Panel OKs arch, park

Newport’s Historic District Commission approves a memorial park on Bellevue Avenue planned as a tribute to two famed architects, despite protests from neighbors.

By Phil Sweeney
Daily News staff

NEWPORT — A plan for a memorial park and arch on Bellevue Avenue moved closer to reality Tuesday night, with the project winning the approval of the city’s Historic District Commission.

The proposal by Laurence and Judy Cutler calls for a park to be built on a vacant lot once home to the Stoneacre estate. The site is next door to the Cutlers’ home, Vernon Court.

Laurence Cutler said he hopes the privately owned park, which will cover about three acres, will be open by fall. It is being planned as a tribute to landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and architect Louis Kahn.

“I am very optimistic about everything,” Cutler said this morning.

The public will have access to the grounds, which the Cutlers will continue to pay property taxes on.

The Historic District Commission’s endorsement was unanimous, though it did not come without some protests. As with their plan to open an art museum at Vernon Court, the Cutlers faced opposition from neighbors worried about the possible destruction of trees and the addition of parking.

Cutler said he believes the neigh-

PARK, Page A10