

# Panel OKs arch, park

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bors' objections Tuesday were intended to stall the project. "I was baffled," he said.

The park would preserve — not destroy — trees, Cutler told the commission. The project is being developed, he noted, in conjunction with the Olmsted family historian and Nathaniel Kahn, the son of Louis Kahn.

The Historic District Commission was responsible for reviewing the aesthetics of the park plan and the location of the proposed arch. The commission had no objections, so the plan may proceed, said Guy Weston, the city's zoning officer.

Under existing zoning law, a park

is a permitted use for the property, which is located at Bellevue and Victoria avenues, Weston said.

Along with a promise to preserve the trees, Cutler agreed to use crushed stone in the parking area rather than pavement, Weston said.

Cutler said he expects to meet with contractors and to gather cost estimates soon.

The Cutlers' attempt to open part of Vernon Court as the National Museum of American Illustration is on hold. Cutler had hoped both the park and the museum projects could proceed simultaneously, but the city's Zoning Board of Review turned

down the museum plan. The Cutlers are appealing that decision in Superior Court.

■ 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-