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October 16, 1972

Mr. Dale Christiansen, Supt.
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

The Irving Park Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation in helping to plan the improvements at Irving Park.

We deeply appreciate the hiring of staff members who worked throughout the summer supervising and planning activities for the many children who used the park. We would like for you to convey to the people involved-Mr. Simington, Mr. Jackson and Miss Davis-that from reports received by various committee members that they performed an outstanding service to the community.

The committee feels that through your efforts many of our ideas were implemented to a large degree that greatly contributed to a more rewarding summer for many people.

We will continue to look forward to working closely with you in the coming months to finishing a project that should be beneficial to the whole community.

Thank you for listening and working with us. There is much to be done but a great step forward has been taken and with the continued support and effort we can make many more worthwhile contributions to the area.

Yours truly,

THE IRVING PARK COMMITTEE

Herb Emerson, Pres.

Copies to:

Mr. Ed Erickson
Mr. Bill Owens

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IRVING PARK COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 4, 1972

The Irving Park Committee met at the home of Mary Stilwell, 2129 N. E. Knott St. The following persons were in attendance: Jim Sumner, Jane Quinlin, Marlene Hoskins, Mulvey Johnson (PDC), Bob Belcher, Betty Walker, Paul Johnson (PDC), Mary Stilwell, Herb Chilton, Jim Robertson (PDC), Ed Erickson (Park Bureau), Hugh Mitchell, (Planner), Herb Amerson and Marian Scott (PDC)

Herb Amerson, Chairman, opened the meeting expressing his disappointment about the way communications had been handled by the Little League representatives with the Park Bureau concerning the proposed restroom-storage-concession building. This proposed building was disapproved by the Park Bureau last week. Mr. Amerson said that any matter concerning the Irving Park Improvement Program should be handled through the Irving Park Committee. It is this committee that has been given full authority by the ICA to represent the neighborhood in the planning of Irving Park improvements.

Mary Stilwell, the Little League representative on the Committee, said the Park Bureau asked their Little League to send them a letter requesting the proposed building. Mary Stilwell had been asked to get out the letter on a very short notice and was unable to reach Mr. Amerson while preparing the letter. She did, however, confer with Ev Leisure, ICA President, who fully supported the request for this building. Mrs. Stilwell pointed out that this building would serve not just Little League, but many other groups or functions including the Reading Tree Program.

Ed Erickson, Park Bureau representative for the Committee, said that the Park Bureau had to turn down this proposal because of a city-wide policy on concession and/or storage facilities. This policy allows permits for such facilities only if they are of a portable nature. It was further pointed out by Mr. Erickson that this permanent structure would require a conditional use permit subject to the approval of nearby residents and the City Planning Commission.

After a lengthy discussion, the Committee decided to drop the building from the Third Phase improvement program and possibly consider it again if funds become available for a 4th Phase improvement program. The Committee then discussed how the funds for this building should be reallocated to other improvements.

In order to consider the concession stand, the Planning Commission and City Council approval is needed. Formal recommendation from ICA is also necessary. Any building needs a conditional use permit. The Chairman asked if this project could be carried over to the 4th Action Year as another phase. He felt the problem was due to poor management. No excuses were being made for Mr. Erickson he stated as

none were needed. Mulvey Johnson stated that he did not know until today about the Park Bureau's decision. Perhaps all is not totally down the drain.

The Park Department, said Mr. Chilton, won't ever pass the building. A storage room would cut Little League (with 2 sets of outfits) cost of from \$10 - \$15 thousand. If the park itself were larger, as in the case of Lentz Park, then the larger area could be sectioned off into smaller park areas. If large enough to accommodate a grandstand, a concession stand might well be built. Herb Amerson cited the area of parks mentioned.

The Recreation Director's building was Mr. Erickson's opinion. The present building is more logical for storage.

A query as to whether or not the present building near the Tot Lot could be refurbished (with NDP funds) to accommodate storage of equipment and the Director's office. This would eliminate the bathrooms, however. The Director begins work in mid-June. Little League opens in April between the 20th and 27th, depending upon when Easter comes. Herb Amerson suggested the possibility of earlier staffing. We will have the best improved park in the City. This should mean something.

Mulvey Johnson was requested to pursue the use of funds to refurbish the existing building at the top of the hill. The baseball people cannot police the house at the top of the hill, Mary Stilwell stated. Hugh Mitchell stated that he was practically through with the working drawings, except for the children's play equipment.

Jane Quinlin's 6th grade class came, saw, took back, came back and priced alternative equipment. Hugh Mitchell went out to Sabin School and talked to the group. They voted for "Imagine City" as one of their choices. This piece of equipment has springs and rotates. The Committee approved this play equipment unanimously. It now has to go to the Park Bureau for approval.

Chain nets instead of fabric nets were requested for the basketball baskets. Coil animals were suggested for the Tot Lot. It was pointed out by Ed Erickson and Hugh Mitchell that they (coil animals) did not work at Mt. Scott nor in Eugene. Jane Quinlin has been given committee approval to work directly with Hugh Mitchell. Olympic stairs for the pool was mentioned and approved by the committee. The committee will allow Herb Amerson and Mary Stilwell to work directly with Mulvey Johnson on this aspect.

There will be an expansion between the tennis court and the existing shelter, if money left is enough to implement the plan in progress. Additional other alternatives include a pathway to Klickitat Mall. Exercising both alternates and refurbishing the house at the top of the hill would utilize the \$11,500.00 that is in the budget.

What about the Senior Citizens (checks, tables, etc). Will there be anything for them?--these were the next questions. It was agreed that the architect's judgment of what would be feasible would be the way to proceed.

It was suggested all that was necessary to refurbish was to construct two doors to the existing building with partitions inserted midway.

There will be no meeting until the plans are completed. Hugh Mitchell will notify the committee. It was decided to go with the play area or the walk-way. If there is not enough money for one of these, then the Senior Citizens project would be considered. Jim Sumner and Herb Amerson will work with Hugh Mitchell. He will call Herb Amerson.

Jim Robertson stated that the Portland Development Commission uses design consultant Walter Gordon. Their comments were very commendable regarding this Committee's work. Someone wanted to know who would keep an eye on the contractor during work. The Portland Development Commission "eyes" the contractor during implementation, stated J. Robertson.

The question arose regarding the overhang for the baseball backstop; who is responsible for it not being built as planned. During the discussion, it was stated that the extra 300 feet were not in the specifications but Hugh assured the Committee the extension would be taken care of.

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