

Asks Dedication Of 2 City Parks

Birmingham city commissioners have been requested to consider immediate dedication of Eton and Springdale parks as such.

In making the request Monday night, John McGill, spokesman for the Sheffield Estates Civic Association, said there apparently are no plans to use these two big parks for any other purpose now or in the future.

"I SEE NO reason why they can't be dedicated as soon as possible," McGill declared.

At last week's commission meeting, McGill and John McPherson, president of the association, inquired as to the status of a City plan to study park dedication. They urged that the commission take early action to preserve indefinitely public property now used as parks.



Raccoon Trouble

When Al Sundell of Birmingham Police Dept. helped the William Candler smoke out a raccoon on the Candler's roof, neither he nor the Candler realized that the home at 4288 Dorchester had a defective chimney. Result: a fire that resulted in \$7,000 damage. Seems there was an opening in the chimney wall and sparks from the "coon-chasing" fire passed through it to ignite books stored in the attic. Firemen fought the blaze for an hour and a half. Mrs. Candler (Julie) is a former staff writer-township editor and now special writer for The Birmingham Eccentric. She took this picture of Sundell throwing leaves and droppings off the roof before the fire broke out.

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Newell Property To Keep Present Business Zoning

The controversial Frank Newell property, north of Maple and west of Eton, will retain its business zone usage, Birmingham city commissioners decided Monday night.

Acting on a motion by Carl F. Ingraham, they decided to not accept an earlier recommendation from the plan board to consider possible rezoning from a business zone decreed by circuit court five years ago.

COMMISSIONERS also instructed City Manager L. R. Gare to meet with Newell and his attorney to negotiate a settlement that would be acceptable to him, the City and neighboring residents who protest the business use.

Newell is planning a small shopping center on a vacant triangular piece of the property.

Low Bid Accepted For Lot 6 Project

The low bid of \$22,199.36 for construction of Municipal Parking Lot No. 6, behind the Reid Building on N. Woodward, was accepted by Birmingham commissioners Monday night.

It was submitted by Stolaruk Asphalt Paving, Inc., Oak Park.

Construction is expected to begin the latter part of this month and to be completed by July 1.

The low bid was 24 per cent under the engineer's estimate.

Lower Assessment Due For Churches in Lot 5

By KEN WEAVER
News Editor

The unlikely has happened again. Once more the public hearing for Birmingham Municipal Parking Lot No. 5, in the area north of Woodward and west of Woodward, has been adjourned for one week.

This time it was continued to allow the city assessor to correct the roll for the special assessment district at a lower rate for the four churches involved.

The hearing before the Birmingham City Commission was adjourned last week to correct an error which occurred when a City-owned parcel was included in the original spreading of the roll.

CITY COMMISSIONER William H. Burgum questioned last week a special assessment district of this type. Commissioner Charles Renfrew this week suggested the proposed change which the commission adopted.

Hubb Fisher objected to the assessment on behalf of Congregational Church of Birmingham. He said:

"We as a church are strongly opposed to this type of assessment. Our operating costs are fixed. If we are assessed for this project, we will have to withdraw from vitally important missions and schools which we support."

"I am sure other churches will have to do likewise."

"WE'RE NOT interested in capital investments and parking lots. We're interested in people."

"We have 'no parking problem.' Fisher cited the many community functions taking place at the church and of which the church is a part."

Speaking for St. James Episcopal Church, the Rev. Kenneth H. Gass, D.D., pastor said:

"We are a substantial part of this community. The community is growing and we want to go along with it."

"St. James will take its full share... despite the fact it won't do us a bit of good... The business community has been generous in supporting the churches. We want to accept our share in this project."

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

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