The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, October 6, 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 6:07 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
Danita Meshack-Maden, Assistant to the Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Stephanie Baltazar, Senior Office Assistant
Sikizi Allen, Senior Center Manager
Ramon Mata, Lead Park Maintenance Worker
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor

Commissioner Smith stated, first of all I'd like to apologize. We do not have a quorum, so we can not have an official meeting. I want to apologize for wasting all of your time because we did not want Larry Kaplan to come out here for nothing. We'd like to hear his presentation and then we'll have to adjourn the meeting. Again, I am sorry.

Kevin Hawkins stated good evening and thank you all for coming out. Although we don't have a quorum, we still believe that your presentation is worth while. We do have two (2) Commissioners as well as staff and the Department head. We are very interested in hearing your presentation.

Commissioner Smith stated we will try and relay what you tell us to the other Commissioners.

(Commissioner Brown entered the chambers at 6:15 pm). We have a quorum. Thank you Commissioner Brown, I know you were in another meeting and I really appreciate you coming. Since we have a quorum, we will go on with the meeting as usual.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion for the approval of the minutes from September 1, 2005, was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Ordonez.

Public Comments

None.

Commissioner Smith stated Kevin, back to you.

Kevin Hawkins stated good evening. I'm glad we do have an official meeting. Chairperson, as to our previous conversation, is it o. k. that we go out of order?

Commissioner Smith stated yes.

Kevin Hawkins stated what I would like to do is introduce my Assistant, Danita Meshack-Maden, who is also our Administrative Services Coordinator. She has an introduction to make and we are all looking forward to this presentation, I think it will benefit this City. We are glad you came and with that, Mrs. Meshack-Maden.

Danita Meshack-Maden stated good evening Commissioners and staff persons. I wanted to be here this evening to introduce two (2) individuals from the Public Trust for Land, Parks for People Program. We have here tonight Mr. Larry Kaplan, who is the Los Angeles Area Director and Ms. Marybeth Vergara. How I developed an interest in the work that they are doing is that I started doing some research for our Department about ways in which we can look at expanding access to parks in Inglewood, because we pretty much know that the City is at a deficit in terms of park space and recreational facilities. I started reading various reports that were prepared by their organization. It has been given to you in an information packet which has a number of wonderful documents. The thing that caught my attention is a report called a Comparative Analysis of Parks Access in Seven Major Cities. It makes a good case for the value and benefit of Parks & Recreation facilities in enhancing the quality of life in a community. It also talks about how park and recreation facilities positively impact economic and business development, and how overall these facilities contribute to a strong sense of community. I shared this information with Kevin several months ago and we have been pursuing this opportunity that's before you this evening. We really appreciate Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Vergara coming out here tonight. With that I'll turn it over to them because they have an awesome presentation to make and I believe that staff as well as Commissioners will enjoy it. After their presentation is over with, they will provide an opportunity to ask questions. Thank you.

(Commissioner Agee entered the Chambers at 6:25 pm).

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Danita. I just need to interrupt one more second. I really appreciate Commissioner Brown leaving his other meeting so that we could have a quorum, but I'm going to excuse him now and let him get back to his other meeting.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

A detailed presentation was given by Mr. Kaplan on the development of 25 Parks throughout the region in 5 Years.

Commissioner Agee stated I think this is a wonderful idea. Since I've been involved with Parks, I can see how much parks are needed in Inglewood. We need at least 3 or 4 more parks to meet people's needs. Parks help make the community healthy. It's the best thing that happened to me when I retired because I use the parks everyday. My friends who don't use the parks are sick and can't walk. This is the key and I agree with it totally. One thing as far as the garden is concerned; I don't think it would be a good idea for the City of Inglewood, simply because the airplanes fly right over the City and drop different stuff. I've had that experience of trying to raise a garden in my backyard but because of the contamination from the airplanes it didn't happen. We do need more parks, I agree with you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee. Have you done a survey to find out where the parks are most needed in Inglewood and how many are needed?

Larry Kaplan stated yes, we have done the GIS mapping. It identifies where the highest need is. What we can do for you is blow up the map and if you want just the City of Inglewood, we can do that also. I believe it takes a week to ten days and we do all of this in house.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm just concerned which areas in Inglewood need the parks the most.

Larry Kaplan stated we can show you that on this map.

Commissioner Smith asked are you going to let the Director know when you will be holding town meetings concerning parks?

Larry Kaplan stated yes, when we get the schedule of the next workshop we will let you know.

Marybeth Vergara stated the next workshop we are looking at is tentatively scheduled for November 30, in South Los Angeles. If you have any contacts who you think we should definitely offer this to, please let us know.

Larry Kaplan stated we can blow up this map of just this City for you. What we haven't done is identify a parcel and that's the last thing we do. Especially because of real estate, it can be there today and in six months it's gone. What we focus on and identify are very specific areas, which is basically this piece where there is a lot of red. We can do that for you.

Commissioner Smith stated I will appreciate that.

Kevin Hawkins stated I have one question, I'm glad you brought that up in terms of the red portion. Do you always do that? Because everything that you are saying we love and we are doing back flips. Our Department is compromised of Parks as well as Community Services. So when you talk about non traditional approaches to gaining concurrence, that's a similar method we attempt to utilize. But the punch line is like you said, finding the resources and once you have that, then finding the sites in order to accomplish what is needed. You alluded to it, but can you walk us through that?

For example, we have the greatest need in the 3rd or 4th district, (pointing to the map), how do you go about that? Do you work with existing agencies, with a redevelopment agency and then from there, co fund or co-manage the projects. We know about the qualitative benefits, but what is the quantitative impact—the costs to the us? When you do the redevelopment you have to be funded some how, so how does that work? Can you please share a little of that with me?

Larry Kaplan stated typically what happens is we identify a community. We work with their political leadership. One of the last things that we do is try and find a piece of dirt. There is a lot of analysis that is done. For example certain cities do not like parks that are small because it's not big enough to have a staff person and develop strategies for dealing with crime problems. You have to work through a lot of issues, especially in an urban environment community like this. Some of the rules don't work anymore. The school districts have realized that, when you cannot build a suburban style campus. They have to go up because they just don't have the space and it's the same with parks. You have to be willing to say o. k. we are going to be able to turn this half acre into a park even though it is smaller than what we have traditionally done. You have to get through all these issues. You have to make sure to get your community to buy into it and make sure they support it. We found that there is a lot to do for finding local organizations that help programs with the park. The ideal setup might be if you have Boys and Girls club, a baseball league or a social service program, which can hold their program. Then the Parks Department only has to worry about picking up the trash, keeping the grass cut and clean. It takes away the burden from the City and then what we do is look for funding services. Frankly times are tough. Prop 40 is spent. Prop 50 is spent. I know Inglewood got a chunk of the Prop 40 money as well as other cities in the county. That is why we are working very hard to put a measure on the ballot in 2006, so that there will be funding for parks and then you basically have to chase the money.

For urban parks you have to try and put together applications and like a lot of things this day in age we piece together the funding from different sources. You might find money from redevelopment agencies, from the county or county supervisor. One area where there is federal funding is in Housing and Urban Development. We just received some HUD money for the project we are working in Wilmington. So it is possible to check that out as well. You just piece it all together; you can even gather private resources to bridge the gap.

Kevin Hawkins asked is that the City that does it on its own?

Larry Kaplan stated no, we work with you to do that. For example we will prepare the application and of course every city is different. With Maywood, which is a tiny little city much smaller than Inglewood, they had no capacity. But when we worked with the City of Los Angeles who has a tremendous capacity, we didn't do much; they did the majority of the heavy lifting. We do have the ability to be technical advisors on the side. We can do it either way because we have the strength of a national organization. We have lobbyist offices in Sacramento, grant writers, and experts on park designs and park systems.

Kevin Hawkins asked so you guys are a one stop shop?

Larry Kaplan states, yes pretty much. The other thing we also do is we have this thing called conservation finance, where we work with Communities to help find ways to fund these projects. It's tough in California because of the super majority. Frankly, we are a lot more successful in other states. What we found in California is you throw parks in with a bunch of other things and it sort of generates a broad coalition, cops, fire stations, etc. The type of thing we are doing in California might work here, but it's hard to say. You can do an assessment of each district where you basically assess the property owners. It's tough because a lot of people don't want to deal with the budget; it is possible to do it. We can help you work on that. Now is the time to start planning. If a bond measure gets on the ballot, which it will because if the legislature doesn't do it, the conservation committee will do a citizen's initiative. If it gets on a ballot, I think it will pass because it always does and because it only needs 50% on the state bond measures. It will be on the ballot in November and be appropriated in the 2007-2008 state budgets. You are looking at 2 years from now. So now is the time for looking ahead and figuring out what you want to do with this because it takes a long time to get a project up and ready to go.

Commissioner Smith stated how soon can you get us a map and the analysis of the parks?

Larry Kaplan stated it will take a couple of weeks. The map will give the analysis and show the existing parks and the need for parks.

Commissioner Ordonez stated you mentioned that on November 30, you will have a meeting in South Los Angeles; can you please give us the details?

Marybeth Vergara stated it is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Vermont Community Coalition.

Larry Kaplan stated on Vermont and 84th Street.

Commissioner Ordonez asked will we receive information regarding this meeting?

Larry Kaplan stated yes, what I will do is collect business cards and we'll get you on the invitation list.

Commissioner Ordonez stated you also mentioned something about having a meeting here in the city.

Larry Kaplan stated I can't speak for Hilda because I don't know what her plans are. We received a grant to have 5 or 6 meetings in the county. We need to do at least 2 meetings in South Los Angeles and that is sort of the east side, so we will probably do something in the south west part of the county which maybe somewhere close to here.

Kevin Hawkins stated Mr. Kaplan at this point you have gotten our interest. It would benefit us to have a forum here. We are just wrapping up our budget process and we are already looking forward to our capital improvement project process. Another question for you is while I'm browsing through your information, I see the new park for El Monte, how did you go about doing that for the City of El Monte?

Larry Kaplan stated it was very similar to this process. About 3 years ago, I made a presentation to the City Council of El Monte. One of the staff persons came up to me and said they were looking to doing a park in a particular neighborhood and that is exactly how it started.

Kevin Hawkins stated just one final question, you mentioned in your presentation the farmers' market, can you tell me a little more about that.

Larry Kaplan stated actually the farmers market is what usually comes out of the community garden; we don't hold farmers' markets.

Commissioner Agee stated I would like to throw one out to you. We really need a park in the 104th Street and Crenshaw area and we need one there really bad. The closest park there is Darby Park. I understand sometime in the future we are going to have some vacant land in that area called Darby Dixon.

Larry Kaplan stated is that south or north of Imperial Highway?

Commissioner Agee stated north.

Larry Kaplan asked and there is a park there already?

Commissioner Agee stated no, no park.

Larry Kaplan asked what is the park you mentioned?

Commissioner Agee stated Darby Park. There is some vacant land there and new development is coming in there but I'm not sure if they are going to use all of the open land.

Ramon Mata stated there is a really small green area there.

Commissioner Smith stated excuse me, Commissioner Agee is talking.

Ramon Mata stated I'm sorry.

Commissioner Agee stated yes, there is a small green area. I'm pretty sure it's not going to be in the development. But from what I understand most of the parking is supposed to come out of there and that would be a good place to put a park.

Larry Kaplan stated according to the map, the area does show need.

Commissioner Agee stated there was supposed to be a park on the northeast corner of 104th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard, but the City sold it to redevelopment. Right in that area there is a need for a park.

Larry Kaplan stated see here is Darby Park and it does show a need.

Commissioner Smith stated I think what they are going to do Commissioner Agee is give us an overview of everything; it will tell us where the parks are needed.

Larry Kaplan stated yes the map will zoom in this area with a lot of detail.

Commissioner Smith stated excuse me, what is your name?

Ramon Mata stated Ramon Mata, Lead Park Maintenance Worker.

Commissioner Smith stated you can speak.

Ramon Mata stated on Bartdon and Woodworth, there is a small green area. The name of the park is Bartdon Park and it's right on the corner. I would say it's about an acre or less and it is just a green area with no trees.

Larry Kaplan stated is it an existing city park?

Kevin Hawkins stated it's not a park. Its part of a redevelopment area that was purchased and turned into a green space. It is just a green area that is part of redevelopment property, but we maintain it as if it were a park.

Commissioner Smith asked is there any other questions? I thank you Mr. Kaplan for your presentation and I hope to hear from you soon, with the details we need. Thank you.

Larry Kaplan stated thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. I will get you a map in a couple of weeks. Thank you very much.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you so much for allowing the series of questions. I'm sure Mr. Kaplan, we will have a follow up conversation and a lot of these questions will be asked during our follow up meeting. I did this for the benefit of the Commissioners, because I wanted them to be exposed to the process.

With that it is time for the Directors Report. We are actually going to start off with Mr. Mata. For those of you who don't know Mr. Mata, but know Charlie, Bruce and Mark, Ramon's name needs to be mentioned right along with them. He makes it all happen and is definitely one of the stars from our Department. With that, Mr. Mata.

Commissioner Smith stated I can tell he is a leader, he jumped right in there.

Ramon Mata apologized for being nervous and stated the tree trimming schedule for October is as follows: District 1- Manchester from West Boulevard to Van Ness Avenue, District 2- La Brea from 64th Street to Florence, District 3- La Brea from Florence to Arbor Vitae and District 4- Crenshaw from Century to 118th Place and Imperial from Van Ness to Simms.

Kevin Hawkins stated I can remember when it was Mr. Turner's first time. What we are trying to tell Ramon and everyone here, is that these are your biggest supporters. We don't bring you up here and make you wear a tie, just to see you wear a tie. You are amongst friends. I'm just giving him a hard time because he is one of my favorites.

Commissioner Smith stated just relax.

Kevin Hawkins asked Ramon, what is going on, what is your crew is doing?

Ramon Mata stated the construction crew is working on irrigation with Watt Development Company on the westside of Darby Park. We are going to be grading the area for the water. The mowing schedule is right on track. November 5, will be the IBA planting and the flower of choice is pansies. We are in the process of getting new trucks to replace old and aging trucks and a new mower has been approved.

Kevin Hawkins stated if I can, just really quick what Ramon is referring to is something we brought up to the Commission and was recently approved by Council. We have a mower that has been aging that was being used in slope areas, as well as flat areas. It wasn't really designed for a slope area. I never thought I'd be so excited over a mower. It's a good thing that we are having a mower replaced which will allow us to address that in the south or north section?

Ramon Mata stated that is in the north section.

Kevin Hawkins stated we are very happy about a mower.

Commissioner Smith stated I can tell.

Ramon Mata stated that is about it for my report.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Ramon.

Ramon Mata stated I should have came in my uniform.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated you did a very good job and I'm proud of you.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you for coming and giving us your report.

Commissioner Smith stated you don't have to be so formal with us. I want you to relax when you come here. Kevin is the only one you have to be afraid of.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you Ramon. I'm going to save Sikizi for last. She's just back from a very special place. Mr. Turner is looking very sharp over there, so we'll go with his report.

Arrick Turner stated good evening.

Traditional Programs and Activities

Our traditional programs and activities are up and running. New this year, through a CDBG grant, we were able to add an additional IUSD school site to our after school recreation program.

As you know the Lockhaven Center has been renovated. The Lockhaven preschool class began its first school year in the new facility and they love it.

Sports

The City's flag football season opens on October 15. Some slots are still available.

Through a relationship with UCLA and ex-pro football player James Taylor, department staff took over 300 youth to a UCLA football game. It was an awesome experience for the kids.

Halloween Carnival and Haunted House

Darby Park and Rogers Park will host their annual Halloween Carnival on Monday, October 31, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All age groups are welcome at both sites. Darby Park event targets the elementary and middle school age groups and Rogers Park targets the middle and high school age group. Cost for admission to the haunted house/maze is \$1.

Holiday Decorating

Plans are underway for this year's holiday decorating contest. A formal letter and judging information will be mailed out to Commissioners no later than October 15. We are once again requesting each Commissioner to assign six individuals to serve as judges for the contest. In order to increase the participation and allow residents more time to prepare, we have scheduled the judging for the 21st and 22nd of December. Entry forms will be available November 1st and are due by December 7th.

Master Calendar

The Department's Cultural section has finalized the 05/06 Special Events Master Calendar.

- Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 1st at City Hall (South Courtyard) at 5:30 p.m., the event will include entertainment, refreshments for all, and a special holiday visit by Santa Claus and appearances by Inglewood's Mayor and City Council members.
- Santa's Workshop will be held on December 17, we will host a holiday themed family activity at Darby Park from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Workshops will include creative Christmas cards, holiday picture frames, stamped holiday gift wrap, ornament making, personalized stockings and more.

Special Committees

Planning is underway for the City's annual MLK Celebration. As a matter of fact the Planning Committee is meeting as we speak, so there is nothing to report at this time.

In addition to planning for MLK, the Department has also been tasked with spearheading the planning for the City's Centennial Celebration. The City will turn 100 years old in February 2008.

A committee consisting of individuals representing the Mayor and Council Members, Inglewood Chamber of Commerce, Inglewood Unified School District and various City Departments will be formed and will begin the planning process early next year.

Commissioner Ordonez stated in regards to the Halloween event, have there ever been any problems with security? Does it run smoothly and is it safe?

Arrick Turner stated it is run smoothly and safely. I've been at Rogers Park for 17 years, and we've never had an incident to my knowledge. We haven't had any incidents at Darby Park either. We hold the haunted house and carnival to make sure the kids are safe.

Commissioner Agee stated Mr. Turner; I guess you know what I'm going to ask you. How are we coming along with the kiln?

Arrick Turner stated the kiln was delivered yesterday. First of all the gas kiln has already been taken care of, it has been cleaned and repaired. The 2nd kiln arrived yesterday and is waiting to be installed by Public Works.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm so proud of that. I knew you could do it.

Kevin Hawkins stated just quickly, and this is for Mr. Turner and Mr. Mata, you know what we do during the day light hours, this is how it is in the evening. The reason why we changed the format to have representation from each section is because you are a part of the leadership of this Department. You run your various shops and the Commissioners' want to know who actually is over the various programs and activities. This is also to get used to being able to articulate what it is you are doing, explain your programs or if you need things, you are not going to wait for me to come to the Commission. So treat it just like that and we are amongst friends. I'll be the first one to tell you that these are very supportive Commissioners and the best Commission body in the City and they feel the same way about you. I just wanted you to know that.

Also really quickly before we go onto Ms. Allen, you talked about safety. We received a call regarding one of our parks this weekend.

Basically this organization wanted to utilize Darby Park but they were too big for it so we referred them to Vincent Park. They were very hesitant about going to Vincent Park and we couldn't figure out why. So we invited them to go to Vincent Park to take a look at the facilities. Initially the reason they didn't want to go to Vincent Park was because they had heard it was a very unsafe park. We later found out it had been 4 years since they had been there. Well, I just received a call today on my answering machine from the person who went over to see the park, she said it was the best looking park and couldn't believe it was so beautiful and it was an ideal spot. They were sorry for thinking what they did and I just wanted to share that with you all.

Commissioner Smith stated jokingly, tell them we changed our minds now.

Kevin Hawkins stated I'll go on. Lastly but certainly not least, back from the Motherland, Sikizi Allen. Please share your experience with us.

Sikizi Allen stated good evening, I'm back (from Africa). I told Kevin, I'm still kind of there and can't wait to get back. I had such an awesome experience. We have a lot to learn from the Motherland.

Be Well

We have just been awarded a grant for the Be Well program for the second year. We were awarded about \$50,000. We will emphasize evaluating the health and lifestyles of the seniors. We've had 3 groups of 4 and with this new grant, which will start up with this month and 25 seniors total. We will also emphasize intensive, nutrition maintenance phases. We are really excited. Our first meeting was held on Monday, October 4. The information will be translated into Spanish in order to do outreach to the Lennox area in hopes of having more Spanish speaking participants. Currently we have a couple of mentors who have been through the program and are serving as coaches to the new participants.

Medicare, Part D Panel Discussion

On October 26, we will host a panel that will explain and answer questions on the new Medicare Part D plan that takes effect in 2006. We have invited three representatives from three different HMO providers to speak.

Holiday Food Drive

We are gearing up for our holiday food and gift drive. This year we will actually be having two. We will start off with the Thanksgiving dinner baskets. Our 2nd annual food and gift drive will also be held for the Christmas holiday. We will be able to serve not only seniors, but disabled adults and caregivers.

We will have drop off sites at the senior center, City Hall on the 1st and 5th floors, and at all of our parks. We will have flyers posted in English and Spanish that will allow the community to donate and help out for the holidays.

Commissioner Smith asked will you list the donations you are requiring on the flyers?

Sikizi Allen asked do you mean in terms of what we need?

Commissioner Smith stated yes.

Sikizi Allen stated yes, we will list it on the flyers. Unfortunately Michelle Jordan who is leading the project is out ill, so I am here speaking on her behalf. She will have flyers that will identify the type of items needed. Items such as canned foods, canned hams, stuffing, yams, and any canned goods would be good for the Thanksgiving season. For the Christmas holiday we will accept goods similar to those. What we are trying to avoid collecting are refrigerated goods, we had problems with delivering them last year. We are preferably looking for small canned items for seniors who live alone.

Commissioner Smith asked so when she sends out the flyers, the list will be on them?

Sikizi Allen stated yes and I'm pretty sure that all the Commissioners will receive a packet of all the information.

Last but not least, we are participating in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk scheduled for October 22. We have received pledges on behalf of the senior center. We will take a team, so if you know anyone interested in joining the team, please let us know. Thank you. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee asked can you give us any information on the transfer to the new building?

Sikizi Allen stated I'll direct that question to Kevin.

Kevin Hawkins stated that the move is still pending the outcome of a redevelopment and legal issue. You'll know more when I know more.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I just wanted to let you know I am pleased with the Be Well program returning. When I first heard about it, I was hoping to see it continue. I just have a question, how do you choose the families that get the holiday baskets? What is the process and are they just seniors?

Sikizi Allen stated they are not just seniors. Through our integrated meals program we serve seniors, disabled adults and caregivers.

Through our Care Management Department, the families are assessed according to their need and that's how we identify them.

Commissioner Ordonez stated you mentioned the quantity of baskets you served last year, what was that number again?

Sikizi Allen stated last year we served 62 families and 92 individuals.

Commissioner Ordonez stated do you do it accordingly to how many items you receive?

Sikizi Allen stated we divide up all that we receive, so that everyone will get something. Those who do not provide any food contributions, provide gift cards to Vons or Ralph's.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you, it's a great program.

Sikizi Allen stated also just to share with you our Be Well program operates on Wednesday and Thursday morning, feel free to stop by and take a look.

Commissioner Ordonez stated you also mentioned there will be a Be Well program at the Lennox Senior Center.

Sikizi Allen stated we will transport the Lennox participants to the Inglewood Senior Center.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated you always give such a thorough report, always. The mere fact that you got that grant renewed out of all the people who applied tells me you are doing something right and we really appreciate your work. Thank you.

Kevin Hawkins stated well o. k.

Commissioner Smith stated yes, I know I don't normally say much.

Kevin Hawkins stated that was great, thank you for that. That grant we received is a federal grant, not a county or state grant. Cities like Los Angeles and Chicago applied, so this really is a testament to your hard work.

Just quickly effective October 1st and really beginning Monday, with the new budget we have 2 units coming back to Parks, Recreation and Community Services. It is our old friends from Community Beautification Services which would be the Parking and Code Enforcement units.

Effective Monday, they will be coming back to us from the Community Development Department and from the Inglewood Police Department. During the course of time, we will invite members from the new sections to come and give reports. What we will try and do is make sure that it focuses on the impact of the parks. For example, if there are parking issues around the parks or our facilities, code violations or vendor issues, we want to make sure they report as it relates to Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Kevin. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated when we transfer Code Enforcement, will they be able to help us out with issues at the park, like the recent issue we had at Vincent and Darby Parks?

Kevin Hawkins stated let me answer you this way. I had a meeting with Captain Irvine from the Police Department and I brought that up. The Police Department assured me that they have been very successful with the sting program that was conducted along Century Boulevard. It will continue and be expanded to our parks. We have an agreement to aggressively pursue it.

Commissioner Agee stated that is good news. I can walk in and catch them most any time. They should send uniform officers.

Kevin Hawkins stated we are looking at undercover sting officers, to make it count. I'm actually advocating it to the full extent, where we publish names, photos, etc. -- zero tolerance.

Commissioner Agee stated one other thing I'd like to see since we are getting Code Enforcement back. I've been checking out their vehicles they drive around and I'd like to go as far as maybe voting even though I know you can't do this budget, but for the next budget, I make a motion to look into replacing transportation for Code Enforcement.

Kevin Hawkins stated if I can, I can tell you that the Fleet Manager has not only made their vehicles a priority, but the City's entire fleet. He has come up with a replacement schedule. If you have noticed, we were in that same position with our Parks vehicles being in that same condition and if you look at it now, we have some of the best looking vehicles. We have the replacement vehicles on our website.

Commissioner Agee stated if it is proper, I'd like to make a motion to basically endorse that.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee, I'd appreciate it if we can wait until it's closer to budget time before we do that and make sure all of our responsibilities are taken care of.

They are just coming back on board here and I'd like to wait if you do not mind.

Commissioner Agee stated that is the problem. The message I'm getting especially from the state assemblymen, is we need to do this early. According to him, there is money available and we need to ask for the money early enough and on time. That is why I am asking for this tonight.

Commissioner Smith asked how soon before the budget do we have to ask for this?

Kevin Hawkins stated the budget process is year round.

Commissioner Smith asked but for the new fiscal year?

Kevin Hawkins stated it's always good to put it into play. A couple of things, if this motion is going to go forward tonight, I would ask that it include all resources, not just vehicles. As it relates to state funding, there are no vehicles that have been purchased with state funds, it has all been local. This message needs to be sent to the Mayor and Council.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd be willing to extend it to cover all of that.

Kevin Hawkins asked for Parks, Recreation and Community Services?

Commissioner Agee stated yes. The budget has been passed for this year and I've been told we need to do this now.

Commissioner Smith asked so you are saying that this is coming out of our budget for Parks and Recreation or did you say it is coming out of another?

Kevin Hawkins stated if we are talking about replacement of the vehicles, that actually comes out of the City's general fund which is out of the equipment budget which is out of Public Works, so that is local. So we're talking about a motion to go to the state on that? But if we are talking about just vehicles, we are talking about sending the message to our policy makers so that they can keep that in mind.

Commissioner Smith stated ok. When you make the motion, can you please state that it is coming out of the City's budget, not Parks and Recreation budget?

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that funds from the City budget be used to replace the equipment.

Commissioner Smith stated for the Code Enforcement vehicles.

Commissioner Agee stated equipment includes the cars.

Kevin Hawkins stated so, if I hear the motion correctly, it is to support any replacement of Parks, Recreation and Community Services equipment to include vehicles.

Commissioner Smith asked you said the cars are coming out of City budget, correct?

Kevin Hawkins stated when you say the City, Parks and Recreation are a part of the City.

Commissioner Smith stated yes, but you are talking about a different budget from the Parks and Recreation budget.

Kevin Hawkins stated yes. The equipment budget is a centralized budget for all. The Police Department doesn't budget for vehicles. They send requests to the Equipment Manager to find out how many can be replaced, which goes the same for all City departments.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Agee can you please make your motion again.

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that all equipment including automobiles for Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Smith stated I assume you are saying all equipment needed for Parks and Recreation including the cars for Code Enforcement. You are making a motion we vote to approve that.

Commissioner Agee stated Code Enforcement is a part of Parks and Recreation now. That goes for next year's budget.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee has just made a motion that this Commission vote on sending the City Council a message that we need equipment including vehicles for Parks and Recreation and we approve for next budget.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I would like to ask a question before I second. Is there anyway that we can have a report on how many vehicles need to be replaced?

Commissioner Agee stated I'm sure an inspection can be done, but I can assure you we do need new vehicles.

Commissioner Ordonez stated is it's basically to replace or add new vehicles?

Commissioner Agee stated to add 10, 15 or 20, however many it is that we need.

Commissioner Smith stated we are going to have to put this in a central category. We can not go that broad in a motion. Let's just focus on what the need is. You said the cars need to be replaced and you say the equipment is needed in Parks and Recreation. Which equipment in that instance?

Commissioner Agee stated a car, that's what they drive from point A to point B in.

Commissioner Smith stated you said some other equipment, what is it?

Commissioner Agee stated cars.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Agee, can Kevin answer that question for me?

Kevin Hawkins stated we appreciate the motion. What I wanted to say is now that Code Enforcement is a part of Parks and Recreation; I just don't want to limit whatever support to just vehicles. There are always equipment needs, why not request a motion to encompass new mowers, a chipper truck, etc.? We're just trying to capture that the resources and equipment to include that as well.

Commissioner Agee stated whatever Parks and Recreation needs.

Commissioner Ordonez stated ok, I'll second that.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Brown, do you have anything to add?

Commissioner Brown stated I'm sorry, I was at another meeting. But as Commissioner Agee has said the equipment for Parks and Recreation tends to be at the lower part of the totem pole. A lot of times, like for instance at the Senior Center, they passed a van on if there is money allocated and approved two vehicles, I'm in favor 100%.

Commissioner Smith stated a motion was on the floor and it's been seconded. I'd like to call for a vote, all in favor?

All Commissioners stated I.

Commissioner Smith asked all opposed? To make any corrections on this, the motion is for vehicles and any equipment that Parks, Recreation and Community Services need, am I correct?

Commissioner Agee stated you are correct.

Unfinished Business

None.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to report a pretty serious thing going on over at Darby Park. We have soccer players just walking in the park and playing. They have kicked the balls when people are walking in the park and I know of two ladies who got hit and have big bruises on their hips. I don't know if they are going to file lawsuits or not, but you really need to check them out. They go in the park after it is closed. I don't know how they do it. They play soccer in the dark. But what I am really worried about are the people walking in the park and getting injured. I'd like staff to check into that. I'd like to welcome Code Enforcement back to Parks and Recreation. You need to check the gangs, I saw a good fight the day before yesterday in broad daylight, and it was a pretty serious fight. Flag football is on the way and I just passed the park and it was full. You are doing a good job, keep up the good work.

Commissioner Ordonez asked is there a soccer field at Darby Park?

Commissioner Agee stated no, no soccer field.

Commissioner Ordonez asked so they just come and play soccer?

Commissioner Agee stated yes.

Commissioner Ordonez asked is there any soccer fields at any of our parks?

Kevin Hawkins stated we have is a multipurpose section where there is limited play. What we try and do is limit all play to the soccer stadium, which is over at Vincent Park. We know from the presentation that we need more open space. We've had conversations about it and organized, play and open play are two different things. Anyone can go to the park and put down a ball and kick it around. But you can not put together an organized game without permission. What we are battling, because you know soccer is a growing sport, and as Commissioner Agee knows it, there is a battle of friendly play versus organized play; it's the same issue we've had at Center Park.

Commissioner Ordonez asked is there any plans in the future to open more soccer fields since there is such a demand?

Kevin Hawkins stated there are plans to try and expand our open space. What we've talked about and what's been said in the conversation of converting some of the areas for soccer play. That's something I am not prepared to bring to this Commission at this time. It's been discussed with your Councilmember and when we get to that point we can bring it back to the Commission. You are always welcome to openly suggest alternative solutions. But again, we do have facilities that allow soccer.

Commissioner Ordonez stated it's sad what's happening at the parks. That there are no organized teams and people getting hurt.

Kevin Hawkins stated I don't want you to walk away saying there's no organized soccer play in the city. We have several groups in the city that have organized play. The issue is that the organized soccer is not allowed in every facility because of space constraints. For example, if you have organized play at Center Park, it takes away the entire park and residents who want to go there and sit on the grass, can't. So it varies. In park planning that is what we are constantly looking at.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated I just have two comments. It's nice to know that the department is taking on Code Enforcement. But I am always concerned about how it does stretch the staff and in the past when we take on people's duties, the staff is very taxing and I'm always concerned about that. Secondly, in regards to emergency preparation, we are familiar with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and when I look at the Senior Center and all the facilities we have, do we have some type of emergency preparations? We are in earthquake area and I think that needs to be addressed, do we have that type of preparation in place?

Kevin Hawkins stated recently the chief of police has returned from a conference in response to what's going on with the fires as well as Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. A lot of heavy weights, various mayors, police chiefs and the Secretary of Homeland Security all attended. But the message was that all agencies need to be more diligent in the planning process. As it relates to the city and the department, the city has approved a multi hazard function plan. Basically what it means is it's a plan that not only addresses man made disasters, but natural disasters as well. It has various aspects of predetermined roles and responsibilities. The city is also going to start looking at having a dedicated person to be responsible for disaster planning and emergency management. Right now it's a secondary function from the Police Department, last time the City had a full time person, was when I did it, while working for the Police Department and that was a long time ago.

The city is looking at it. Now this department is looking at it with responsibility of shelter operations and management, as well as some of our logistical needs with the inclusion of a special portion of Code Enforcement and the parking component. That's going to be very important as you saw with the evacuation of New Orleans and some of the traffic consideration. So as a city we are looking at that and personally with my background we're going to definitely make sure we address it.

Commissioner Agee stated one other comment, on the 15th of this month Commissioner Ordonez and I are going to visit some of the parks. I just want staff to know, we'll be out there.

Commissioner Smith stated I have one comment and I think it will benefit this whole board. From now on, when anyone has a motion they want to bring to the Commission and want the Commission to vote on, will you please give us some kind of notice or some kind of analysis of what you have researched, so you don't come to us and we are not blindly voting on something. I would appreciate it. You don't have to go into probability, just a brief analysis of what you've observed so we will be more informed when we make these motions. If it is a spur of the moment motion, it will have to be tabled to the following month.

Commissioner Agee stated I don't have a problem with that.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated if I don't get a second, it dies without it.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you, that is a good idea. Is there something we can pass around and get each other's email address that way we can email each other information?

Commissioner Smith stated yes, we can do that.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS

- o Tree Trimming Schedule
- o Parks Maintenance North/South
- o Parks Construction
- o IBA Planting
- o Capital Improvement Projects funded by the 2002 Resources Bond Act

RECREATION

- Woodcraft Rangers
- Lockhaven Center
- o Annual Tennis Tournament
- Special Events
 - Holiday Decorating Contest
 - Holiday Tree Lighting
 - > MLK Day
- o Inglewood Playhouse "Big Baby"

HUMAN SERVICES

- o Mural Ground Breaking
- o Be Well Grant
- Youth Projects
- Senior Citizens Programs