



The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, May 6, 2004, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Jamie Gutierrez – District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV
Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large

Staff:

Rita Gardner, Parks Administration Superintendent
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent
Mario Smith, Senior Recreation Supervisor
Bruce Mills, Park Maintenance Supervisor
Thomas Uwal, Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 7, 2004

A motion for approval of the minutes from April 7, 2004 was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

Commissioner Agee asked to have the minutes amended on page 13 to read the vote for the approval of the Vincent Park Restroom Renovation Project was 3 to 1, Commissioners Giardina, Brown and Gutierrez voted in favor of and Agee voted against it.

Public Comments

Diane Sambrano, Inglewood resident stated there are several things that need to be addressed at Center Park. Center Park is directly across the street from my property and has been since before it was named a park, so anyone who tries to give me the history of the park stands to deal with photographs that I have growing up as a child on how the park was. In fact there was a wading pool and a sand box. The major concern is that in this park we have approximately 350 soccer players that use the park all day Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, so local residents cannot use it. These soccer players are not from the neighborhood and are not the children from the community. When they block the driveways and we are not able to come out, it becomes very annoying. We also have gang members that hang out at the park. It took more than a month and a half to get a sign that said no soccer playing and there is still a sign that says Lorraine Johnson as a Council Member. We have significant issues with attention to details. Lorraine Johnson has not been a Council Member for a long time and staff cannot manage to replace the sign. The children need parks to play in. This park is not for the surrounding neighborhood to use. This park is for families and seniors in the community to use to maintain their cardio-vascular health and families in this community. I sincerely hope that this would not have to go to Council and that Commissioners can make this a significant issue, because I can guarantee that it will not look pretty when this is taken to Channel 2 news and that is the next alternative. I have tried to be gracious, patient, tolerant and kind. Ladies and gentlemen my patience, my tolerance and my kindness has come to a severe end and I will not tolerate it any longer. I hope that you can pursue staff to take care of these problems.

Communications

None.

Directors Report

Recreation Activities

College, Career, and Health Fair

Mario Smith, Senior Recreation Supervisor stated the College, Career, and Health Fair took place on Saturday, April 24, 2004, at Rogers Park. Over 50

exhibitors were on hand to provide extensive health care information and services. The Elizabeth Center for Cancer Detection provided free mammograms to women over 40 years of age. The mobile unit performed 23 clinical breast exams, and 20 mammograms on site. Three women were referred for diagnosis. Cal State Long Beach Center for Behavioral Research for Speech was also on hand to provide free hearing test. Over 45 participants took advantage of the free tests. Curtis Tucker Health Center also provided free immunizations and TB test to youth and adults. Attendance was estimated to be about 900.

Inglewood Idol

Mr. Smith stated who needs an American Idol when we have our own "Inglewood Idol". The first Annual Inglewood Idol Talent Show and review was held at Rogers Park on Friday, April 23, 2004. The event, which was a fundraiser for the Rogers Park Boys and Girls Club, was well attended by over 300 guests and featured Inglewood's very talented youth, including the Rogers Park Boys and Girls Club, Fantasia Dance Ensemble, and Highland Elementary School Choir, to name a few. First, second, and third place prizes were awarded in two categories – singing and dancing. Congratulations to this year's winners: In the song category the first place winner was Faleisha D. Reese, Second Place – Highland School Choir; and Third Place – Briana Morris. In the dance category the first place winner was Creators of the World, second place – Michael A. Hunter and third place – Fantasia Dance Ensemble. Plans have already begun for next year's event, which will be moved to the gymnasium to accommodate a larger audience. Herman Browne and Jeff Givens did an outstanding job in planning and executing this year's event.

Memorial Day

Mr. Smith stated the City of Inglewood will host its 56th Annual Memorial Day Celebration on Monday, May 31, 2004. The ceremonies will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. in front of the memorial Obelisk Monument at Inglewood City Hall Mall, located at One Manchester Boulevard. The City's commemorative ceremonies will celebrate the lives of war heroes from the City of Inglewood and also a tribute to the courageous men and women who are currently serving in the armed forces. Over 30 local and community-based organizations are scheduled to take part in the ceremonies.

Pre-School Annual Spring Tea

Mr. Smith stated the Annual Pre-School Parent Luncheon and Training Session was held on Friday, April 30, 2004, at Rogers Park. Over 150 parents and students were in attendance. The event was highlighted by a puppet show and planting demonstration. Dean DHain, from the Parks Division, volunteered to show the pre-school children how to plant and care for potted plants. The exchange was well received and has prompted a discussion regarding possible gardening and horticulture classes and workshops.

Pre-Summer Splash

Mr. Smith stated the Department will offer free swim on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2004, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The pool will open for its regular season on Monday, June 28, 2004.

Summer Day Camp

Mr. Smith stated registration for Summer Day Camps will begin on Monday, May 10, 2004, for residents and Monday, May 17, 2004 for non-residents. Two consecutive four-week sessions will be held from Monday, June 28th to Friday, July 23, and Monday July 26 to Friday, August 20, 2004, at Darby Park, Lockhaven Community Center, Vincent Park, and Rogers Park. The camp is open to children ages 4 to 12 years old. The cost for Inglewood residents is \$200 and \$216 for non-residents per session. Childcare is available for day campers for \$49 for residents and \$56 for non-residents per session. Staff is working diligently to enhance the day camp experience. Camp components will include health and nutrition, arts and crafts, physical fitness/sports, themed “fun days” and, of course field trips.

Swimming Pool Complex

The Department will offer swimming lessons this summer – four sessions at Vincent Park. Each session runs for two consecutive weeks – a total of eight lessons. The minimum age requirement for weekly classes is 6 years of age to adult. Registration will take place from Monday, June 7 through Friday, June 18, 2004. The cost is \$10 for Inglewood residents and \$14 for non-residents per session. General swim will be offered Monday through Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning Monday, June 28, 2004. The cost is \$1.00 per person.

Transportation Mural

Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent presented Midday Sunday KTTV Fox 11 video of the radio show, which aired on March 17, 2004, regarding the mural panels.

Commissioner Giardina asked is there an estimated completion date for the relocation of the murals.

Skip Halloran stated we are looking to have a brief installation in the Fall of 2005 and are now in the process of getting wall design. The state office of Historic Preservation would like us to reconstruct a wall as close as possible to the original wall.

Park Maintenance

Bruce Mills, Park Maintenance Supervisor stated all park maintenance services are operating well. There are only two small mowers operable at this time and we are trying to keep up with the mowing at all the parks. Vincent Park's Swimming Pool is scheduled to open on Monday, June 28, 2004 for the summer season.

Commissioner Smith stated during the previous Commission Meeting it was stated that tree trimming was going to take place at 64th Place, from Eucalyptus to Centinela. Eucalyptus was not trimmed, can you tell me when that will be on the schedule?

Rita Gardner, Parks Administrative Superintendent stated there are about 3 chipper trucks that are down and that puts the schedule behind. A meeting with Fleet Services will be held on Friday, May 7, 2004, to discuss equipment problems. When the chipper trucks get back on the line the schedule will pick-up from where it left off.

Commissioner Smith confirmed the following schedule will not be started until the previous one is completed.

Rita Gardner responded that is correct.

Commissioner Brown stated he appreciates the Tree Trimming Schedule and commends staff for a job well done in District IV.

Commissioner Giardina stated she would like to commend the crew for the outstanding work that is being done with less staff available.

Rita Gardner commented that staff responds immediately to tree trimming complaints.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated there are a lot of local residents in District III inquiring about tree trimming and wanting to know when they will be trimmed. The schedule is very convenient now I can provide them with some information.

Rita Gardner stated there is a crew assigned in each district and whenever an emergency occurs, there is a crew available to respond immediately in that area.

Bruce Mills stated so many loads of green waste may be dumped per day and when chippers are operable waste can be placed in the dumpsters a lot faster. That is why we are requesting to have operable chippers.

Commissioner Agee congratulated staff for a job well done and asked if Tree Maintenance is responsible for tree trimming at Darby Park.

Rita Gardner responded Watt Development were responsible for the removal of trees and the trimming of trees along the western boundary of Darby Park. They have done a tremendous job.

Commissioner Agee stated he walked through Darby Park and people commented that they were not sure who did the work, but were very appreciative.

Community Services

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Thomas Uwal, Program Specialist stated 250 seniors, family and guests were served a special lunch on May 5, 2004, at the Lennox Senior Center. Los Angeles County provided a stage as well as tables and chairs and other logistical support. Seniors had fun listening to Mariachi music. Staff served food and participated in all the events of the day. Drivers did a good job transporting seniors from Hawthorne and Inglewood to and from the Lennox

Senior Center. Seniors thanked staff and are looking forward to the next Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

Health Fair

Mr. Uwal stated the City's Annual Health Fair took place on Saturday, April 24, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Rogers Park. Para-transit and the I-Line Drivers provided transportation between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 236 participants. The three designated locations for pick-up and drop-off were the Inglewood Senior Center, Oak Lot, and Faithful Central Bible Church parking structure.

North Inglewood Shuttle

Mr. Uwal stated MTA is planning to start a new shuttle route in north Inglewood. The route (line 607) has not been finalized and stop locations are not approved yet. Feasibility of stop locations that are not at existing bus stops is being checked. MTA is working closely with Transportation and Public Works Department to involve the community. A tour of the route will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2004. The new shuttle passengers will be able to transfer to our I-Line trolley, Inglewood Senior Center, City Hall and the local hospitals. If everything goes well, it will be a great transportation means to our seniors.

New Business

None.

Unfinished Business

Circle Park Project

Rita Gardner stated staff consulted with Public Works regarding the Circle Park Water Feature Project. Khanh Chu, (Project Engineer) has been working on this project and is ready to hire a consultant to do a conceptual design of the water feature at Circle Park. Staff is waiting for project approval to hire the consultant. The conceptual design can provide cost estimates for the project. As soon as the cost estimates are provided, staff can seek funding sources for this project.

Commissioner Giardina asked is there at timetable of when we may have some results.

Rita Gardner stated we would like to do this project with the Prop A excess funds money. An update can be provided by the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Agee stated there are serious problems at our major parks, and they need to be taken care of first before the Circle Park project starts. If Circle Park is upgraded it will attract gang members and senior citizens will not feel free to use it.

Commissioner Smith informed Commissioner Agee that he can't discuss his concerns until they get ready to vote on the project because at this time there are no plans.

Commission Suggestions, Requests and Questions

Commissioner Brown stated he participated at the College, Career and Health Fair Day as a vendor and the outflow of residents was tremendous. There wasn't a great turn out for the College Career section because there was a little glitch between the Board of Education and Parks and Recreation staff; a lot of kids were taking their SAT's. There were some schools that I personally invited and wished there had been more people to take advantage. Overall I was gratified that we were able to pull this off the first time around. They gave a lovely kick-off speech. I would like to commend staff. I have never seen so many staff show up to make an activity work; it was tremendous. I also had the opportunity to go to the ribbon cutting of the pre-school facility and I'm very gracious that we have been able to pass this on and that the City fathers are behind Head Start because those two programs complement each other. It is good to see that Parks and Recreation is not only about basketball and sports.

Commissioner Agee stated on Thursday, April 1, 2004, this Commission voted to send the bid of \$790,00 for the Vincent Park Restroom Renovation Project to Mayor and Council Members for approval. I voted no on the project and took a contractor, Osborne Construction, to Vincent Park and asked him to do a rough estimate. The thing that I love from the City of Inglewood is the prevailing wages that normally costs twice as much as the project itself. \$790,000 was an outrageous amount the contractor said without prevailing wages it would have been less than \$400,000 and with prevailing wages less than \$600,000, which is still high. The money is not coming from the City of

Inglewood, but from the County and we stand a chance of loosing the money, so I decided to endorse the project and support it when it comes to Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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