

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, January 2, 2003 at the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Conference Room, located on the 5th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Chairperson Ralph Franklin presiding called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairperson Ralph Franklin Commissioner Frank Wilson Commissioner Willie Agee

Absent

Commissioner Norma Smith Commissioner Leticia Victorino

Also Present:

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department:

Rita Gardner, Deputy Director Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary Sikizi Allen, Senior Program Specialist Ben Stephens, Senior Recreation Supervisor Danita Meshack, Senior Administrative Analyst

MINUTES

The minutes were approved by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rita Gardner stated that staff anticipated having a great and successful new year. She reported that the revised Recovery Action Plan (RAP) has been completed. It was due in the National Park Service Office by December 30^{th,} 2002. Copies will be provided for all Commissioners. The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Funding program will fund three (3) of the City's capital improvement projects that will replace hazardous playground equipment at:

- Lockhaven Park
- North Park
- Queen Street Park

The Recovery Action Program will be updated on a yearly basis. A public survey will be created to gain the communities' input on current programs and park improvements.

Commissioner Franklin asked what is the anticipated type of funding that the Department is trying to obtain?

Rita Gardner responded the Department has already received grant funding that were used to resurface the tennis and basketball courts at both Rogers and Ashwood Parks, playground equipment replacement and this federal funding will be reimbursable.

Commissioner Franklin asked about the improvements at Vincent Park.

Rita Gardner stated that Public Works could come to the next Commission meeting and provide an update on Vincent Park improvements.

Ben Stephens said the outside basketball courts at Darby Park are scheduled to be completed by April or June. The security system has been installed at the Lockhaven Community Center; the air condition system will be installed for future computer classes; and restrooms are being refurbished.

Commissioner Franklin said that to his understanding Lockhaven Community Center is already in ADA compliance.

Mr. Stephens reported that basketball registration started before Christmas. Mr. James Henry held a very successful second annual Bernie Young Basketball Clinic.

Danita Meshack stated that per the Director, Kevin L. Hawkins, research has been completed in regards to the Community Beautification Awards Programs. They are held annually by other cities such as West Covina, Riverside, Culver City, and Torrance.

The Department is looking to implement a monthly awards program that will be called the Neighborhood Preservations Awards Program. Under this proposal Code Enforcement Inspectors assigned to the division, will monthly nominate a property (residential or commercial) that basically exemplifies the commitment to the city's beautification. The owner will receive a (somewhat inexpensive) token of appreciation, i.e. a letter of congratulations from the Director of the Department as well as a certificate of recognition. On a larger level, staff is also considering what other cities have done where the entire community is invited to nominate properties for recognition to their commitment to community beautification. This is something that will be open to all the residents in the City. We have a couple of categories that have been proposed to Administration for example:

- Who has the most improvement in Landscaping
- Who has been the most consistent with property maintenance

Those property owners would be recognized whether commercial or residential at a City Council meeting.

The division is also working on completing the process of applying a graffiti resistant coating to all playground equipment at each park.

Sikizi Allen stated that the Nutrition Services award was presented to the Senior Center. They were honored with this award because the program implemented a very effective food safety control program, which is the Hazardous Analysis Critical Control (HACCP). Inglewood is the first city to implement this program and it will be demonstrated to other cities throughout the area. Kirkland Haynes, Food Service Specialist, presented a PowerPoint presentation during an awards program sponsored by the County of Los Angeles.

Ms. Allen reported that the home delivered meals program delivers about 300 meals daily and they also received a certificate for it.

Rita Gardner stated that Case Managers did a wonderful job gathering toys, clothing and can goods for needy families of the Care Givers Program.

Rita Gardner stated they are proud of the staff that was involved in developing this project.

Sikizi Allen said this was the first annual Food and Toy drive. The Senior Center was able to deliver 75 baskets. Various City Departments donated items. The community also dropped off goods, and the VISTA volunteers delivered the baskets.

Also the Computer Classes at Rogers Park are growing. The staff is working to get more updated computers at Rogers Park. Program Assistant Michelle Jordan mentioned that she was anticipating about 15 students to enroll in this class that she's offering for example, "learning how to make flyers".

In actuality, there are about 50 to 60 people trying to take these classes. The response has been overwhelming. The seniors are really taking advantage, and are very enthusiastic.

Commissioner Agee stated the kiln at Rogers Park has been broken for a while and would like to know if there are any plans to replace or repair it.

Rita Gardner stated that she would look into it.

Commissioner Wilson stated he feels proud that the Senior Center received these types of awards in regards to the Home Delivered Meals. He said it is "very astonishing".

Sikizi Allen said that they will conduct a meeting where questions will be asked (of various age groups) regarding life styles, how they're managing, how are they getting their kids in school, legal and financial living. This would give us the ability to talk to them and let them know how they can access the legal support that they need, if there will be a temporary or permanent home-stay for the child. We will be working together with Legal and Social Security Services. It's a national project.

Commissioner Wilson stated these are very good programs that are being offered to the people of Inglewood.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the graffiti resistant coating is just a trial or is it being used!

Rita Gardner answered we are already using the graffiti coating.

Commissioner Franklin asked what is the resilience?

Rita Gardner stated that she will report back on the findings.

Commissioner Franklin asked if the Block Club Captains could also take a part in keeping the blocks maintained. He commended staff members at the Senior Center for doing a fabulous job. Commissioner Franklin asked for a response during the construction of the new Senior Center what would happen to the nutrition center?

Rita Gardner stated that the Senior Center participants will be temporarily removed to the Kaiser Building.

Commissioner Franklin asked if the age of a senior could be clarified?

Sikizi Allen said it starts at 50 for Recreation Programs and at 60 for the Care Management Program, bus passes and meals, 18 years and up for disabled people.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

COMMISSION SUGGESTIONS, REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner Franklin stated the discussion of the November Minutes regarding the soccer players; perhaps they could look into getting clay soccer fields due to the abuse by adult players. Also the next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 07, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.

Under the City Council agenda, the Holiday Decorating Contest awards will be present.

Commissioners gave input on the Holiday Decorating Contest.

Commissioner Agee stated District 1 had some nice decorations and he enjoyed the contest.

Commissioner Wilson stated he accompanied Commissioner Agee and it was very enjoyable.

Commissioner Franklin stated he was disappointed as to the number of responses received.

Commissioner Franklin asked if the Commissioners could evaluate the judging and change the dates to help recruit more participants.

Commissioner Franklin asked about the Rogers Park newsletter.

Rita Gardner stated a Vista Volunteer created the newsletter.

Commissioner Franklin asked who would enforce the locking of the gates and restrooms at Center Park on 111th Street?

Rita Gardner stated Guard Vision should be taking care of them. They will be notified and it will be taken care of.

Commissioner Franklin stated the lights at Center Park are not coming on until 6:00 p.m.

Ben Stephens said he would send someone out to check the lights.

Commissioner Agee stated that people are driving their cars on the grass at Darby Park.

Ben Stephens said that the security company has been notified.

Commissioner Franklin asked Danita Meshack if she knew how long a vehicle could remain on the public streets before a resident can report it?

Danita Meshack stated 72 hours based on the time the Code Enforcement Officers mark the tire.

The Commission would like to congratulate staff for the wonderful job done in 2002, and wished that all have a safe and prosperous New Year.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m. Motion for Adjournment was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Agee.

The next Commission Meeting will be held February 6th, 2003 at the 9th Floor former Council Chambers.