The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, June 2, 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 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

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

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director Sandra Green, Administrative Assistant James Henry, Recreation Supervisor (Vincent Park) Trina Tyson, Program Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion for the approval of the minutes from June 2, 2005, was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Giardina.

Public Comments

Johnny Hallman greeted the Commissioners. I'm here tonight to observe the process of the Commission meeting. Roy Luis and I are interested in starting a Youth Committee Program at Darby Park. We are here to see the whole operation and get a feel for how everything works.

Director's Report

Commissioner Smith stated since Kevin Hawkins (Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director) is not here; I guess we'll start with you James.

James Henry asked how is everyone? We've got a few things to talk about regarding Parks and Recreation. I am the Supervisor at Vincent Park, North Park and Queen Park. I'm also involved with all the sports here in the City of Inglewood.

Skate Park Grand Opening

The Grand Opening of the Darby Park Skate Park was very successful. It was well attended and is still being a great deal. The kids are having a ball and everyone is having a great time. We are having issues in getting the kids to wear their safety gear.

James Henry stated we are constantly reminding the kids to wear their gear and hopefully they will eventually decide to. The professionals say that that's not a cool thing to do, but from our standpoint of liability we are still encouraging and requiring them to wear the safety gear.

Lockhaven Center Re-Opening

The Lockhaven Center renovation is going according to schedule. We are looking forward to all of our programs and activities reconvening there. We do not have an exact date set for the re-opening.

Trina Tyson stated I just wanted to add that we are looking forward to opening Lockhaven prior to June 27, which is the date that our summer programs begin.

Memorial Day Celebration

We had an outstanding day at the Memorial Day Celebration on Monday, May 30; it was well attended. For the first time we collaborated with the Inglewood Park Cemetery and it was successful. We are looking forward to the future for an opportunity to convene again on an event like this.

Playhouse - "Sunshine for a Midnight Weary"

Opening this summer at the Playhouse is a play entitled "Sunshine for a Midnight Weary". They are building props and setting up different stages. It is going to be something great to be a part of and we are really looking forward to it. As a spin-off there will be other programs coming right behind it. We are trying to take full advantage of the Playhouse this summer and throughout the remainder of the year.

SCMAF Championship

We had great basketball representation from our youth in the region as well as in Southern California at the SCMAF Championships. Our boys Division A won the entire Southern California State. We had representatives who came in as runner ups for Division B and for girls' Division A & C; they did very well. They take a lot of pride in representing our City and do it quite well.

James Henry stated I'd like to give *props* to the kids and coaches for a job well done.

Track Meet

We had 20 students from the Bay area representing the Southern California region, participating in the Track Meet Championships at Gahr High School. We faired very well this time. We had a young team and are looking forward to most of them returning a lot stronger next year.

James Henry stated the kids weren't very happy with the results and some cried because they are use to winning, which is ok. But at the championship level you are running against the best, so it shouldn't be a disappointment to lose. There were a lot of kids who placed, but no individual championship. We have a lot to look forward to next year.

Baseball

Baseball sign ups begin on June 13, 2005 at all parks. Not only will we have baseball this year, but we will also have a softball team for the girls.

Tennis Team

The Adult Tennis Tournament will be held in mid July at Vincent Park. It will be for adults' ages 18 to 85. There will be a mixture of players and competition.

James Henry stated if you get a chance, please come out and watch the adults show off their skills.

Aquatics (General Swim and Lessons)

Registration will start for the swimming sessions on June 6 at Vincent Park. We will have 4 sessions for both children and adults. Adult classes will be held on Saturdays, while classes for children will be held Tuesday through Saturday at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., beginning in July. The pool officially opens on June 27. In preparation for the opening, there will be an orientation meeting with all staff on Saturday, June 4. There will be a CPR Specialist to make sure everyone is viable and has all their credentials.

Annual Animal Clinic

On Saturday, June 11, Vincent Park will host the Annual Animal Clinic. Signs and posters will be posted at all of the parks. In collaboration with the County of Los Angeles, we will provide shots and certifications needed for dogs.

Commissioner Smith asked what is the date of that again?

James Henry stated June 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Vincent Park. Now I have the pleasure of turning it over to Ms. Trina Tyson from our Human Services Department.

Commissioner Smith stated just a moment Trina, are there any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated that was a good report.

James Henry stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated it was really upbeat. I wanted to say that the Skate Park is something the City should be proud of. I know the kids and I enjoyed the opening. I am looking forward to the Skate Park's opening at Vincent Park and Rogers Park; the sooner the better. One other thing, I recognize these gentlemen in the audience, welcome.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee. Are there any further questions or comments?

Commissioner Brown stated yes, just two. One, you talked about the track team, what is the age range for that?

James Henry stated the age range is basically the same as all our sports, which are ages 5 to 14.

Commissioner Brown stated my other concern was that I had the opportunity to review the press coverage of the opening of the skate park and I know it's been something we wanted for a long time. I'm just concerned about one little thing, why was the skate park built so close to the basketball courts? I got a chance to go to the park and it seems like sometimes the balls get loose from the basketball courts and roll into the skate park. As we look towards the opening of the other skate parks at Vincent and Rogers Park, can this be addressed? I do not know what the reason for them putting it so close together was.

James Henry stated to Commissioner Brown, was that they (staff) surveyed the open area at the park; it had to have a certain amount of footage available to it. Darby Park is situated to where there really is not a lot of free space so they had to squeezed it in there.

Commissioner Brown stated they did squeeze it in.

James Henry stated there are supposed to be barriers put up to prohibit the balls from rolling into the skate park. It has already been pressed for and is in the works.

Also for your information, there will not be an issue like that for Rogers or Vincent Parks because they both have an adequate amount of space and are able to accommodate it a lot better.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown. I have two questions, one being what type of penalties or fines do we give the kids for not using safety equipment?

James Henry stated we don't.

Commissioner Smith stated so, there is nothing that you do when they come in and skate without gear even though it is against the rules?

James Henry stated we can only regulate them by telling them that they cannot skate without the equipment. But according to the rules from our Legal Department, we cannot mandate them; they are using the park at their own risk.

Commissioner Smith asked if our insurance company finds out that these kids are skating without equipment, what happens when someone gets hurt? Will they still cover it?

James Henry stated they are skating at their own risk.

Commissioner Smith asked are you sure of that?

James Henry stated yes ma'am.

Commissioner Agee stated the sidewalks belong to the City and if kids are skate boarding on them and get hurt they can sue the City. As long as the rules are posted and we have staff on duty. The kids are supposed to read the Rules and Regulations and if they don't, well too bad.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm interested to see how many lawsuits we get on that. As far as the Playhouse opening, when does this new play start? You didn't give a date, you just said sometime this summer.

James Henry stated it will be later this summer.

Commissioner Smith asked do you have an approximate date?

James Henry stated I don't have an approximate date, but I will make sure I make a note and get that for you.

Commissioner Smith stated I would appreciate it, thank you. Trina.

Trina Tyson stated good evening Commissioners. I'm going to report on just a few things tonight.

<u>SHAPE</u>

The SHAPE program which is our after school tutorial, offered through UCLA at Rogers Park and Morningside High School will continue this summer at Rogers Park; only with life skills and college preparedness workshops. They will be conducting at least 2 college trips and an SAT and ACT workshop for the youth.

Trina Tyson stated dates have not been set yet, but we are looking to begin most of our summer programs on July 18.

Senior Center Volunteer Recognition

On Saturday, June 4, 2005 at 11:00 a.m., the Senior Center will host its Annual Volunteer Recognition. The seniors plan to pay special tribute to Rochelle Williams, Volunteer Coordinator who retired as of May 31, after 9 years of service. This is her 3rd retirement. We are sad to see her go, but we are glad for her to enjoy her final retirement. This is also the time of year where the staff and the community get together to acknowledge our Senior Volunteers for a job well done.

Food Program

The Summer Food Program will begin at Ash Park, Darby Park, Rogers Park and Woodworth School. We are a little concerned with our numbers at Woodworth. We usually serve about 200-250 meals a day there. However, the school went back to being traditional, so we are concerned as to where the students will eat their meals and how we will maintain those numbers. We are looking to do a tremendous amount of outreach in an area well needed.

Computer Program

Rogers Park will offer Internet and basic computer classes this summer as a result of numerous requests from parents. The classes will take place two days a week. Days and time are to be determined.

Trina Tyson stated we usually have a packed summer so we are trying to work in the computer lab.

Rogers Park Drill Team

High School volunteers would like to host a Summer Drill Team Camp for participants ages 4 to 18. They are looking for Rogers Park to be the pilot and it will be open to the community. We are also looking to do something very similar in the Siminski area. The drill team will not only perform routines, dances, drills, etc., but the young ladies will perform in community service projects including but not limited to maintaining beautification spots, graffiti removal and other activities.

Trina Tyson stated so it's not just a drill team, it is looking to be a community service program and something to keep our young ladies focused. That is all I have today.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Trina. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Giardina asked is that community services going to be on a volunteer basis?

Trina Tyson stated we are trying to get our people to understand the importance of volunteering in their community because they can keep it safe and clean. We are trying to instill that in them at a young age.

Commissioner Ordonez stated, Trina I wanted to ask you what are the ages for the SHAPE Program?

Trina Tyson stated the ages for SHAPE are 12 to 18, however this year we opened it up to elementary school students so I'd say about 7 to 18.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated, Trina you said Woodworth is going back to traditional, can you explain that please?

Trina Tyson stated the school use to be on a track system consisting of tracks A, B and C, they were an all-year-round school. They are going back to a traditional school year, which will be September through June. We are hoping this will help a lot of our summer programs because our numbers are usually decreased as a result of a year round system. Since a lot of our schools will be out in June we anticipate our program numbers to increase which will also increase the revenue for the City.

Commissioner Smith stated Trina, as soon as you get those dates for the SAT can you give me a call?

Trina Tyson stated I sure will. Does that include the dates for the ACT as well?

Commissioner Smith stated yes.

Trina Tyson stated I just wanted to add that we are going to do at least one workshop for both SAT and ACT this summer. Most of the workshops will take place in the fall because our summer is pretty packed. We will also do 3 or 4 workshops in the spring.

Commissioner Smith asked Sandra, do you have any information to give us?

Sandra Green stated no I don't; only that Mr. Martinez was supposed to be here tonight.

New Business

Commissioner Brown stated I am a little concerned. Looking at all the dirt that has been turned over in District 4, I want to know from the Department what is being planned for all that space? Is there any kind of planning or research going on there for recreation facilities or grounds as a whole? This is one of my biggest concerns. It's always nice to see all these shopping centers going up, but there's no open space for recreation activities, buildings or facilities. We have been on the back burner. Also as I read the minutes, we always seem to find reasons on cutting back and lack of staff. Are we privileged to see what kind of budget we really work? So that we are able to be familiar with where we are going and are able to be a unified force when we go before the City Council and ask them not to cut this Department but make the cuts elsewhere.

Commissioner Smith stated your first question; Kevin Hawkins would have to address that. The 2nd one, yes we are privy to the budget and if you haven't seen it you should ask Kevin Hawkins to see it.

Commissioner Brown stated ok.

Sandra Green stated you can go to the City Clerk and obtain a copy of it.

Commissioner Smith asked will they give that to him?

Sandra Green stated yes, I believe they will give it to Commissioner Brown.

<u>Unfinished Business</u>

Commissioner Giardina stated Kevin Hawkins is not here, but we had a meeting last week regarding the Circle Park Project. What we had was a rendition shown to us, I believe 2 Commission meetings ago, that outlined our new interpretation of what the original plan was for Circle Park. Fortunately, there has been some movement on the original rendition of the fountain.

What I'd like tonight is to make a motion that this Commission go forward with the original fountain and send it to Council. We have located some funds within the City to initiate the first phase of the project that will include the building of the fountain, construction, electricity and necessary demolition. For our visitors, Circle Park is located on 5th Avenue and 84th Street. Basically we have the center of the park to install a 3-tier fountain with the submersible lights and create something very beautiful for the community and residents. It is a highly trafficked park and is used daily by a number of residents as well as seniors who go and do their morning and evening walks. I am gratified that we have another meeting not this Thursday, but the following Thursday and I welcome anyone from the Commission to come and partake in it. I'd like to make a motion tonight for the Commission to show their approval for the Circle Park Project.

Commissioner Smith asked are you telling me they changed the plan from the original?

Commissioner Giardina stated yes ma'am.

Commissioner Smith asked and now they've changed it back?

Commissioner Giardina stated the original rendition was for the fountain and to possibly expand 5 to 7 feet of the circle that is actually concrete and put in a walking track as well as another ring of trees. The new rendition we saw, gave it a grove effect with over 150 trees planted. It was really elaborate making it so it went form a relatively simple project to a very elaborate convoluted project that would probably incur costs of \$300,000 to \$600,000, which was not the intent. There are grant funds and many other funds that basically could be used for smaller improvements like this. Where we are moving now, is back to the original plan and landscape that is very minimized as opposed to the new rendition we saw.

Commissioner Smith stated if I'm not mistaken I think this Commission did vote on the original plan.

Commissioner Giardina stated yes we did, but we didn't have funds when we approved it. We revisited it and now funds have been identified. We have at this point identified funds that would allow us to initiate the work and it goes before the City Council in the next couple of weeks so that is why I think it is important for this Commission to again reinforce their support for this project.

Commissioner Smith asked, you are saying the original project?

Commissioner Giardina stated yes.

Commissioner Smith stated I need a motion asking for that, even though this motion has already taken place and been approved.

I don't like us having to have initially voted on and going back. We will do that tonight if all the Commissioners agree, Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated no.

Commissioner Smith stated you said you had something to say.

Commissioner Agee stated I am not privy to any information that she's explaining. I don't know anything about these meetings, so I won't be able to vote on it.

Commissioner Smith stated it is the project we voted on for Circle Park.

Commissioner Agee asked did we already vote on it?

Commissioner Smith stated right.

Commissioner Agee asked, so what is the point of voting on it again? What I'm saying is the changes that she stated have been taken care of at these Thursday night meetings. I don't know anything about them so therefore I won't be able to vote on it because whatever the changes are should come before this Commission to be approved.

Commissioner Smith stated that is the point; changes have been made.

Commissioners Agee asked they who? Who are they?

Sandra Green stated engineering.

Commissioner Smith stated excuse me Commissioner Agee, she just stated they made changes from our original plan, the one we voted on. We are trying to vote for the original plan to be used instead of their altered plan.

Commissioner Giardina stated excuse me, this was not a Thursday night meeting. I never stated that it was a night meeting. This was last Tuesday in the morning at City Hall in the Parks and Recreation Office. So that we will be in order here, I'm making a motion that we revisit and again reaffirm that this is the project we wish for the City to go forward with...what was previously approved by this Board.

Commissioner Smith asked are you making a motion that the altered version was not brought before this body and there was no vote? So what are we doing now, revisiting the original concept that we previously approved? At this point, it's time to go forward to the City Council.

I have a motion on the floor asking for a second that we revisit and reaffirm that this is what the Commission wants in terms of initiating the construction for this particular site now that funds have been identified.

Commissioner Brown stated I second.

Commissioner Smith stated so if I am correct this motion is to go forward with the original plans for the fountain for Circle Park, Am I correct on that?

Commissioner Giardina stated correct.

Commissioner Smith asked with no alterations?

Commissioner Giardina stated yes, without the new renditions. This goes back to the original concept strictly for the fountain and seeding at Circle Park.

Commissioner Smith stated can I have a second?

Commissioner Brown stated I second.

Commissioner Smith asked all in favor.

Commissioner Giardina, Commissioner Ordonez and Commissioner Brown stated I.

Commissioner Smith asked all opposed?

Commissioner Agee stated opposed.

Commissioner Smith stated it's been approved and what will go to City Council will be the original plan.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Brown stated after reading my minutes I need some help on this, what happened? How did the bathroom situation go from one-dollar amount to another? And we moved ahead without someone coming back and telling us that they planned on scaling it down, pre-fabrication and the whole nine yards. I'm just confused.

Commissioner Smith stated as we all are.

Commissioner Giardina stated I think we all have concerns. I voiced my concerns at the last meeting saying we had passed and approved the bathrooms because I thought we were completed.

In my mind we already voted and were done with the renovation at Vincent Park, giving it a face-lift because we are renting it out as a venue for the residents of Inglewood as well as other communities to enjoy activities and festivals at the park. The bathrooms have been neglected for as long as they have, I thought it was a very courageous thing we did moving forward to initiate a state of the art bathroom that was also handicap adaptive, as well as, was up to standards, as we well as the rest of our parks. Somehow unbeknownst to this Commission, by the time it got to the Council it was altered and so I raised the same question. But without someone really here to give us a definitive answer I think that we should table this until we have someone here to give us an answer. I was under the impression it wasn't going to be pre-engineered or pre-constructed. I was thought it was going to be prefab but be built in such a way where it would be a very beautiful addition to the park. I'm sure Commissioner Brown, myself and other bodies on this Commission have concerns as well. I think this is something we should definitely carry into our next meeting, asking for clarification or an explanation as to why the plan was altered and bathroom lost 400 square feet. I have no idea when it took place and I too join Commissioner Brown about his concern as to who altered our position and our voice to the City Council.

Commissioner Smith asked do I have a motion on the floor that we bring back this issue to the Commission before going forward?

Commissioner Giardina stated I make a motion that we bring it back to the Commission and review it.

Commissioner Smith stated you have to tell me what you are making.

Commissioner Giardina stated I am making a motion that we bring it back.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to comment.

Commissioner Smith stated a motion is on the floor.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'm making a motion that we bring our original approved motion for the 1400 square foot bathroom at Vincent Park with all the specs that we originally approved at this Commission level and ask that it be reviewed at our next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Smith before it is seconded, Commissioner Agee do you have a comment?

Commissioner Agee stated yes I do. This project has been approved by the City Council and I suggest that the City Council move and get this project going because it will save this City over \$300,000 and they are going to have an upscale restroom.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee. Do I have a second?

Commissioner Brown stated I second.

Commissioner Smith asked all in favor?

Commissioner Giardina asked can we have a discussion about it?

Commissioner Smith asked you want to have a discussion on it?

Commissioner Giardina stated yes I do.

Commissioner Smith stated ok, let's have a discussion on it.

Commissioner Giardina stated I believe that each one of the Commissioners here represents a District and this appeared to be unanimous throughout the Board that this was something that was going to be a positive contribution to our park as well as to the residents. I am somewhat offended by the fact that it was altered from the original plan. This plan had been stalled for almost 1 ½ to 2 years and I couldn't agree more that it's time to move it. But after we came to a decision here at this Commission and we moved it forward to the City Council, it was somewhat suspicious to me that 400 square feet of the restroom would disappear and \$300,000 of it which was previously approved was a high rate. I believe that it is important for us as Commissioners and as a body to be taken seriously by what we do here. This is serious work. We represent a constituency and I don't believe that anything we do here has a right to be tampered with or altered without our knowledge.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Giardina.

Commissioner Brown stated my view on this project is, it has been on the table even before I was seated to be Commissioner and if I reviewed my minutes correctly, one of our Commissioners opposed spending any dollars on it. It seems like if we make a decision that's agreeable upon by us and Council votes for it, all of a sudden it comes back to us in a different scale. There isn't a line of communication and something is wrong. I think that they can at least came to us and say, this is why we made the changes and alterations so that we are not just seating here wasting our time the first Thursday of the month.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I have one question for Commissioner Giardina, the meeting that you were having in 2 weeks on a Thursday, what time is it and where?

Commissioner Giardina stated it is going to be on June 9 with Kevin Hawkins in the Parks and Recreation Office here at the City at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Ordonez asked at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Giardina stated no at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Smith stated for the record from this point on, anything the Commission, this body approves to go before the City Council should go as we approved it. Any changes should be brought to us before going to the Council.

Commissioner Giardina stated I called for the question.

Commissioner Smith stated for the motion.

Commissioner Giardina stated the previous motion that was voted and second that we had a discussion on. I called for the question and now for the vote.

Commissioner Smith asked did you second it Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated yes I second it.

Commissioner Smith stated all in favor?

Commissioner Giardina, Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Ordonez stated I.

Commissioner Smith asked all opposed?

Commissioner Agee stated I understood that it was open for discussion. I haven't had the opportunity to respond to any questions.

Commissioner Smith stated I gave you the opportunity Commissioner Agee, we are moving on now. Commissioner Ordonez, do you have any comments?

Commissioner Ordonez stated yes. I'd just like to thank the Commissioners because I feel welcomed by everyone. It's just a little hard for me to get adjusted. It's only been a couple months that I've been here and to be able get situated with what's going on especially with the issues of the past is kind of hard. You were talking about the Circle Park Project and I haven't seen the original renderings.

I've only seen the altered one so it is kind of hard for me to comment. I just want everyone to bare with me until I get adjusted and completely informed of what's going on.

Commissioner Giardina stated you are more than invited and we appreciate you participation.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated we have been putting off the election of the Vice Chair for some time now and if it is ok with the Commission I would like to go ahead with the election.

Commissioner Agee stated excuse me.

Commissioner Smith stated wait until I am finished until you say excuse me. If it is all right with the Commission I would like for the Commission to call for the election tonight. Are there any comments or questions, Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee asked concerning what?

Commissioner Smith stated concerning the election, that's what I am talking about.

Commissioner Agee stated no, I don't have any comments on that.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like to nominate Commissioner Henry Brown for Co-Chair.

Commissioner Smith asked do I have a second?

Commissioner Ordonez stated I second.

Commissioner Smith asked is there any further nominations?

Sandra Green asked, I'm sorry but was that a second?

Commissioner Smith stated yes Commissioner Ordonez seconded. If there are no further nominations, I'll call for a vote. All in favor of Henry brown being Vice Chair of this Commission?

Commissioner Ordonez and Commissioner Giardina stated I.

Commissioner Smith asked all opposed?

Commissioner Agee stated opposed.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Brown is Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Giardina stated congratulations.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith asked is Kevin on his way?

Commissioner Giardina stated speaking of whom.

Commissioner Smith stated I don't know why, the meeting is over. We don't need him now.

Kevin Hawkins stated good night.

Commissioner Smith stated the meeting is actually over; all we need to do is adjourn it. Do you have anything to add before we adjourn the meeting?

Sandra Green stated Commissioner Brown had a question.

Commissioner Brown stated my question is, are we privileged to look at the Parks and Recreation budget so that we know how to support you when we are looking at figures and people being cut and all. That kind of thing would seem to work for us all. I've never seen what kind of expenditures Parks and Recreation has available to it. That was my concern.

Kevin Hawkins stated that is a good question. Like any resident you are privy to the Parks and Recreation budget. As we get closer to the upcoming budget process you know I'm always going to keep you in the loop. Our success begins with your ability to understand what we are trying to do in order to convey your sentiments to the Council members who've appointed you. I'm sorry and I thank you for holding up this meeting so that I can address some of your concerns. What is the concern regarding the bathrooms at Vincent Park?

Commissioner Giardina stated Kevin, the Commissioners who were not here at the last meeting read from the minutes, as I voiced my original displeasure regarding the renditions that we closely scrutinized making sure that we some how had deleted or omitted doors for the ladies' restroom. Then we brought it back and made sure that we had doors on the ladies restroom and made sure that it was in accordinance to the (American with) Disabilities Act also making sure we crossed every T. There was some concern that was voiced from the Commission regarding the amount of money that was being spent on the project. Even with the resistance, it passed with the understanding that it would be 1400 square feet. That was an expenditure that we approved to go forward to the Council. Unbeknownst to the Commission and what our concerns are, is that it appears to have been altered and reduced with no notice given to this body. As a result and I won't speak for the whole Commission but I will speak for myself in saying I am offended at the reduction and at the lack of information. I think as Commissioners we take our jobs here very seriously as we represent constituents for the people of Inglewood.

As a result, we were under the impression it was going forward as we approved it. The dialogue here tonight was that are some serious concerns regarding alterations and reductions that have been made to the original approval that left this body. Our Chairman made a declaration that henceforth, we would appreciate whatever comes forward to this body and is approved in a particular light can not be altered or tweaked without notification of this body, so we will have the opportunity rebut the adjustment.

Kevin Hawkins stated I appreciate your time and it's good to see you all tonight.

Commissioner Smith asked are you stalling Kevin?

Kevin Hawkins (laugh) stated a couple of things. When Commissioner Giardina brought that up at the last meeting I was a little surprised because prior to that, my understanding was that Eric Escobar, from Public Works was brought in and made a presentation to this body basically detailing the bathrooms would be reduced in size. Just quickly going back, we know this Commission takes their job seriously and we appreciate that. I think this City, as a whole knows this Commission is not just a formality and that this is a very active commission and the things that are determined by this body have come to fruition, such as the Skate Park. We've needed things and because of your advocacy, we've received those things. So I am certainly appreciative and I know for a fact, unlike some Commissions, that this is not just some figurehead, this is an actual working body. In fact, you actually affect public policy.

Now having said that, when we first came to this Commission regarding the restrooms the charge was to pursue grant funds in order to bring them up to code and we did that. And the Commission was very supportive. We initially started off with about a \$400,000 budget for these restrooms. Then there were delays in going through everything such as the housing market had increased, escalation in construction costs making the project go from \$400,000 to \$600,000, etc. So we came back to the body and went through all the specs we had including the snack bar-- so we went through all of this. After the price escalation, I remember Commissioner Agee as well as some of the others stating that they could get it done cheaper than that. He brought in his independent contractors and they took a look and the constructions costs. According to them, this was actually a pretty good deal and it is what it is. We actually went to other cities and compared the costs in order to build restrooms and to our surprise we found out in order for us to build to standard, with a designed spec restroom, it was costing us a half a million dollars. Despite industry standards, no matter how you slice or dice it, it just wasn't going to fly attempting to spend over a half million dollars to build some restrooms. When you are talking about the construction prices of the new homes over at the Renaissance, those are half a million dollars for the largest model. But it is what it is.

I even tried to talk this commission out of it saying that it wouldn't fly, but to your credit you went ahead and said you know what the park needs it we don't want to skim. We went ahead with your recommendations and took it to Council and Council had a problem with the price of the construction. Now what got side tracked in all of this wasn't the council members but it was the public talking about how we are spending over a half a million dollars on restrooms. Well I'm here to tell you in response to that we actually conducted a survey of other park facilities ranging from Beverly Hills and Culver City to Torrance, and the norm is not to have doors on the restrooms. The reason for that is when they are talking about liability and privacy, the liability exposure increases when you have doors, because you will be more prone and susceptible to folks being taken in there and things happening. And for an agency that doesn't have a park patrol or Park Ranges it was actually increasing our liability. But that got lost in the discussion that we were spending a half a million dollars on restrooms that didn't have doors. I did feel that staff wasn't given credit for taking a hard look at this and working with this body to make sue we addressed all these issues.

Having said that we weren't overlooking it, it wasn't overlooked, it was designed out after considering what the norm was and the other factors as expressed by this body. Now after that when the Council said that we aren't spending over a half a million dollars to construct a restroom, we came back to this body and said it didn't fly and as a result it was directed that Public Works should come back after the design specs were revised in order to make it acceptable to Council Now that is the background for that. As to my understanding that at the point when we brought this back was the pre-engineered designed to specs? That's when Eric Escobar came in to present them. In that the design specifications were reduced. Now, even though the actual pre-engineered designed was reduced from the original and was proposed to this body, it is still currently larger than what stands there now. The other thing that Commissioner Giardina brought up was that we wanted to differentiate between pre-engineered and pre-fab. Prefab being we are just getting something off the shelf and you are sticking it down there, while pre-engineered means that we are taking it, doing all of our measurements and our design specs going off site and building it (offsite) at the lower cost and taking it and plopping it down there. For economy of scale, it is still cheaper and the construction quality is still there. So it was my understanding that all of this was presented to this body. Again it's surprising to me because prior to this last meeting that's when Public Works attended and that was what was to have been presented. So it's a surprise to me to hear that you had no knowledge—it was presented to this Body.

Commissioner Smith stated he did tell us it was pre-engineered. Commissioner Giardina specifically asked him if it was prefab. If you know what a person looks at when they say prefab and they are questioning it, then pre-engineered might be the same to them. He should have explained that in detail because that was the question addressed to him.

He may have explained it and you thought we understood it, but we had no knowledge if what you are talking about pre-engineered. I thought pre-engineered meant an engineer was coming out to take the specs of what's needed for earthquake safety and all of that. I had no idea when you said pre-engineered it meant you make your building somewhere and bringing it back. That is just like prefab to me.

Commissioner Giardina stated it's semantics at this point and the real issue is when we had someone in the audience who came in and gave us, the how dare you build restrooms? We had the whole conversation where we've been accustom to when women go to the bathroom they close the door. If in fact that offended someone that was really not our purpose. What we are attempting to do with the liability and the issue of being taken into the bathroom and something underhanded happening wasn't even a consideration for us. The need to use the restroom was the issue not the opportunity for someone laying in wait. I'm more concerned that I don't recall someone coming here telling me that they reduced this by 400 feet and that it was a \$400,000 to \$500,000 project. I think the actual issue we dealt with was close to a \$700,000 figure that we approved and sent forward to Council. What I think is more troublesome for me is that with the amount of us going back and forth and all of the convoluted discourse about what we had to do and then finally we agreed on something that passed this Commission. This happened despite the fact it was against what you thought was prudent and we had other oppositions. This body spoke with the majority. The vote passed and as a result we should have went forward with what was approved. Then if the Council had a problem then as a Commission and as the body that approved it, I think we would have felt comfortable if we had known that. I can't speak for anyone else but I'm going forward and explaining why it was we passed this on the basis of what it was because we were under the impression and understood that the value of the construction had increased in price. We understand that it was an enormous amount of money we wanted to spend, but nonetheless it had passed this Commission.

Commissioner Smith stated the door situation that you said the public objected to, we had also initially objected to that too. But we felt like the women's bathrooms should have doors because they go through a different routine then males do and they need privacy. That was the reason that we wanted doors but that was all done before it went to the City Council. You can respond to Commissioner Giardina, but I'm just saying it shouldn't have been back and forth if everything was done prior.

Kevin Hawkins stated I'm disappointed in that and I want to go on the record for that and that's fine. Whatever the public and this body wants for the restrooms I'm all for it. So I want to put that issue to bed. As it relates to the \$400,000 to \$700,000, you are right as I alluded to it with the increase of construction. It doesn't matter a half of million dollars to me can range from \$500,000 to \$800,000, it's all-relative.

But going back to your point when this body passed it, I brought up that point specifically at Council and I believe we had a couple of Commissioners saying to the Council who appointed them, that they approved this as presented and we asked for your approval. I, in fact, was chastised for even suggesting that Council could not override or supersede what a Commission suggests. So I just want to make it clear, it is fine and that's noted but the Council was very clear that they were not going to spend that money on that particular issue and to bring it back.

Now what I will own in this particular case is if Eric Escobar or our staff did not clarify when we brought it back to you that it was being reduced or what-not, then I'll own that. But the intent for rescheduling our meeting and bringing this back to the Commission was to make sure that you were fully apprised and in that discussion and presentation it should have been clear that A) we were adding doors and B) it was pre-engineered, and what the difference between pre-engineered and prefab. Included in that discussion was that the price was going to be reduced as well as the square footage. That was the intent of the last meeting/presentation and when it was approved, these were my marching from this body and my full understanding. That's why we took it forward for approval.

Commissioner Brown asked Kevin, you first said you wanted to build 2 bathrooms right? What was the price of the 2 bathrooms? Was it something like \$700,000?

Kevin Hawkins stated I think the initial estimate for 2 bathrooms was \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Commissioner Smith stated and then you said 1 for \$500,000 and I remember making the suggestion that it made no sense to me that we need to find another \$200,000 from somewhere and you did that. I'm trying to figure out if we voted on all that and voted on it real quick, why did it take so long as to where all of the costs went up plus the size reduced? I don't understand that.

Kevin Hawkins stated unfortunately that's a byproduct of City Government. I would like to say something else and I would like to present something different but unfortunately there is bureaucracy. For example, if this body approves a change in design then we go back to Public Works they go to the vendor and architect and issue a change-order to redesign specs. That can take anywhere from a month or more. Then we need to go ahead and take those designs, approve it and in order for it to go through the various departments and agencies, we need to take a look at it, match it up against the budget make sure that it's consistent. After that we bring it back to you to see if those things are consistent with what you asked for. Next we need to go ahead and get it on the City Council's Agenda assuming that there are no dark dates. Once that occurs and is voted on, then that's the process. I would like to say you go ahead and make the decision, but it is much more to it than that.

You can change it but what we know from Circle Park and some of the other projects that the best laid plans don't work that way. That's again just a function of municipal bureaucracy.

Commissioner Smith stated so you are saying that it can possibly take up to 4 or 5 months after being finalized.

Kevin Hawkins stated well let's use the Skate Park as an example. The Skate Park was a great idea that has been around at least 5 years or maybe even a little longer, about 6 or 7 years. I think we pursued and secured funds maybe about 5 years ago. Now we're seeing our first Skate Park just open last month and that wasn't from anyone dragging his or her feet. That's just a function of how Municipal Government works in terms of going out and getting bids and when you need responses to bids, etc. It is unfortunate but that's how it works. During that time frame, things change. What we initially anticipated being X amount of dollars changes as the market place changes as well as construction costs and some of the other variables. Things change and if you don't have the contingencies to build into that project then you need to go ahead and secure additional funds or look at other projects where you are not going to work and carry these over-- but that is a management function. You probably are not interested in that but that is the answer to these project delays.

Commissioner Smith stated no, what I'm saying is for example the Skate Park. We approved it and we had funds. I don't understand how or why it took 5 years. It makes no sense to me.

Kevin Hawkins stated it doesn't make sense to me either and I've been here for 3 years. That is why you are seeing a lot of things being done now. The fact remains that this is what happens, not just in this City but also in other cities. Now what the goal and our tasks have been is to cut through that. If you have a clear vision of what you want to be and where you want to go, then you simply need to go ahead and accomplish that. You want to be in a position to act on those things to make them available and that's what we're trying to do.

Commissioner Smith asked does anyone else have any question aside from Commissioner Giardina and myself?

Commissioner Agee stated yes. First of all I would like this Commission to know that I am the Commissioner at Large. I represent the Mayor and the City. I also speak for the Mayor and the City. As far as the restrooms at Vincent Park are concerned, based on my experience as a contractor and builder, \$800,000 is absolutely ridiculous to pay for 2 brick walls and that's what they are. Restrooms in a public park don't make sense to me. The City Council has approved this project and so it should go and I don't think that this Commission should delay it any longer. We should go ahead and get these restrooms built and forget about it.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee. I'm sure that the Mayor is proud of your representation.

Commissioner Agee stated I don't think you are, but that's beside the point.

Commissioner Giardina stated I just like to say that this is why we have a democracy and that is why this Commission functions under that order. Each one of us has our own opinion.

Commissioner Agee stated I haven't finish with my comment. Furthermore I'd like for the Chair to look into the Commission Meeting with staff to discuss the projects going on with the City, it doesn't seem right to me and since you are the chair and I'd like for you to look into it and see what the problem is.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee that's good advice a great suggestion. I will do that.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Commissioner Giardina stated Mr. Hawkins I'd just like to say to you that after listening to that, I think what that is an education for the Commission as well as for the City employees. If we have projects that are initially brought before this body or as we create them it looks as though that the expenditures are \$200,000 because of inflation and housing prices being what they are. We know that it's not going to happen now when we do it but 3 years from now, we might as well double the project costs. Maybe we ought to build those funds into whatever projects so we won't have to worry about making adjustments. If you bought a house in a housing market in the 70's you could have bought one in the 2 digits range. If you look at the 90's, it was a triple digit and now in the year 2000 it's even in the half a million-dollar range. We need to start building in inflation on whatever projects we do to allow what we approve and agree on not to be altered because somehow a quarter turned into a dollar. That's not realistic for us and so we are intelligent enough in this community to understand that we are not building something. That's what is wrong with Inglewood now. We have these little square buildings and non-descriptive architectures. When you run through here it looks like these buildings are substandard in a middle class upscale community. The only thing this building should reflect is the taste and the architecture of this community. There are people here that have a vote and everyone has an opportunity to express it. Once this body speaks as a majority and votes and it is called upon in the Roberts Rules of Order and it is passed. If you didn't win you just have to learn how to accept it and go on because the body has spoken. America is built on Democracy. We are all educated here; this is semantics in my mind. I understand synonyms and antonyms. We have words that mean the exact same thing. The question that I posed was what we wanted was something to be built tastefully, state-of-the art as well as something that would be enjoyed by the people that use it.

We have already suffered 35 years with these bathrooms not being renovated or decorated and that's the reason why this body moved on. It was time to make the adjustment because off all the work that was being done at the park. We are not unintelligent and understanding that this is something that has to happen.

What we need to do now is to maybe understand that we need to talk closer with the people we represent because as it went forward we did their work for them and that's what a Commission is for. To go through the 1000 questions that are asked and make it clear that they've handled, questioned, looked and researched it. Then we bring it here and that's when we vote on it. I'd like to say I missed that meeting I guess where the people came back and apprised us that the restrooms were being reduced and altered because I had no knowledge of it. Only to understand when it went to the Council, it was altered; I'm just saying we have to move here.

Commissioner Smith asked Kevin would you like to respond to that?

Kevin Hawkins stated I do. I know you are ready to go, but just a couple of things. Again this is probably one of the most educated, involved and active Commissions and I know that to be a fact. Despite what might be going on at this level and on this Commission, things change on Tuesday nights and depending on what may come up in terms of Public comments or what not. Most here know that to be a fact and in this particular case and that particular meeting, the issue came up and it was not going to pass-- it didn't matter which body approved the \$500,000 - \$700,000 item-- was not going to pass. So anybody who was sitting there would have seen that and it had nothing to with the validity of this Commission. I think that is the only time a recommendation of this Commission was not followed. As it relates to your comment on prefab and preeng, again I said I'd own that one because it was my responsibility to make sure that it was brought back with the full understanding when this body approved it. It was my belief that it was spelled out. A lot of times the reason why these meetings last so long is because I want to make a point if there are any questions to address this questions fully. That too is why we changed the format that each section had a rep here to make sure you are fully aware of all the operations of the Department and for that I do apologize. I think it's a better product. I think it's something that will fly and if I thought that the quality was being compromised I would tell you. But the difference is that this isn't an off the shelf building, it's engineered to the specs and the quality standards to which this Commission expects and what we expect as a Department that will last and that's a way to accomplish what we set out.

Finally, the issue about the contingencies. One of the things I'm most proud of since my tenure here is the Capital Projects. When I came to the City, I started off in Budget and I'm fully aware of how contingencies and expenditures work. One thing that was lacking as it relates to our Capital Projects has always been our forecasting and budgeting accuracy.

Again relating to projects, we would come to this body looking at trends saying we need X amount of dollars and we would never come close to what we told you we needed. We would usually always under budget or under forecast or estimate. So one thing that we are trying to do with all the projects that were already in process (for example the restrooms and skate parks), was to insure that we were accurately funded and forecasted out for completion. Once those are completed, any subsequent projects will adhere to our revised standards as well as those from Public Works.

One thing I can say with Public Works is that since Assistant City Administrator Jerry Givens has taken over, there is a full understanding that we can go ahead and start budgeting in a more strategic fashion with projects being completed at a greater rate than in the past. That's something that didn't happen in the past. We would budget and we would present something based upon what we thought the cost and timeframe would be for the actual construction.

The range now for project contingency is 5-15% depending on the scope and size of the project. That's just standard and that is what we are doing. It was like that in the past but the actual project costs was often inaccurate, however, we are trying to get those projects off the shelf. Once that occurs, we have a lot to look forward to.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Kevin. Before I adjourn the meeting, I want to clarify something. Commissioner Agee, I do appreciate all your efforts in the Park. My reason for making that statement is to let you know that every Commissioner on this board has 1 vote no matter whom they represent.

Commissioner Agee stated I just want you to know that I represent the whole City not just a district.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you for letting me know that.

Commission meeting of June 2, 2005 adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS DIVISION

- Vincent Park Restroom Demolition/Reconstruction Project
- Skate Park Construction Project
- Park Maintenance
 - ➤ July 4th Celebration
 - > Swimming Pool Maintenance
 - Soccer Field
- Park Maintenance South Section
 - Overall Maintenance
 - ➤ In-House Training
- Park Construction
 - ➤ Lockhaven Community Center Renovation
 - Circle Park Water Feature
 - Senior Citizens' Center Community Garden
- Tree/Street Landscaping
 - > Tree Trimming Schedule
 - > Removal of Stumps
 - > Tree Replacements

RECREATION DIVISION

- Summer Day Camp
- Summer Activities
- Sports
- Movies in the Park Darby Park and Ed Vincent Parks
- July 4th Celebration

HUMAN SERVICES

- Mural Education Project
- After-school Snacks and Free Summer Lunch
- CDBG Funding
- SHAPE
- South Bay Care Network