kids helped fight it to save new houses and Irvington Tennis clubhouse to the west.

"One of my most vivid recollections," he says "was perching on top of the Irvington track east boundary fence along NE 14th Ave., then a dirt country road, when Barney Oldfield in his big Benz car put on an exhibition mile speed dash. How scared we were when apparently he headed straight for the fence! He did the mile in 55 seconds, a new world's mile record on dirt."

# Book burning tied to discontent over 'forgotten' Irving Park

By ROBERT LANDAUER  
of The Oregonian staff

On July 27, almost four years after it was the scene of two nights of violence, 140 arrests in racial disturbances and 25 firebombings, Irving Park was the site of a book burning.

Although unpublicized at the time, the arson fire in the park's brick building was a noteworthy event in at least two respects:

— It killed the Reading Tree, an inspired, unusually successful volunteer program which gave away some 5,000 books in its two-month lifespan and offered 100-150 free reading lessons a day to children and adults.

—Its aftermath highlighted what Irvington residents and several city recreation directors contend has been the virtual abandonment of Irving Park and the community it is supposed to serve by the Recreation Division of the Portland Bureau of Parks.

Area residents are unimpressed in the list of problems and failures they associate with the park, 12 acres bounded roughly by NE 7th and 11th avenues and NE Fremont and Fargo streets.

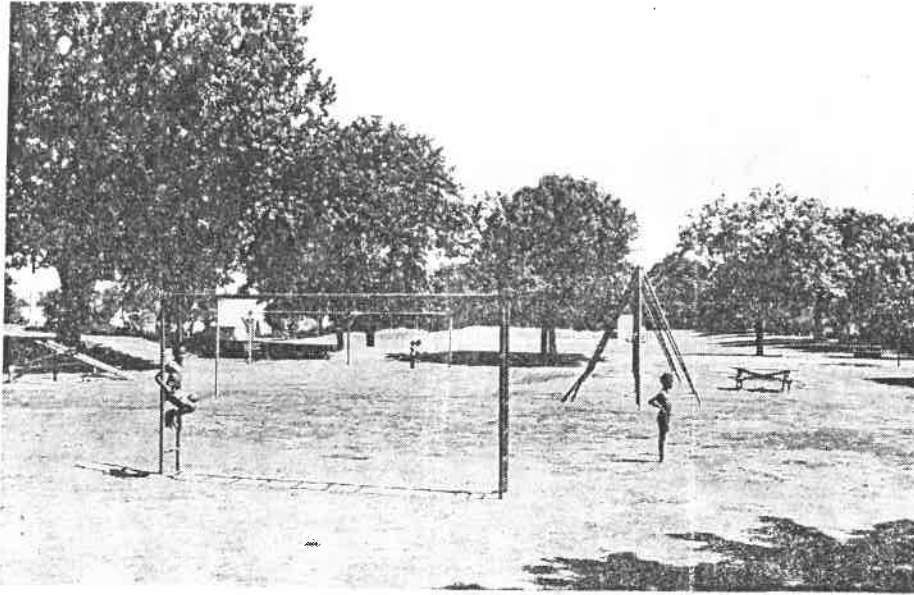
They assert the park has a potential clientele that needs recreation services badly. The area abounds with low-income families whose children spend the summer on the streets rather than at camps or other vacation retreats.

Many families have only one parent — usually working. Where there are two parents, both often work outside the home, leaving youngsters to fend for themselves.

The potential users include numerous teenage youths who can't find work in this tight job market, and whose parents don't have the economic or social clout to land summer employment for their bored and restless sons.

## 'Pail' needed

"In this depressed market, you need pail to get a job," said Mrs. Arison Belcher, a neighborhood mother and community activist. "They (teenage vandals) are nice kids, but they're standing around and they become problems."



RUSH HOUR — Sparse attendance at Irving Park last week during normal peak traffic period attest to

park noted that recently, after an episode of vandalism, two recreation directors and three Neighborhood Youth Corps workers were left without equipment for two weeks, in spite of appeals for help to Park Bureau management.

Comments regarding Park Bureau programs at Irving are unanimous and vehement.

"There's not a thing happening in that park," asserted James Sumner, former president of the Irvington School PTA, a Little League activist, and past vice president of the Irvington Community Association (ICA). "Two blocks away, at 9th and Knott, there's a basketball hoop on a post," remarked Herb Amerson, a telephone company executive, who lives in the neighborhood and participates in its activities. "There's a more active, dynamic summer program run by the kids themselves at that hoop than anything the Park Bureau has done at Irving."

closed, Mrs. Heirzog said her calls to Ivancie were finally returned.

"I told his secretary he was calling too late, that we would not start the program unless the Park Bureau had some activities in the park," she said.

"We have 12 sterile acres," remarked Mrs. Virginia Norton, also a neighborhood resident. "We have a park that is a problem, and we don't have any place in the city that needs a good park like the Irvington area," continued the ICA volunteer. "It will take activities to bring people. This is Ivancie's hotspot, and he should have been interested."

The list of complaints is long, and talks with Park Bureau recreation personnel

supported them. citizens' complaints, which stress that park has few programs, has been forgotten by Park Bureau.

19th Ave., has observed the park closely during the six years he has been a pillar of the Northeast Little League (this year's state champions) which uses space at the park.

## Leader needed

"This park requires the best person they've got. He's got to be a real leader and a diplomat and a gentleman who can lead by example and in every other way.

## Riot probe ordered

BOISE — Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus has named a seven-member committee to look into the causes of the riot at the Idaho State Prison Tuesday. He is asking the group to meet Monday at the state house.



LITTLE USED — Even with temperature failed to attract much business. Park in 90s last week, Irving Park wading pool is under-used.

Area residents note and Park Bureau officials concede that summer help as opposed to permanent staff is used at Irving.

The residents say they want a full time professional, a mover and a shaker, a program innovator.

"It's the programs that will bring the people and the more people we have the fewer problems we'll have," said Mrs. Virginia Norton. Similar statements were made in varying forms by most of those interviewed.

Dorothea Lensch, the Park Bureau's recreation supervisor, appeared to see it differently when interviewed Friday.

"Programs can only be built with community support," she said. "They (children and adults) don't come and we wish they would . . . Give us two or three years and it will come back . . ."

The thrust of Miss Lensch's remarks placed responsibility on the community for not rallying around recreation directors to build viable programs.

She observed and community testimony supports her that recent vandalism and muggings in the neighborhood



BY EAR—"Play it by ear," were program instructions received last week by new Irving Park recreation director Gregory Williams.

hood have cut park attendance, scared people off.

However, where Miss Lensch views the vandalism as an important reason that keeps park users away, neighborhood residents view the same facts differently. They appear to feel it is the boredom and restlessness resulting, in part, from no programs and poor programs that encourages the nighttime hooliganism.

But to Mrs. Alfred Caldwell, 3133 NE 9th Ave., who walks through the park daily, the important thing is that the park is empty.

"After the Reading Tree program was over, it felt like the calm after a tornado," said the Nebraska native. "All the life was out of everything, and it was a desert."

There is no doubt that there are important problems at Irving Park that the Park Bureau and community residents have to discuss.

But it isn't clear if this dialogue will ever get off the ground.

"Irving will hum, but it won't if we keep talking," about the problems there, said Miss Lensch. "This dialogue about problems has defeated us from the first."

The area is also heavily populated with retired people, another important group of potential park users.

Area residents contend — and are backed up by recreation directors still working in the Park Bureau — that Irving Park has had rapid turnover of directors, that it was without supervision from Aug. 2 to Aug. 9, during the hottest week of the summer, and that the Park Bureau has only used summer help there in spite of the need for a staff of professionals who can initiate programs for all age groups, and generate use of the park by area residents.

Irving Park's newest recreation director, Gregory Williams, started his assignment on Monday. Williams, a teaching aide at Woodlawn School with two years' summer work in the city's parks, received brief instructions for his Irving job:

"So far they've just told me to play it by ear, because there usually aren't enough kids to get anything going."

Williams' prior assignment was in Unthank Park, one of the city's newest facilities.

Park personnel and residents agree that the Reading Tree and Little League, both run by volunteers, are the only recent successful program efforts in the park.

A former employe at the

"The summer program at Irving consisted of gimp (plastic coated string that can be braided)," a former director at the park said.

"We have felt the Park Bureau has let us down. We feel the city just doesn't care about this park," said Mrs. Lynn Boatsman, 2242 NE 11th Ave.

Mrs. Donald Herzog and several other women whose volunteer efforts built the Reading Tree program, agree that it was not the senseless burning of hundreds of books that closed the program but the lack of other activities for the children when they weren't taking their own lessons. Also, the lack of programs, especially for teenagers, resulted in occasional harassment of the young by bored teenagers.

"One can't have a Reading Tree without other activities," Mrs. Herzog said last week.

#### Ivancie blasted

"We were promised by the Park Department that there would be other programs, but there was nothing. We called Mr. Ivancie (City Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie, who is in charge of city parks). We called the Park Bureau. I called and called. Nothing."

When the program was