

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, March 3, 2005, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Irlanda Ordonez – District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Absent:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
Teresa Estrada, Cultural Program Assistant
Charlie Morgenstern, Park Construction Supervisor
Luz Napoles, Care Management Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Smith stated I'd like to call for the approval of the minutes.

Commissioner Agee stated I would like to recommend a change.

Commissioner Smith asked what page?

Commissioner Agee stated page 14 below Commissioners' Comments under where Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Giardina speaks for the whole Commission. I want that to be changed because Commissioner Giardina doesn't speak for me, I speak for myself. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated other than that, I make a motion to approve the minutes with the change.

Commissioner Brown stated before we go on, on page 13 I want the minutes to reflect something we should all be concerned about in regards to behavior. For whatever reason Commissioner Agee saw it fit to bluntly leave.

Commissioner Smith stated that should be for your comments later.

Commissioner Brown stated it is supposed to be reflected in the minutes.

The motion to approve the minutes with the change was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Public Comments

Councilman Ralph Franklin District IV, stated I'd like to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission for their representation and meeting the needs of the community. We have a sensitive issue that has been presented to the Council that is involving the Senior Center. Currently at the Senior Center, we have appropriated funding of 18 million dollars. It's been 2 years since we received that funding and since then with inflation as a factor, the cost of construction has now mushroomed to 26 million dollars. We'd like to make sure the Commission is still on board with us in wanting to procreate this nice Senior Center and housing and to continue to move forward with this project. We continue to welcome the Commission to echo publicly that they are still in support of providing this quality Senior Center, despite the inflating cost. We have Council looking for several areas under which they can find funding. In addition to that, I want to thank this body for being leaders and sensitive to the community's needs in regards to the Skate Parks. The Skate Parks have been a very interesting and a sensitive issue for the community because we need to get the children off the street. It was brought to the Council's attention so that we can, in fact reach out into the community. We found the funding and now we are in the process of building. It worked out for the districts involving the Code of Ethics and the rules we applied.

I want to encourage you as we are looking at a new aspect coming up for some new equipment at Rogers Park. We need to improve the playground area which has been there now for over 20 years. We need to bring new playground equipment that is in compliance to the Health and Safety standards and we look forward to this body being supportive of that. Thank you very much for allowing me to speaking this evening.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Councilman. You didn't give me a chance to introduce you, I thought you were just here to observe.

Director's Report

Kevin Hawkins stated I'd just like to welcome Commissioner Ordonez. We've played phone tag for a while and it's great to place a name with a face.

We here are pretty happy with this body in terms of the Commission speaking on behalf of staff and extremely supportive of all of our efforts. The staff, and I personally, truly appreciate it. As the Councilman alluded to the City is always faced with a shortage of fiscal resources trying to do more with less. A lot of times without the consensus, backing and the support of a body like this, we would not be able to get the type of support and progress in some of our projects and activities that we have been providing. With that, you are greatly appreciated as well as the staff is. As it is customary and as the other Commissioners know, I may give a brief overview of some information in regards to our various sections such as our Parks Administration Section, Recreation and Cultural Services Section and Human Services Section. Also more detailed information is provided on the events that have taken place since our last meeting. I wanted to give a brief update on the Art Park. We are at the final stages of the Art Park where the Helen Lundbergh Mural will now be located at Grevellia Park, which is located right across from Inglewood High School. As part of the final process, the City has applied for an additional grant to cover additional damage that was located or required by the State. This included additional rebar for the structure. Inglewood was one of several cities that made it to the final round in terms of funding. We had to address and answer a series of questions as well as meet with State Representatives to insure our project is worthy of funding. This process recently took place and I am pleased to report the City put on a great show. So far we have received tremendous feed back as to viability of our project. We should know whether or not the project will be funded with in 30-60 days. We are still on schedule to have the mural fully restored and dedicated sometime in November. So by the end of the year the Art Park and Mural Restoration Project should be fully completed.

Let's start out with our Parks folks and the reason I'm going to start off with Charlie is because this body has been supportive of Parks Administration. These are the folks who are out there doing our construction, tree trimming and a lot of the little things that are not always reflected in the minutes. For example, when we have special events going on in the City like Cesar Chavez, MLK or any of the police events/ ceremonies, the tables and chairs and things that are supporting the operations are our park folks who actually provide and set those things up. A lot of people aren't aware of that. So, in addition to doing the park construction, maintenance and beautifying the City, they are also doing other things as well. So with that, I will turn it over to our Parks Construction Supervisor Charlie Morgenstern.

Parks Division

Capital Improvement Projects

- Skate Park Construction is on hold until Public Works staff can provide sufficient information to the Skate Park Contractor to meet our requirements in order to identify what equipment is needed.

- Lockhaven Community Center Renovation Project is almost complete. The tentative completion date is earmarked for the end of March. Park Maintenance Technician Craig Civitello has been the lead worker on this project working on retro fitting and dry walling.
- Rogers Park Playground Equipment Installation Project will be fast tracked in order to meet State deadlines to receive funds for this project. We are seeking funds to replace old equipment.
- Public Works Water Division is currently handling the Vincent Park Swimming Pool Valve Replacement Project. The pools are showing wear and tear, the valves that operate the pump and filtration system are not operating efficiently. The old valves will be replaced with new state of the art plastic valves so the chlorine does not deteriorate the metal and rubber materials. We are also due to get new strainers and chemical injectors.
- City Service Center Car Wash Construction Project is currently being landscaped by the Park Maintenance while the Park Construction crew is working on the installation of the irrigation system. There has not been any renovation on the yard since 1972 when it was originally built. We are updating the gasoline pumps, installing the car wash and adding automated gates to the front entrance. In collaboration with Public Works, we are responsible for the landscaping while they are responsible for the remainder of the project. Speaking with the superintendent of Public Works, he estimates a grand opening in mid March.

Park Maintenance: North and South Sections

The Park Maintenance Sections are catching up on their work due to the winter storms. Despite the rain drenching, the majority of the green areas in Inglewood are starting to dry up and mowing has begun.

Tree Maintenance

Luckily since the tornado there have been no fallen trees or limbs. The Tree Maintenance crew is working on their regular schedule.

Sister City Twinning Ceremony/Mankessim

On February 16, 2005, the City of Inglewood and the City of Mankessim, Ghana established a Sister City relationship during the Twinning Ceremony at Hollywood Park Casino. Mayor Dorn and Nana Araba Otau II signed a resolution, which joined the two cities together. The delegates from Ghana toured various facilities relating to health and education. The Ghana Twinning Ceremony is being scheduled for January 2006, which will include a World Trade Summit scheduled to take place in Ghana.

Commissioner Agee stated I am glad to hear the valves in the pools over at Vincent Park will be replaced. They really needed it bad last year that is progress. I had the privilege of meeting Queen Otau and I intend on going to Ghana in January. I really enjoyed my time with the delegates.

Commissioner Smith asked in regards to the Skate Parks, when will the bidding begin for the other 2 parks?

Charlie Morgenstern stated the bidding has been completed. We have 1 contractor. The slab has been put down at Darby Park and we are in the process of installing the equipment.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm not asking in regards to Darby Park, I'm asking about Vincent and Rogers Parks.

Kevin Hawkins stated Charlie is correct in regards to Darby Park. I believe when Public Works came before this body, it was mentioned that once the other skate parks were being considered, we had to make sure we had specs. As of right now, we just have a projected schedule and if possible we will invite Public Works to come to our next meeting. I'm not sure if the entire process has been completed, but the time frame we were given for all 3 skate parks to be completed was by the end of 2005.

Commissioner Smith stated I'd like for them to explain why we weren't notified that the bidding had already taken place.

Kevin Hawkins stated if it did in fact occur, it would have been a continuation of the original bid on Darby Park, it would not have been a separate matter. Though I don't know that to be true and I don't want to state that. At this point what we anticipate is all 3 Skate Parks to be completed by the end of the year, which is rather surprising and we are very pleased. I am not aware of anything past that. What I will do is make sure we have a representative from Public Works at our next meeting. If there are any information packets, those will also be available.

Commissioner Smith stated my other question is concerning the equipment for the playground at Rogers Park. Have you received any bids, decided what type of equipment you want, and estimated what it will cost?

Kevin Hawkins stated this dated back to several years ago. There was a State audit done throughout the City in regards to hazardous park equipment in the City. Once those were identified, the Parks Section immediately removed the items. From then, the department sought grant funds in order to do various projects including replacement of equipment. Now today, we have replaced most of the playground equipment in Vincent, Darby, and Siminski Parks.

The reason I am bringing this up is because at the time this was done, the request for allocating resources was brought before this body and later taken to the City Council in 2003. Once we pursued and received grant funds, we had to prioritize the projects among those being the replacement of playground equipment. Other projects were the Skate Park, Art Park, replacement of the pool valves; the Commission blessed all these projects. At one point, a former chairperson now Councilperson was part of that process. To bring all of this and now say that didn't happen without Commission consent and knowledge. Now how this relates to the current situation at Rogers Park Project is, that this was brought to the Commission, we received your blessing and it was just taken to the City Council for action and approved on Tuesday, March 1. We can now go to a vendor that was also identified, for purchasing and provision of the materials. As Charlie indicated, this is being fast tracked for reimbursement. We have received approval to do this project, but in grant funded or capital improvement projects the process is the city initiates the project and is reimbursed via the grant. So that is why we are trying to press this issue. We anticipate completion of this project the 2nd week of April, which will give us enough time to get all of the equipment in. Public Works is also in collaboration with the project.

Commissioner Smith stated I think you misunderstood me. What I am trying to find out is I don't remember being told what kind of equipment we are going to get or being quoted on prices for that equipment.

Kevin Hawkins stated what I am referring to is when we looked at this project; we brought various projects to the Commission. I can't recall the entire amount, but what the Commission did approve was \$110 thousand. I just want to make sure that the Commission knows you were involved in the process; we didn't take it to the Council until we had your blessing. Over \$1 million worth of grant funds were allocated. From there, that's when your respective Councilpersons made their recommendations. I also wanted to make sure this is on the record, Charlie briefly spoke about the collaboration between Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments in a variety of projects. Since I've been here at the City, I can't remember when there was a time Public Works has actually cranked out so many projects in such a short period of time. That is due to the collaboration between the 2 departments. That is our new motto (collaboration), and as we get closer and closer not only to the Skate Parks, but the restrooms at Vincent Park, we promise to bring that to you. My point is the City is looking at combining resources in house first where we can basically maximize our dollars and cut to the chase on some of the projects that have been in limbo forever. Now we are looking at doing a lot of these things on our own. Here to report for Human Services is Luz Napoles, our Care Management Program Specialist over at the Senior Center.

Human Services

One Time Funds from LA County Area on Aging

We have unofficial word that we will be receiving almost \$50,000 from a One-Time fund for our Nutrition Services; \$18,000 for a truck conversion hot-cold unit and a mini-van both for use of home delivered meals and approximately \$16,000 for serving meals in our own dining room. This does not include our request for \$38,000 for enhancements to the South Bay Care Network website for the caregivers. It will be an additional resource for referrals. We hadn't been able to get this program off the ground due to lack of funding. We are now able to implement the program.

Grant Proposal for Paratransit Buses

On February 25, 2005, Thomas Uwal, Transportation Coordinator for the Senior/Disabled Transportation Service, made a presentation to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) review committee on our proposal to provide 80% funding for two buses. The proposals will be mailed to the State on March 4, 2005. We are asking for additional vehicles to better serve the increasing demand for transportation.

Youth Services

Prospective participants are beginning to submit their notice of intent forms for the College, Career, Health Fair, and Earth Day Fair, which will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Rogers Park. Donations for the fair are starting to trickle in. Mid to late March follow-up calls will be made to donors who have not responded to the request letters.

NEW SAT

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, Princeton Review will return to administer the practice exam for the NEW SAT at Rogers Park.

Annual Job Shadow Day

The Annual Job Shadow Day was held on Thursday, February 24, 2005. Although there were fewer students this year, the participants seemed much more serious than the students in the past. Alice McKee was able to secure City of Inglewood bags for each student as a token of appreciation for their participation.

Care Management

A meeting is being coordinated with Lawndale, Westside and Hawthorne Adult Protective Services (APS). The purpose of this meeting is to get oriented with their new staff; work out issues relating to cases, communication and general

working relationships. We'd also like to discuss how to increase APS referrals to care management and review APS guidelines. The date of the meeting is still being determined.

Be Well Program

Thirty seniors in Inglewood who have extremely high nutritional risk scores, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, dehydration and a variety of chronic illnesses are showing great improvement as a result of their participation on the "Be Well" nutrition and exercise program offered at the Senior Center. They are meeting twice a week for 4 months and will continue weekly maintenance classes for an additional six months. The second "Be Well" class has been offered at the Senior Center and is funded by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration on Aging as a national model of health and wellness. Nine graduates of the first class are serving as mentors to the new group. Physicians, pharmacists, social workers, nutritionists, psychologists, gerontologists and nurses are all available for group and individual consultations. The graduation from the intensive phase of the program was held on March 3, 2005 at the Senior Center.

As part of the HHS grant, the staff involved will attend a mandatory meeting for all grantees in Philadelphia, PA on March 8, 2005 to share the progress made on their projects and present it to a delegation from across the country at the National Conference of the American Society.

Commissioner Agee asked in regards to transporting wheel chairs, is there a limit as to how many pounds the lift can pick up?

Kevin Hawkins stated there is probably a standard limit that the wheel chair lift can pick up.

Sandra Green stated there should be maximum weight information on the lift gate.

Commissioner Agee stated I understand it's an 800-pound limit.

Kevin Hawkins stated we would be speculating that.

Commissioner Agee stated I met a woman the other day that gave me her information and the information of one of our driver's who refused to pick her up because he said she weighed too much.

Luz Napoles stated it might not necessarily be the individual's weight. It could be that she might have had a big motorized wheelchair.

Commissioner Agee stated it was a regular size wheelchair. She said the driver was real nice, but did refuse to pick her up. I advised her to call Parks and Recreation and speak to Kevin. I don't know if she did or not, but I do have the name of the driver she was complaining about and I'd like for it to be looked into.

Luz Napoles stated in situations such as this, Thomas Uwal the Transportation Supervisor is very good about investigating them and generating solutions. I will advise him of this.

Commissioner Brown stated I am quite interested in the Care Giving Program; is it for the caregivers or for the ones who provide the actual service?

Luz Napoles stated this program is for the caregivers. A caregiver is defined as someone who is taking care of a senior citizen. A caregiver can also be someone under 60 who is taking care of someone over 60 or a senior citizen that is taking care of a child under the age of 18.

Commissioner Brown stated just an observation. I had the opportunity to be at the Senior Center last Thursday, February 24 with Sikizi. We attended Faithful Central Church to address services the Senior Center provides. We were able to gather a lot of data from the seniors who have not heard of the services. I also had the chance to observe 3 young ladies who were doing job tracking. One girl said that this was going to be her career even though she was still in high school. There are a lot of things going on in that building, I just hope that the with Councilmembers we can build a structure that can house all the many programs you have, because there is always so much going on at one time. In this book published by the Innovator National Council on Aging there is an article on Inglewood and it is not only distributed in Los Angeles but in Philadelphia.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I was just curious in regards to the Be Well program; I wanted to know if that was something that is done at the Senior Center at this moment?

Luz Napoles stated this program was just completed and it was a one-time deal. We received a grant from HHS for \$43,000 due to it being quite an expensive program. In order to provide all the services for this program, we'd need to partner up with other agencies, pharmacies, doctor's offices, etc. At the moment we are actually working on trying to partner up with Kaiser. We hope to hold another program soon.

Commissioner Ordonez stated yes, it seems like a really good program.

Luz Napoles stated for this program we had Spanish-speaking participants and we were able to provide a translator for them. We didn't want to exclude anyone.

Commissioner Ordonez stated are you thinking of doing another one of these programs?

Luz Napoles stated when funds are available.

Kevin Hawkins stated as Luz pointed out, this is a tremendous program as with anything that is done to improve the quality of life. It was a federally funded program. It is a part of our legislative agenda which will be going back to Washington D.C. not only to lobby for additional funds for the Senior Center but this is a program we'd like to see funds for as well. It is important to know that we have a program that only 11 cities nationally were also funded for. From Los Angeles to Boston and Chicago, all heavily populated areas. This shows you the quality of the program and just how top notch it is. I feel confident additional funds will be made available. We'd like to continue this program. We'd also like to gather data in terms of does it truly translate into an improved quality of life. That is also another reason why we are looking to collaborate projects. But again, this is on our legislative agenda list.

Commissioner Agee asked I'd like to know if the transportation we provide is only available to the citizens of Inglewood?

Luz Napoles stated no, it includes Hawthorne and Lennox as well.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Kevin Hawkins stated before we go into our Recreation and Cultural Division, I just want to point out that I am glad Luz joined us tonight, it's been quite a while. She is the conscious of the department. She is the one who spearheaded the holiday donations and some of our other festivities. The person behind all of that is certainly appreciated. With that, I give you Teresa Estrada from our Recreation and Cultural Department.

Recreation Division

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes for adults are now being offered at Rogers Park. Classes began the first Saturday of February and are offered every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 per month. Students learn basic yoga positions that increase their flexibility and relaxation. They also learn a variety of exercises and concentration techniques for improved circulation, breathing and muscle tone.

Aerobic Classes

In order to improve facilities for public enjoyment over at Lockhaven, the Monday and Wednesday aerobic classes at Darby Park have temporarily relocated to the Inglewood Senior Center. We anticipate the classes returning to Darby Park no later than mid to late May 2005.

Square Dance Instructor

The Square Dance Instructor who conducted the Wednesday class at Darby Park for senior citizens has resigned. We just found a new instructor who will begin no later than the end of March.

Cesar Chavez Day

Final plans are being made for the City's Annual Cesar Chavez Day Unity March, Recognition Ceremony and Celebration. The event will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2005. The March assembly begins at 9:30 p.m. at Hollywood Park-Gate 8. Participants will march along 90th Street to Darby Park. The Recognition and Celebration Ceremony will take place at Darby Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The celebration will include live entertainment, exhibitors, arts & crafts, student art and essay exhibition, interactive games and the 2nd Annual Soccer Tournament. This event is co-sponsored by the Inglewood Unified School District.

Health Fair Expo

Preliminary planning is underway for the Annual Health, College and Career Fair at Rogers Park. The Public Works Department will also take part in the event inviting the public to participate in Earth Day. The event will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Recruitment is now underway for medical and non-medical volunteers to provide health related screenings and information. Services will be available and offered free of charge to participants, ages 2 to 102.

Sports

On February 25-27, the finalist and semifinalist of the Kimble Invitational Basketball Tournament participated in the Bay Area Municipal Tournament. Boys and girls ages 8 thru 14 represented the City of Inglewood with aspirations of competing in the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) tournament. We came out victorious. We have four teams that have progressed to the SCMAF tournament that will be held later this month.

The City of Inglewood is scheduled to host the Annual Spring Tennis Tournament for adults, March 12-13, 19-20, 2005. This tournament will be held in conjunction with the Southern California Tennis Association,

The City of Inglewood in collaboration with the Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) will sponsor a Junior High Basketball Program for boys and girls of the school district. The league is scheduled to start March 14 and end May 13.

Inglewood Idol

The Department is currently holding auditions for Inglewood Idol II. Auditions are open to contestant's ages 4-21, now through March 23. The showcase will be held April 15, 2005 at Rogers Park in the gymnasium from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Siminski Park

The programs at Siminski Park that were interrupted by the Southern California Edison power outage have returned to Siminski as of February 7, 2005. The transition back was a smooth process for both the seniors and the pre-school participants. All are glad to be back at their home site.

Black History Month Activities/Cultural Awareness Activities

Nationally known performers along with local dancers, singers, choirs, musicians, poets and other talent were showcased during Inglewood's District I Cultural Awareness Celebration, which took place at the Veterans Memorial Building in Vincent Park on Sunday, February 27, 2005. The Department was the lead agency in coordinating the event.

Highlights from the event included a rousing performance from the Performing Arts Studio West and the JAG Dancers. Just hours before Jamie Foxx took home the Emmy for Best Actor, the Performing Arts Studio Players captivated the audience with a tribute to Ray. The JAG Dancers, which consisted of five "mature" women, clad in zoot suits and "spectators," brought the house down with a retro dance number that paid homage to Cab Calloway, and many of the rhythm and blues of the past. Youth were an integral part of the program that included historical reflections, spoken word and song.

California Parks and Recreation Society Awards

On Thursday, February 17, 2005, the Department in conjunction with the California Parks and Recreation Society recognized five of our outstanding full and part time employees at the CPRS District IX Awards and Installation Luncheon. Staff was recognized for their hard work, dedication and commitment in helping us "Create Community." Awards were presented to Michelle Jordan, Herman Browne, Augustine Alfaro, James Gough and John Kent.

Commissioner Brown asked in regards to the aerobics class, how was the transition from Lockhaven to Darby?

Teresa Estrada stated what happened was since the Martial Arts class we offer is pretty large; it had to be relocated to Darby Park while the Aerobics Class was relocated to the Senior Center.

Commissioner Brown asked how did the transition go with the participants?

Teresa Estrada stated there was a little fuss at first, but from what I understand we were back in full force by the second meeting.

Commissioner Brown stated I participated in the Career and Health Fair last year, and it was brought to my attention that the group of booths that were inside the gymnasium and Senior Auditorium did not get as much traffic as the booths outside.

Teresa Estrada stated that has always been an issue in the past. This year we are going to hold the entire event outdoors. The only booths that will be inside will be for referrals and screenings. In the parking lot area we will have the Health booths while in the tennis courts will have the College Career booths.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm glad to know you found an instructor for the Square Dance Class.

Teresa Estrada stated it was a challenge. I learned that the majority of the instructors were commuting from Orange County, but with the help of Jean DeBerry we were able to find someone to take over the position.

Commissioner Agee stated Jean did explain that to me and I think it's great. I'd also like to know a little more about the Strutters Club at Darby Park, could you elaborate on that?

Teresa Estrada stated the Strutters Club is going to be a walking club that will be held at Darby Park. Since there are many walkers that walk the park in the mornings we are trying to develop a club with benefits such as drawings and educational information about health and nutrition. It wouldn't be just a walking program where everyone gets together. It will be a structured program where miles walked will be monitored and so forth. The class is scheduled to begin mid April.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I see a lot of the parks have activities and programs going on. I was wondering if we can have some activities over at Siminski? The facility is just used in the mornings for the Senior Citizens and Preschool; it is not used in the afternoons or weekends. Maybe we can offer some classes or programs over there.

Teresa Estrada stated I will definitely take your request to my supervisor.

Kevin Hawkins stated a request for additional programs at Siminski Park has been under recommendation. To be quiet honest with you we've been looking at it for the past couple of years and due to budget reductions, it was put on hold. We hope with additional support from the Commission in speaking to the Council, it can be taken off hold. As Teresa pointed out we are doing a lot of things with

Inglewood Unified School District, we've also had a lot a meetings with a variety of representatives from Inglewood to talk about joint use agreements. We do a lot of programming and we want to make sure we are on the same page. We are such a small community and we want to make sure we have a partnership in terms of dealing with our youth. We have brought these folks together instead of corresponding via email or phones. We have come up with some positive ideas and we hope to bring them to the Commission soon. Finally, I appreciate the concerns regarding our services and how our employees are interacting with the public. I hope at this point the Commission feels as comfortable with me as I do with you. If there is any matter, which relates to professionalism or service delivery, I hope that you will give me the opportunity to address the situation. I look forward to taking care of matters such as these, prior to it coming to the Commission.

New Business

Commissioner Brown stated the past couple of days my phone has been ringing off the hook. You all are probably aware of the newspaper Inglewood Today that is a wonderful publication. I believe it is distributed on a weekly basis. There is a sensitive article in it regarding one of our former board members. What was alarming was that we as Commissioners cannot take license to speak from the Commission stand point; if we want to speak as a resident that is fine. But in the article it was highlighted to me that one of my colleagues identified himself as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner and that is a no-no, because you can set us all up for a lawsuit. I think sometime we say things without looking at the big perimeter. I take what I do very seriously, as I know my colleagues do as well. But when we are not doing our Parks and Recreation business we have to be careful that we don't step over the line.

Commissioner Agee stated in reference to what the gentleman just said, I believe he is referring to me. I am a Parks and Recreation Commissioner and I speak for myself. I don't speak for the other Parks and Recreation Commissioners and I will continue to address myself as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner as long as I please.

Commissioner Smith stated I am glad our Commission is so political and we are involved in the political arena in the City. But we are not supposed to represent ourselves as Parks and Recreation Commissioners when we give out personal comments and that was a personal comment. I understand that you are a Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mr. Agee, but the point is when you are giving a personal opinion you need to stick to Mr. Agee or you could have just said Commissioner.

Commissioner Agee stated let me just put it to you this way, I said it and I'll say it again. What are you going to do about it?

Commissioner Smith stated there is nothing we can do about it Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated then just forget about it then.

Commissioner Smith stated we are just telling you protocol and how things should work.

Commissioner Agee stated you make the protocol; I have nothing to do with it. If that's the way you feel then that's fine. But don't tell me how to talk.

Commissioner Smith responded ok Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated I am very proud to be a Commissioner.

Commissioner Smith stated we have squashed that topic. We are moving on. You are going back to the article and we have squashed it.

Unfinished Business

None.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Brown stated I'd like to compliment the staff on a terrific job. Looking at the budget in terms of what you are taking in 2005 and what you did in 2004, you are doing a tremendous job. When I am out in the community you always hear the little people who don't really understand what you are really up against. My personal feeling is that this is the most active department in the City next to Law Enforcement. Whatever I can do in terms of support, I am here. I appreciate everyone.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd just like to clear up on thing. If you would like to go to the courts and get a copy of the transcripts, you will see that the Commissioner from District I who testified on behalf of the young lady that was being tried, testified as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Said and done, thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you for your comment.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I just wanted to tell everyone that I am pleased to be here on my first day. I am looking forward to future meetings and to be able to help in anyway that I can.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee for bringing that back to my attention. Just like I told you I will tell her the same thing. What I am

trying to say is we need to respect each other and this Board. We do not need to give out unnecessary opinions.

Commissioner Agee stated I respect this Board, no doubt.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.