

CHAIRMAN
Mayor Walter J. Sullivan

VICE CHAIRMAN
Jane F. Sullivan

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
456 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
(Tel. 498-9251)

MEMBERS

Frances H. Cooper
Alfred B. Fantini
Sara O. Garcia
Timothy J. Toomey Jr.
Larry Weinstein

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

---IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE---

March 26, 1987

ORDERED:

That the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS: The following conditions of serious disrepair exist at the Alden Tot Lot at the corner of Oxford and Sacramento Streets:

1. The large wooden climbing structure is splintering, and large sections of wood have broken off. After a serious injury this winter, the DPW came and removed a particularly broken section, but it left the high slide more dangerous for smaller children without the structure behind it.
2. The concrete boat play structure has disintegrated along the edges that the metal support wire is sticking through. Most adults simply do not allow their charges near it, and many children have been hurt on it.
3. The bars on the chin up equipment are not stable, and there have been many accidents from children falling off the bars when they move.
4. The sand under the abovementioned play equipment has been worn away, and the ground is very hard for a fall. Also, the children no longer have sand to dig in.
5. The seesaws are wood, and splintering and rotting is a problem.
6. The balance beam was removed due to rot, and there are stumps sticking up causing a tripping danger.
7. Swings are missing from the standards, and there are mats under them which have pulled up causing a tripping danger.

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Also, the mats cause a severe water condition under the swings after a rain, and the water remains standing for many days.

8. The lights in the park do not work. The Agassiz Neighborhood Council has repeatedly requested the city to repair them for safety reasons. Last year a Lesley College student was accosted when walking home from a babysitting job in the neighborhood.
9. There are no gates on either entrance to the park. This is particularly dangerous on the Oxford Street side where, due to the slope just at the entrance, balls roll out and children chase them into the street. The neighborhood store is directly across from the same entrance, and older children do not walk up to the stop light to cross Oxford Street. Two children have been hit by cars at this spot, and near accidents are common.
10. The sprinkler valve is stripped, and it is extremely difficult to turn it on and off in hot weather.
11. The drainage is poor in the blacktop section of the park. In summer if the sprinkler is used or if there is a heavy rain, water will remain standing for several days, and children will play in the standing water presenting a serious health hazard.
12. The fence is broken in the back of the park behind the swings. It is also where the most serious litter, broken glass and vandalism occurs. The bench in that area has lost the back section, and the metal supports are sticking out.
13. More than 260 children attending the Agassiz School use the Alden Tot Lot at recess on a daily basis, since the small play area available on the Agassiz Public School grounds is used for teacher parking.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That this Committee urge the City Manager to give the highest priority to pending budget requests for repair of the Alden Tot Lot.

A true copy:

Attest:

Claire E. Rodley

Secretary of the School Committee

cc School Committee Members
City Manager
✓ City Council, c/o City Clerk
Executive Director of Management Services

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY 4: 37

(Tel. 498-9251)

CAMBRIDGE MA.

April 23, 1987

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Larry Weinstein

Cambridge City Council
% Mr. Joseph Connarton
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

I am enclosing an order adopted by the School Committee at the regular meeting of March 26, 1987.

Would you kindly distribute the enclosed copies to the City Councillors.

Very truly yours,

Claire E. Rodley

Claire E. Rodley
Secretary of the School Committee

CER:lpk

Comm. from Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk,
transmitting a comm. from Claire E. Rodley,
Secretary, School Committee, transmitting a
resolution adopted by the School Committee
urging the highest priority be given to budget
requests for repair of the Alden Tot Lot
located at the corner of Oxford & Sacramento
St.'s.

In City Council,

April 27, 1987

*Referred to the
City Manager*