

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JOHN H. CORCORAN
City Manager

May 4, 1973

The Honorable, the City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councillors:

Pursuant to our discussion last Monday night with representatives of the residents and churches in the Sennott Park area, I have taken the following steps:

1. Designated the Recreation Director, Paul G. Cowles, the City Electrician, William H. Crocker, and Richard A. Lockhart of the Planning and Development Department to work out with the Sennott Park neighborhood recommended improvements to the Park that should correct the problems of safety, security and vandalism that now prevail there.
2. Met on two separate occasions with my designees and neighborhood representatives to discuss the problems at the Park and possible improvements.

As a result of these efforts, the following list of recommended improvements have been drawn up:

1. At the existing electric light locations within the Park, increase the height of the poles and the wattage of the light fixtures; at two of the poles add a second light fixture. Install floodlights on the poles along Common Street and on the pole at the Harvard Street entrance to the Park. Add a second light fixture to the pole on Harvard Street between St. Bartholomew's Church and St. Mary's Teen Center.
2. Remove selected portions of the masonry walls within the Park, and replace as necessary with link fencing. The exact extent of this work is in the process of being worked out with the neighborhood.
3. Install vehicular barriers at the Harvard Street entrance to

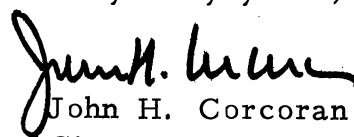
the Park and at the corner of Common Street and Broadway.

4. Increase the height of the fencing between the Park and the abutting properties and replace the missing sections of the fence along Common Street. Adjust the fencing along St. Bartholomew's Church as to be worked out with the Church.
5. Move the softball backstops to the opposite corner of the ballfield and add a pop-fly screen to the top of the backstop.
6. Remove the steel edging in the vicinity of the swings; remove the gas light fixtures and the tree stump in the interior of the Park.
7. Repair the slat fencing and the link fencing in the vicinity of the basketball courts; repair the brick paving within the Park and at the sidewalks along the street frontages of the Park.
8. Establish and enforce a night-time curfew at the Park until it no longer is a gathering place for undesirables.
9. Establish a program of neighborhood surveillance and maintenance at the Park. Resident maintenance would be on a paid part-time basis and would supplement regular Recreation Department maintenance.

In addition, several improvements are suggested related to the recreation program at the Park. These improvements include installation of drinking fountains, laying of "park soil" at the ball diamond, replacing of basketball at Harvard Street with street hockey, and regrading of sloping portions of the Park grounds which are eroding.

The estimated total cost of the above improvements is between \$15,000 and \$30,000, depending upon the extent of the masonry wall demolition. It is my judgment that we should proceed on at least the minimum basis and we should be prepared to have to spend the higher amount.

Very truly yours,


John H. Corcoran
City Manager

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AGENDA #5

Comm. from John H. Coreoran, City
Manager relative to improvements
at Sennott Park.

In City Council,

May 7, 1973

5/7/73
Filed on File -