

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, April 6, 2006, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

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:

Sabrina Barnes, Acting Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Stephanie Baltazar, Administrative Aide
Michelle Jordan, Acting Care Management Supervisor
Ramon Mata, Acting Park Maintenance Supervisor
Tanya Perry, Code Enforcement Supervisor
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Smith stated before I call for approval of the minutes, there is a change on page 12, at the bottom. On the last sentence where it says I think they are better, it should be badder than you.

Commissioner Giardina stated I also have a correction on page 11.

Commissioner Agee asked what was the other page?

Commissioner Smith stated page 12, when we were talking about the possums. When I was telling you I'd stay away from them. But we got a little silly last month, that's all. Now we are on page 11.

Commissioner Giardina stated the third line should be a cord of wood.

Sandra Green-Hilliard asked what paragraph?

Commissioner Giardina stated page 11, third line from the first paragraph. It should be a cord of wood not a quart of wood.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any further corrections?

I'd like to call for an approval of the minutes.

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that the minutes be accepted with the changes.

Commissioner Giardina stated I second.

Commissioner Smith stated it has been moved and second, that the minutes of the March meeting be accepted with the changes that were made on page 11 and 12. All in favor?

All of the Commissioners stated I.

Commissioner Smith stated minutes approved.

Director's Report

Commissioner Smith stated now I guess since Kevin isn't here; I'm relying on you Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated right. Good evening Commissioners. It's good to see all of you this evening. I'd like to first start by saying I'm glad to be here. Kevin Hawkins our Director has taken a special assignment in the City Administrator's office. So in his absence, I will be acting as Director. I welcome your comments, any correspondence and feel free to give me a call at any time. With that, we will move on with the Director's Report. We will start with our Parks section. I believe you all have met Ramon; he is here to speak on behalf of the Parks.

Ramon Mata stated good evening.

Capital Improvement Projects Update

- Rogers Park Skate Park – has been completed and we had our grand opening last week
- Vincent Park Skate Park – grand opening will be April 15
- Vincent Park Restroom Construction – is still pending

Commissioner Smith stated excuse me one second, you said capital improvements, then you talked about the skate park and you said it was going to be April something.

Ramon Mata stated we had the grand opening for the skate park at Rogers Park, last week. The grand opening of the skate park at Vincent Park will be April 15.

Commissioner Smith stated there you go, thank you.

Ramon Mata stated the new restrooms that are supposed to be built are still on stand by and still being worked on.

The Parks section is doing the landscaping at the Crenshaw Library. We removed the old landscape and will be replacing it with new landscaping and irrigation within the next three or four weeks.

New picnic arbors have been installed at Rogers Park.

That is all the information I have on Capital Improvement Projects.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any further questions on capital improvement projects for Ramon or any questions at all?

Commissioner Giardina asked what appears to be the problem with the restrooms for Vincent Park?

Ramon Mata stated it's the way they are being built. They are kits and they are coming from Oregon and the paperwork is being held up.

Sabrina Barnes stated I can speak a little on that. There are some issues with the contractor in terms of complying with some of the requirements for the city. So it is being held up in that process until they comply.

Commissioner Smith asked weren't these things discussed prior?

Sabrina Barnes stated correct. They were expressed prior and we have begun to address them. The project has gone between two departments in terms of management and now Teresa Kneeder who is the engineer on the project has been reviewing some of the documents and items that they were to comply with and they still have some things that are outstanding. The kits are basically ready to go and as soon as they comply, it will just be a matter of transporting them from up north.

Commissioner Giardina stated forgive me here. I'm just wondering when we approved this, we did not originally understand or know that these would be kits. They had measured it, had specifications and they had ways that they were going to do the adaptability for the handicap. That was pretty much understood when they bided it out. The restrooms are on hold for how long?

Sabrina Barnes stated we don't have an exact date. We are awaiting an answer; the project engineer has been out this week in terms of getting additional details for you tonight.

Commissioner Giardina stated so there are no real details about what is really wrong or is there specifically something wrong?

Sabrina Barnes stated there are some specific things wrong that has to do with some of the requirements of the contractor. Specifically what they have not provided to us, I do not have that information but I can obtain it for you.

Commissioner Giardina stated ok thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I know we are two short, but are we getting complaints for not having enough restrooms?

Ramon Mata stated no. We haven't had any complaints. There are four other restrooms throughout the park.

Commissioner Smith stated but hopefully they will be finished by September.

Ramon Mata stated to be quite honest with you, I doubt it.

Commissioner Brown since we have moved away from the original plan, it sounds like a prefab. What is the durability or longevity of this type of set up? Will it be able to last 100 years based on what we've had? Have all these types of things been considered, because we are spending a lot of dollars.

Sabrina Barnes stated the life span has been taken into consideration. Once they are up, I believe they have a 50 year life span minimum. All the considerations in terms of handicap and any other types of requirements have also been taken into consideration. They are built on site at their facility then they ship them down and are put in place.

Commissioner Smith asked that is going to take more than six month?

Sabrina Barnes stated the travel time I believe takes about 30 days and once they get the items that we need in place we will then have a better idea of a time line. It is being revised as we go. Basically we are just waiting for them to respond. We are still hopeful we will have the restrooms in place by the Jazz Festival.

Commissioner Giardina stated I just want to ask the same question that Commissioner Smith asked, do you agree with Ramon's assessment that it could be as late as September 2006 and the restrooms still not be ready?

Sabrina Barnes stated that's not unrealistic, however we want to remain optimistic.

Commissioner Brown asked we couldn't find anyone locally to do this kind of project?

Sabrina Barnes stated I don't believe any one locally bided on the project.

Commissioner Smith stated Sabrina; I need to ask one other question here. In the contract the city signed, did they have a finish date or an approximate finish date?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes and we've past that.

Commissioner Smith asked so are there any penalties on the contractors for not delivering on time?

Sabrina Barnes stated at this point there is not.

Commissioner Brown asked so it's an open end contract?

Sabrina Barnes stated no, it's not an open end contract.

Commissioner Smith stated we are not trying to put you on the spot either. We just need to know. Commissioner Ordonez, do you have any questions?

Commissioner Ordonez stated all the questions that I had have been answered.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Ramon.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you Ramon, very much. We will move on to our Human Services section and Michelle Jordan will be reporting on that.

Michelle Jordan stated good evening.

Computer Classes at the Lockhaven Center

Computer classes have begun at the Lockhaven Community Center. Classes are open to the community, parents and senior citizens on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. They are still accepting new students. Recruitment/outreach is underway. efforts will continue until the classes are full. To date there are five students that attend regularly. On Wednesday afternoons, fifteen to seventeen youth participate in the computer classes.

Classes are held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you know of anyone who is interested they can call 310-412-5508.

College, Career, and Health Fair

The College, Career, and Health Fair will take place on April 22, 2006, at Rogers Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Invitations were sent to over 55 colleges/universities. To date we only have nine confirmed. Our goal is to have 30-35 colleges/universities representing at this event. While there have been nine confirmations, we have received responses from eleven institutions that will not be able to attend. There will be a National College Fair held on the same day in Orange County. There is still room for interested institutions to participate. The fair is not limited to colleges and universities; we welcome trade/vocational schools as well. For more information or to recommend an institution, please feel free to contact the Human Services office at 310-412-5508.

Temporary Relocation of the Senior Center

This project continues to dominate the Human Services Division agenda. On March 23, 2006, a Senior Relocation Task Force Meeting was held, including the representatives from Public Works, Redevelopment, Finance and our Department. It appears that everything is moving ahead with good plans regarding financing and building improvements to the Veteran's Building, the chosen home for the Senior Center, and coordination with the Recreation Division. Our staff has been busy informing and involving the seniors.

A planning committee comprised of seniors has met and listed their concerns regarding transportation, meals, safety and space allocation for activities. They also formed four committees: transportation, safety, decorations and the Farewell to the old center and open house at the new center.

Bid for Catered Meals

The bid package for food services is in the process of being prepared. Both the processes of the County and the City must be combined and Ed Johnson did a splendid job at merging both their requirements. Pat Bitker has made specific changes and those are currently in draft and circulating between the County AAA and internally within the City.

Two Larger Vans

We have requested two larger vans from the State to take advantage of an opportunity to purchase two Paratransit vans of a larger and better quality than the ones approved in our 5310 grant. The Type III vehicles we are trying to order through the State contract are no longer available. However, Type IV vehicles are. These vans will be ideal for increasing group rides.

When we relocate the Senior Center, we will be able to offer shuttle service for the seniors who live in the old Center's neighborhood. We have many requests to go to the Century Shopping area and various medical facilities outside the area. We will reestablish satellite points.

MDT

The Inglewood Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) has joined forces with South Bay Senior Services (SBSS) to form the South Bay MDT. The team has decided to meet on a monthly basis alternating sites each month. The objection is to improve services offered to clients by having case conferences and inviting experts from various fields and to increase the resource base to better serve clients.

Taxi Companies

A "meet and greet" was held on Monday, April 3, 2006, at the Inglewood Senior Center from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The new cab companies were introduced and the current cab company was reintroduced. Clients were also introduced to the new coupon book process. Clients expressed some of their past hurts and others had lots of questions about the new system. This turned out to be a very good informational session. A lot of questions were asked and the cab companies did an excellent job at educating clients of the operating systems. Only two of three companies invited attended the session. Yellow Cab did not show because they misunderstood the information given to them.

Michelle Jordan stated that is all for Human Services.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee, do you have any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated good report. I'm glad to see the senior center is being relocated and I hope everything works out for you all.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I have a question in regards to the college and career fair. You mentioned that only nine colleges or universities have replied and that there is a possibility of another event going on in Orange County somewhere. Is there any possibility of changing the date or is that for sure that the event is going on?

Michelle Jordan stated the college fair is done in conjunction with our annual health fair and that is an added bonus to the fair. The fair in Orange County is a national event that happens to be taking place on that same day.

Commissioner Brown stated I know in the past I've been able to jump in terms of giving you some leads from some colleges, but one of the key movements now is vocational education.

We tend to always think about the 2 and 4 year schools, so I will email or fax you over a list of names of people you can contact. Regardless of what they are doing in Orange County, you should be able to get representatives from all the colleges that are in the area. Sometimes when someone sees someone else's name, it generates some interest. I work really closely with the schools and I will pass this information on to Ms. Miles from the L.A. Unified School District so that we can see that we have more participants.

Commissioner Ordonez stated in addition to that, I was thinking since there are so many colleges and universities online who have good credentials maybe that is another way we can look at getting more participants.

Michelle Jordan stated I will pass that information on for you.

Commissioner Brown asked all our services are free right?

Michelle Jordan stated yes, the entire event.

Commissioners Brown stated those who go to Orange County have to pay a registration fee. I think you need to get the information out indicating that it is free.

Commissioner Smith stated the only statement I'd like to make is that we have been getting complaints from senior citizens as far as the cab services are concerned. They are a little slow in picking them up, they have to wait a long time to be picked up, and seeing a senior out there in the cold or heat is not a good thing. Maybe you can talk to whoever your connection or contact person is with the cab companies and let them know that you expect our seniors to be picked up on time.

Michelle Jordan stated we've been doing a lot of work with the two new companies that are coming to Inglewood. They have heard of all the things that have gone on and how they have treated our residences. So they are in fact hungry for our business. In fact, United Cab has designated specific cabs that will only be for Inglewood seniors focusing only on our seniors. A lot of the things that have gone on in the past will be turned around. They all have been put on notice that we love our seniors and we take their transportation very seriously. On Monday at the meeting, the seniors were very vocal about their past experiences and how they don't want to go through the same cycle. The new companies had the chance to hear the issues first hand. I thank you for your concern.

Commissioner Smith stated no, I thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd also like to congratulate you on taking the seniors to the Century Shopping Center, it is out of sight. I ate at Chili's today and I recommend it. I'm sure the seniors are going to love it.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee.

Sabrina Barnes stated just to add to that; we are really excited now that the seniors have an option and that it is not just one company that will service them. In a competition everyone steps up their game. If it's just one person running the show, they can pretty much do whatever they please. So Michelle and the senior center staff have done a great job in trying to make sure the needs of the seniors are met in terms of getting them timely and efficient transportation services. Through dialogue with the representatives, as Michelle stated, they have been notified of our expectations and we expect them to adhere to that.

Commissioner Smith stated Michelle I want to thank you for your report and thank your department period for recognizing there's a problem and trying to do something about. We thank you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you Michelle. Now Tanya Perry is from our Community Services section and she has lots of good news to report.

Tanya Perry stated thank you Sabrina. Good evening everyone. I haven't been to one of these meetings in a long time. As you know we've been with the Police Department, now we are back to Parks and Rec. To me we all our one big city, parking is parking. I've been with the city for 22 years, I was just telling Sabrina that I remember when I was out in the field and Hollywood Park had 60,000 people coming in and out, but since then the city has really, really changed.

First thing on the agenda is the parking fine increases. As you all know, you all helped increase the parking fines and that is always a good thing because there is always competition among other cities. I receive calls all day asking about our price and fee schedule. It's always very competitive and as always, we like to generate revenue.

For the month of January, we had over 5,000 tickets that were issued. For the month of February, 5,100 tickets and for the month of March, 5,733 tickets and still counting. Not only have we hired 8 new part timers to help us in that effort, it has also lit a fire under some of our fifteen and eighteen year veterans. So we now have people writing 83 tickets a day on an eight hour shift.

On January 4, we issued over 228 residential parking permit tickets. We gave people a chance to come in a month before the permits expired to purchase new ones. Every year I have to come up with a way to get them to come in and purchase the new permit. We have had people out there selling the permits. The residential permits are free. The city gives the residents four free passes. So the things that have gone on in parking the last 22 years I thought I'd never live to see, but it's here. One of the main complaints that we get is Inglewood is crowded. People are parking in front of my house what do I do.

For one, Code Enforcement is trying to get people to clean out their garages and park their cars in the garage. A lot of families have four or five cars and kids coming back home so we all are really trying to work together. The parking fine increase is the first real good thing.

We also have new ticket books that are now being used. Commissioners, if you'd like to see the fines that are actually in print, we actually started to issue them out yesterday. There was a delay with the printers and getting everything started by March 1st. Had we known earlier, we could have split an order. These books take 6 weeks to get here. Right now, we have 20,000 on order and we hope that will take us through the next couple of months. But the way we are writing, we might need more. My staff is out there and they are going to write you up if you are in violation. Sometimes we can't get them all; we are not really out there to get them all. I tell my officers if you can see a person trying to put some money in the meter or its only 8:05 a.m. give them a chance to get to their car because we know parking is at a minimum throughout the city everyday. Inglewood is nine square miles and we are all in here together as we continue to grow.

Commercial Enforcement

Thank for helping raise the commercial enforcement fee. It's now \$90 for the truckers who park in our city. because it was cheaper for them to park in a residential area instead of going over there on Hindry, Manchester or near LAX and pay the parking fees. Now hopefully, the \$90 fee will be a deterrent. We are out there. Believe me, we are getting calls from truckers asking where they can park. They can only park in the commercial district because the big rigs are breaking down are streets and we are going to cite them if they are out there.

Last thing I'd like to talk about is the parking permits. When the residents come to the counter, they have to understand we need to identify them by their address and one utility bill be it gas, light or water only. Also, the permits are free. If they need additional past four, it's \$25. They can pay on the first floor and bring the receipt up to the second floor and we'll gladly give them the additional parking permits. Another thing that I have had to do and come up with, is there are a lot of funerals and as you know there's no parking on some streets in Inglewood. There's only parking on one side. The day of the funeral and repast, I will allow a time frame for people to come. We have to do something. They can call our office the day they are having that type of function at their home and we will exempt their street for the duration of the time, but only for that date. The reason as to why we cannot allow parking on both sides of the street is because if a fire truck tried to come down the street, it could not get through. The Public Works Department did a study on two streets: 105th and 106th and it did not work out. In the future, I don't know if they are going to look into building some type of parking garage like Faithful Central. Parking is at an all time limitation. This is something I have to think outside the box on.

Another thing we always get calls on is schools. Everyone always wants us to patrol the schools because they are blocking the driveway. It has gotten to the point where we are actually going to have to come up with some type of program where I can get officers out to the schools at least two to three times a week. We have so many schools but only eight officers. I've even found myself going by Oak Street just yesterday, because we did not have enough field officers. I had a ticket book with me so on the way in I was giving tickets. I live here in the city so it's not something that we regularly do but sometimes you have to think outside of the box to try and come up with a solution. A lot of these schools are one way in and one way out. The problem is the parents do not want to participate or listen to our solutions; they just want to drop their kid off in the middle of the street. We have a lot of issues we are trying to solve and we welcome any type of recommendations or any thing that is happening in your neighborhood that can help. That is all for my report.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I am very happy and I commend the department for doing all this. I'm glad the city is making a lot of money with the fee increases. I wanted to ask you about a problem in the neighborhood where I see a lot of people parking in their yards. Do you actually ticket that?

Tanya Perry stated yes we do. Code Enforcement and Special Enforcement Officers do. As long as the gate is not locked and there is not a dog in the yard, we will go into the yard and issue a ticket. We also have Code Enforcement Inspectors who go out and site for that violation as well.

Some people have chosen without a permit, to cement the grass area. They can get cited for not having permission to do that because grass in the front yard is not suppose to be cemented.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated if they are your neighbors you can go around and more than likely they will listen to you, if you tell them not to park on the grass. Just tell them who you are. I've had that problem once and that was all I did.

Commissioner Agee stated I would suggest that you don't go around telling the ladies because they get pretty angry.

Commissioner Smith stated it depends on how you do it. I think if they are your neighbors you can do that. Mine were really cooperative.

Commissioner Agee stated well anyway. I want to congratulate you. I know that trucks in the City of Inglewood are a big problem. I want to commend you on that because if you own a truck that's a business and you should have a place to park otherwise you pay the penalty.

That is a lot of tickets. The way you write most of the tickets, they are not messing around.

Tanya Perry stated I know we are going to get a lot of complaints for the fire lane fee because that price went from \$70 to \$250.

Commissioner Giardina asked what is that for?

Tanya Perry stated for parking in any fire lanes.

Commissioner Smith asked can you pass around that book please?

I'm sorry. Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated one thing I don't really know if we can do anything about this problem, but since these shopping centers are pretty popular, you get all these emergency vehicles that go in there and park. Then when they get a call, they come out with the sirens blasting. I don't know if there is anything you can do about it. They will come from Imperial Hwy up Prairie making a right on Century and going straight down Century, with the sirens blasting. Century is a really busy street. I don't know if there is anything that can be done about that. I sure hope there is. I don't want to hold anyone back if they are sick or something like that, but what I'm trying to say is that I think these people play a little game and like to go down Century Boulevard knowing it's going to be busy. I've tracked them and followed them; I don't know if that is something maybe the City Council should take up.

Tanya Perry stated I will check with Lieutenant Thompson from the Traffic Division.

Commissioner Agee stated I appreciate it.

Also on 8th Ave. and 104th Street on the northeast corner, there is a car parked there and it has been there for about 4 or 5 years. This guy won't move it, paint his house or do anything. He has parked the car there and when people are coming down that hill especially kids and if they are on a skate board making a right turn they are going to run right into that car. I'm surprised someone hasn't gotten killed. I'd appreciate it if you would go out and take a look at it.

Tanya Perry asked what kind of a car is it?

Commissioner Agee stated it is a gray old beat up car. It should be in the junk yard, I don't know why the guy keeps it. It's a danger to people traveling on the sidewalks. That is a bad area over there because of all those cars. They have the garages full and park on the streets and they or always parking across the driveway.

Tanya Perry stated we give them tickets for parking across the sidewalk. The only place it is condoned during the day is over on Manchester Boulevard across from the barber. Because those driveways are really short.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Brown stated I just have three items. On 110th and Crenshaw at the Brakemaster, the gentleman there started with one truck and now he is using that whole area. I passed this information on to my councilperson because it was told to me that you can not bring trucks of that size through residential areas. If you go by his shop at 110th and Crenshaw you will see he has some large trucks. I don't know if that meets the code of the city. I have seen the effect of your staff especially on the eastside of 110th and Crenshaw to 111th. A lot of people come and park their cars there and live in another community. At present, someone has abandoned a white two door Chevy parked sideways. I'm surprised someone hasn't come from around the corner and hit it. It has no license plates and we've seen it sitting there for two weeks.

Secondly, you talked about Faithful Central. There is a large parking garage there that is not being utilized. Maybe the city can talk with the church about utilizing the buses for its employees because a nine level garage is sitting there like a white elephant. Someone has to talk with the church to see if it is possible for us to utilize the site.

The last thing is traffic on Century Boulevard. What kind of roll is the city playing with that? It is just terrible.

Tanya Perry stated I know what you are talking about. It is very congested. We have to talk to the traffic engineer about the design, the movement and timing of the lights. That would definitely be under Public Works and I'll mention it to Bill Barnett and his staff. I know many of the departments have talked about that also. With that becoming a viable area, traffic is going to be a problem between Century and Prairie, almost to La Brea actually.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown.

The only question I have is what is your policy when a car does not start in the morning?

Tanya Perry stated our policy is when someone comes out in the morning and their car doesn't start and it is before 8 a.m., they can call our dispatch office and if it is their first time we will give them an exemption. If it is after the officers have gone out, I will still try to exempt them as long as they have some type of receipt for a tow or if they had to buy something letting me know that the car was broken down.

I usually work with the citizens on that. I also usually flag the majority of those calls 99% of the time.

Commissioner Smith stated I have six cars. Two in the garage and the other four are generally parked on the street. So if a battery goes out that morning, I won't know until I go out to try and start it, so what I've done is I've written a note saying car will not start.

Tanya Perry stated we don't read notes.

Commissioner Smith stated but you have to go around there, so I'm putting something on the car letting you know that it is non-operable.

Tanya Perry stated in the past we've taken that but we've gone away from that because people use that for any old reason. We would like the citizen to call in and say hey my car broke down I'll get it moved later on in the day, can I get it exempt. Like I said if it is before 8 a.m. we will pass that on to the field staff.

Commissioner Smith asked what is that number?

Tanya Perry stated 412-8731 and that is the number directly to the dispatch.

Commissioner Smith stated and the other thing I noticed that you said if it's your first time, how do you go about that when one has four cars out there? You are going to have that happen to you more than once.

Tanya Perry stated this is my gray area. When I get these gray area problems, I try to deal with them on a case to case basis. I try to be fair with the public enforcing the policy and the law. It is difficult.

Commissioner Smith stated generally we try to move the cars at night. But sometimes you forget and get up early to do it. I have had that happen to me, 3 times. Not in the same year, but still it could happen in the same year.

Tanya Perry stated like I said, I try to deal with it on a case by case basis. I have a lot of people who are repeat offenders that will tell me I was sick that day for work I shouldn't have to get up and move my car. I say sir/ma'am; it just doesn't work that like that. You have to at least make the effort to move your car. If you are in the hospital, then that's something different. I have a lot of repeat offenders and I will just tell them no.

Commissioner Smith stated what I think may help is since I have four cars I have four different licenses plates, if it has the same license plate number on it more than once or twice in a year then I can see you saying ok we can or can not exempt you.

But I'm still a resident and I still have four cars out there and they all have different license plates, so can you go by the plate number and say well this car hasn't had this problem.

Tanya Perry stated we go by whether or not it is the same resident calling. Like I said we treat it on a case by case basis. We just don't want people to take advantage of getting exempt. I know people who do that. For the most part if they call in week after week, those are the reasons why I don't exempt them. I'm not talking about people who call in once in a while. I'm talking about the people who call in weekly.

Commissioner Smith stated I just wanted you to know you may hear from me more than once.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to make a suggestion, make sure you move your car.

Commissioner Smith asked make sure I move my car? Commissioner Agee I'm speaking to Tanya at this moment not you. Thank you, Tanya. Are there any further questions for Tanya?

Commissioner Ordonez stated I have a small car that I had for sale. I put some signs and parked it. I was given a ticket because I had the for sale signs on it.

Tanya Perry stated for sale signs must be the store bought red and white sign and it can only be placed in the rear side windows of the vehicle. Not in the front, not in the back and it cannot be hand written on the windows with chalk or other types of things.

Commissioner Ordonez stated that's what I did.

Tanya Perry asked you said 111th street?

Commissioner Brown stated 110th. As soon as you turn on 108th, you will see it.

Tanya Perry stated ok.

Commissioner Smith asked Tanya, have you completed your report?

Tanya Perry stated yes.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you very much. Sabrina over to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you Tanya very much. Lastly, we will hear from the Recreation Division, Arrick Turner.

Arrick Turner stated good evening.

Cesar Chavez

On Saturday, March 25, the City held the Sixth Annual Cesar Chavez Day Unity March, Recognition Ceremony, and Celebration. The unity march began at 10:00 a.m. at Hollywood Park-Gate 8. The march was led by State and local officials joined by residents and community groups. Participants marched along Pincay Drive to Darby Park. The recognition ceremony and celebration immediately followed. Gustavo Vargas, also known as Chubidu from the Hispanic television and radio industry, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Maria Elena Chavez, the niece of the late Cesar Chavez, served as the keynote speaker. Local radio stations "102.3 KJLH" and "97.9 La Raza" were both on hand to support our event. The program also included live entertainment, exhibitors/vendors, arts & crafts, student art and essay exhibition, interactive and carnival style games, and a soccer tournament featuring the 3rd Annual "Cesar Chavez Day Cup." This event was held in conjunction with the Inglewood Unified School District. Approximately 1,500 residents, their family and friends attended this event.

April Skate Extravaganza (Rogers, Darby and Vincent Skate Park Events)

On Saturday, April 1, 2006, we conducted Grand Opening activities for the Rogers Park Skate Park. The event was initially impacted by the rain which didn't stop until about 9:00 a.m. The event was scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. The crowd was small at first but eventually picked up.

On Saturday, April 8, Darby Park's 6,000-square foot skate park will be the venue for the Inglewood Games Skate Jam. The event, which is open to skaters 5 and up, will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Darby Park. Registration gets underway at 8:30 a.m. Competitions, demonstrations and live bands are scheduled throughout the day. Safety gear is required for all skaters. No entry fee required!

Then on Saturday, April 15, 2006, the City will host the grand opening for the city's third skate park - the Vincent Park Skate Park, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees will be treated to entertainment and activities including pro skater demonstrations, prizes and giveaways. The ribbon cutting is at 11:15 a.m.

"All Star" Spring Camp

New this year, Rogers Park will sponsor an "All Star Spring Camp," from April 17 – 21. The camp is modeled after our summer session but will have a sports theme. In addition to arts and crafts, the campers will learn the fundamentals of various sports, such as tennis, baseball, basketball, and soccer.

The cost is \$100 for residents and \$150 for non-residents. Registration is ongoing until the camp is filled. Our capacity is 50 children, ages 5 to 12.

Depending on the success of this pilot, we will also host a winter camp in December.

Health, College and Career and Earth Day Celebration

Final plans are being made for the City's Annual Health, College, Career and Earth Day Celebration. The event will be held on Saturday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rogers Park. The day will feature three great events at one location and will include a Health Fair Expo, College and Career Readiness and an Earth Day celebration. The one-day event is designed to encourage healthy lifestyles and bring awareness to issues that impact quality of life, including physical health, education and environmental health. Services will be available and offered free of charge to participants, ages 2 to 102.

Grandpa's Truth

Everyone is invited to attend a very timely stage play that is currently being showcased at the Inglewood Playhouse – "Grandpa's Truth."

"Grandpa's Truth," deals with race relations and touches on issues and challenges facing Black and Brown communities - communities that look and feel like ours.

The story centers around two African American families. When one of the families adopts two Hispanic children, racial tensions between two neighbors rise. The play's main character, Grandpa Truth lives up to his name as he forces the families to take stock of their history especially as it relates to racism and race relations.

With the recent race related incidents in the prisons and high schools, this is a very fitting piece.

Written by Alreatha Thomas and directed by Byron Nora, the play has received rave reviews and has been extended for a third run, through April 23 at the Inglewood Playhouse.

This past weekend, Steve Wonder attended the show.

Performances: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Sunday performances are at 4 p.m. Tickets: General admission tickets are \$20. Children under 12 and seniors, \$15.

Sports Happenings

This past weekend was very busy for our sports section as they participated in a variety of tournaments – from Cerritos to Ventura. We brought home a first place and two second place finishes.

Also this past weekend we had our annual Spring Tennis Tournament. Despite the rain it was also a success.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Arrick.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd just like to say that I thought the Cesar Chavez day was a success. I enjoyed it very, very much. I enjoyed the walk and the activities in the park with the kids. You all did a very good job and I hope everyone will come out to see the grand opening of the skate board park at Rogers Park.

Commissioner Brown stated just to follow up with Commissioner Agee, the Cesar Chavez activity was well attended and I had the chance to participate. I notice in our March minutes that Commissioner Agee mentioned about having the MLK celebration resemble something like the Cesar Chavez celebration. I think that is a tremendous idea because after the parade there was something else to do and it was well attended. I had the opportunity to speak and on doing my research to speak on Cesar Chavez, I wouldn't have known that in the state of California the only 3 official birthdays that are recognized are our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez. I'm hoping that next year Lord willing, the other Commissioners can find time in their busy schedules to participate in the event. I hope that we can start taking some ideas from this celebration to help make the MLK an activity the whole community can really enjoy versus always having the church service and nothing happening afterwards.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd just like to congratulate him.

Commissioner Smith stated I'll give you that time, you have the floor.

Commissioner Agee I just want to congratulate you for seeing that Dr. King's birthday should be something everyone can enjoy. I appreciate that.

Commissioner Brown stated it needs to be a little more festive. Don't get me wrong, I read the notes. We all aren't churchy and I know King Day would be enjoyable if we could do it in a festival type of setting with jazz. Just make a really tremendous day where people will flock to the City of Inglewood.

I'm hoping when working with Sabrina, we are able to get the committee together and begin the planning sooner so we can find the funds necessary to have a festive activity.

Commissioner Smith stated excellent suggestions Commissioner Brown. Any further questions or comments for Arrick? Sabrina?

Sabrina Barnes stated that is it. I'd just like to tell you about a workshop I attend along with the superintendents regarding the 3 N System, which is the National Notification Network System. It is part of the cities ongoing efforts to make sure we are prepared in the event of a disaster. This is a really outstanding system in that it allows for me to make a phone call and be able to activate everyone in the Recreation Department. Or if it's coming from the Police Chief and he needs to find out what officers can be mobilized and get to a certain point as opposed to going down a list and calling 50 people or if in the event there is a gas line break or a spillage and we need to get to everyone who lives within a mile of your house, this system will isolate an area and call these 1500 homes or if necessary will call every residential home in the community to make an announcement. It is going to be remarkable. In the next few months we all will receive training for it. We will have team leaders as well as team members. Team leaders will be those who can activate a system or call out to certain staff and make announcements while the members are those people that come together as a part of the team to support it. For example, for Recreation we may be looked at as locations where folks can come in the event that they need shelter and need to go to a location temporarily. We'll be able to mobilize our team and make sure everyone is in place. If it's traffic and Tanya needs to get to all the SEO's at once, that can happen as well. It's an outstanding system and we are really excited just knowing that we are taking steps to be ready in the event of a disaster.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Sabrina. Are there any questions for Ms. Barnes?

Commissioner Ordonez asked does this have anything to do with the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program?

Sabrina Barnes stated it is going to be connected to the CERT program and the individuals who are a part of the CERT program will also be involved in the process.

Commissioner Ordonez asked is this in addition to it?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

Commissioner Agee stated I just want to congratulate you on your new position, I'm sure you will do a great job. Kevin did a good job and I'm sure you will do the same, congratulations.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated I was under the impression that you said you were acting.

Sabrina Barnes stated correct.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd just like to congratulate you; you guys are doing a fine job. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Sabrina for your reports.

New Business

Commissioner Agee stated the mural is on track and it looks like we are going to be celebrating soon.

Commissioner Brown stated I'd like to commend Commissioner Agee for the lovely article that was in the Inglewood Today magazine. It's good to know that irregardless of the way we some times battle, that the people you sit with do get recognized and it's always said that they wait until they die and then we start telling them how good they are and what they've done.

Two things. One is I got word that we are having problems at Center Park with some of the adult soccer players. You need to be put on notice that they are coming back to that area.

The last thing I'd like to know is how the relocation of the Girls Scouts is going and the usage of the Lockhaven facility.

Sabrina Barnes stated regarding the Girl Scouts, they are making use of Lockhaven as needed. When they want to request use of any of the facilities, we offer them the Lockhaven Center as primary location. But they also have used Rogers Park. They have been informed that whatever facility they are interested in they are more than welcome to use.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown.

Unfinished Business

Commissioner Giardina stated I wanted to ask Ramon, but I'll just ask you Sabrina. Is there any update for us? At the last meeting I know we talked about the fountain being budgeted.

Sabrina Barnes stated yes, the fountain is budgeted and we actually received the contract back from the state and it has been signed as of today. It will get sent back to the state and then we'll be able to move on with the process.

Commissioner Giardina stated thank you very much.

Commissioner Smith stated that is great news.

The only unfinished business that I have is that last month Kevin gave us a skeleton budget and I wanted to set up some time so we can, maybe two Commissioners at a time meet with you and go over and the budget. If you can look at your calendar and give me a call when it is convenient for you that would be great.

Sabrina Barnes stated call me next week.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Agee stated just keep up the good work. The parks are so beautiful. One thing on the serious side and God knows I have nothing against soccer players, but they are destroying our parks. There should be some kind of limit on soccer play. When you put in turf at the two soccer fields, in two weeks the turf is gone. I don't know what we are going to do about it, but something needs to be done. Maybe the city should buy some more property somewhere and build more soccer fields. The parks are for every citizen in Inglewood and every citizen should be able to go sit and enjoy the beautiful green park without falling into holes which is exactly what happened. Soccer is twelve months out of the year, baseball is three months, and football is also three months. Soccer does not give the turf enough time to revitalize itself. It just destroys the fields. I don't know what to do. It's the adult soccer players, it is not the kids. I really think something needs to be done because like I said the parks belong to everyone. It is nothing against the soccer players; let's make a level playing field for everyone. There is a vacant lot right in front of Rogers Park, maybe the city can work out some kind of deal to buy that property and put a soccer field there. But every time I go by the park at 4 p.m. you've got about 50 or 60 soccer players out there with cleats on destroying the turf. It shouldn't be that way. That's all I have to say.

Commissioner Smith stated I was under the impression that you guys were monitoring the adults play.

Sabrina Barnes stated that is correct. We do try to have a fine balance because the park is for everyone. We try to direct most of the play to Vincent Park. We have a maintenance policy that basically says we take the fields and have them up or down for a certain amount of time for maintenance.

When those fields are down we then move those players to another location so that they do get a chance to take advantage of using the parks. We are monitoring it and the adults are not supposed to play with cleats and to the best we can we try and regulate that. But right now there is nothing on the books that allows us to cite so all we can do is unofficially for lack of a better word police and ask them not to play with cleats. We also take measures when it is raining; we don't allow them to play because that further damages the grounds.

Commissioner Smith stated so maybe we should put something on the books that prohibits cleats and adult soccer players and that way you can say this is against our ordinance for you to play soccer on these fields with cleats. If you don't have anything in place, it's hard to police that. Maybe we should do that if we want to keep our parks green. That is just a suggestion.

Commissioner Agee asked can I make another comment?

Commissioner Smith stated yes.

Commissioner Agee stated the main problem is that they destroy one park and then you move them to another and then they destroy that one too. By that time the turf is back again and they are out there playing on it for two weeks, its dead again. What I'm saying is there has got to be some changes. In fact, in the last 15 years, the City of Inglewood has spent over a million and half dollars on soccer fields and nothing on football fields and very little on baseball fields. That is not a level playing field.

Commissioner Smith stated thus the suggestion of an ordinance to alleviate that.

Commissioner Agee stated we have to do something. Whatever it is, we need to do so that everyone will have a place in the park to play. I go by Darby Park at about 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. at night, there are no lights on and they are out there playing soccer. They jump the fence and go in. it's not right and it is the adults, not the kids. The kids do not destroy stuff and you know who is bringing them in there.

Commissioner Smith stated now that definitely shouldn't be happening at night when the park is closed and all the lights are turned out. They shouldn't be in there.

Sabrina Barnes stated our lights typically go off by 10 p.m. at that time no one is supposed to be in the park. When the SEO's or the police come through there, they are authorized to tell them that are not supposed to be in the park.

Commissioner Smith stated I know it is hard for you guys to police these things, but like I said, if an ordinance is written up or something then maybe it can be more like, Arrick in the park. He can say see you can or can't do this. There's nothing for you to say that right now, is there Arrick?

Arrick Turner stated I normally just ask them to play in a certain area of the park. At 12 p.m. when Commissioner Agee comes by, it is Marvin Engineering's lunch time and they use a lot of the park daily, both inside and out. I given them a section of the park back behind the outside basketball courts that is really not utilized by the baseball program.

Commissioner Smith stated but since we want to keep our parks green and pretty and have certain area designated for certain things, maybe the ordinance would do that.

Commissioner Agee stated my suggestion is Marvin Engineering should buy their own park.

Commissioner Smith stated excuse me Commissioner Agee you are not recognized sweetheart.

Commissioner Brown stated I'm just curious, on Sunday there is a major league that plays at Darby Park. Do they have a permit to play?

Sabrina Barnes asked to play what?

Commissioner Brown stated to play soccer.

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

Commissioner Smith asked and we charge them?

Sabrina Barnes stated correct.

Commissioner Brown stated maybe if we increase the fee a little bit as we increase our fines with our parking. Money tends to divert people to other areas. That's a nice way of doing it. What I found is that these fees that we charge for utilization of our parks are under utilized. So if we raise the bar a little bit then maybe they will go somewhere else like Gardena where the fields aren't being used because they are there from 6 a.m. to the wee hours of the night utilizing that little space and that little space can only take so much. Aren't we in the process of refurbishing Vincent Park?

Sabrina Barnes stated we actually did re-sod Vincent Park last year. The city has an ongoing effort as we are looking for monies for artificial turf.

Just in reference to your comment regarding raising the fees, the city has already raised the fees I believe three or four years ago and with respect to raising the fees, it is not specifically for the soccer players, but it will also impact the football players, the baseball players and anyone who uses a ball diamond or an athletic field.

Commissioner Agee stated my position is if they want to have soccer fields or baseball fields they should supply the fields themselves. It's not up to the City of Inglewood to supply a soccer field for employees, that's not right. As far as the ordinance says that you can't play soccer on a baseball field. We don't have a football field in the City of Inglewood. That is the big problem when you move them they destroy one park then they go to another one and they end up destroying all of the parks in Inglewood. If they are going to destroy the parks, let them play on the dirt. That's the way you solve that problem, they know they are destroying it.

Commissioner Smith asked are you saying we already have some kind of ordinance that says you can not play soccer on a baseball field?

Commissioner Agee stated absolutely.

Sabrina Barnes stated correct. We do have that and we do not permit, so we don't say go play on the baseball field. We have a multi-purpose field at Darby Park which is for football and soccer. We have our soccer fields over at Vincent Park.

Commissioner Smith asked but you actually have an ordinance that specifically says no soccer on the football field and so forth?

Sabrina Barnes stated you cannot play it on a ball diamond; you can only play on the multi field.

Commissioner Smith stated we need to be more specific that they can only play on the soccer field.

Sabrina Barnes stated noted.

Commissioner Smith stated any further questions, Sandra? Do you have anything to say to us?

Sandra Green-Hilliard stated no.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I've listened to all the comments about the soccer players. Being that it is so popular, I know there was talk about putting a specific turf or something that will stay green all the time and talks about putting more fields somewhere else.

I don't think the answer is sending the people away from the city, but actually providing a place for them to play and actually regulate like your saying. Regulations are important and for them to follow them but it's a sport just like any other sport. I think this is a very important issue as we can all see and we need to find answers to all of this and provide safety for all of them and keep our parks green while providing a place for everyone to play. I know it is a growing sport and I know many kids are in AYSO every where except in Inglewood.

Sabrina Barnes stated it is in Inglewood at Vincent Park.

Commissioner Ordonez stated ok. I think if we actually do it through the city, leagues can stop and we can promote the leagues as a good sport not like climbing fences and adults playing outside the area, but playing in the area they are suppose to. I don't know how long it will take to look into the turfs.

Commissioner Smith stated I don't think that Commissioner Agee or any of us were talking about the children. Our basic concern is the adults from outside of our city, tearing up our parks. I think that is the whole problem. It's not that we have our children tearing up the park, its people from outside the City of Inglewood.

Commissioner Giardina stated I don't want to drag this out but I think because these people do actually rent these fields, maybe what we can do is explain to them that there is a need for a deposit to help enforce that they comply with the no cleat ordinance. At that point if there is damage to the field then the deposit is lost. Whoever is giving the deposit will expect to have their money back and if the field is damaged then they won't get it. This is the easiest way for us to do it, because I agree with Commissioner Ordonez that this is a popular sport and it is only going to continue to grow and it is not going to diminish. What we need to do is think futuristically how we can accommodate these people. That is the whole objective here if you have a sport and it's really wonderful and a lot of people are pressing their desire to play it. I just hope we become mindful of being allowed to play but at the same time, play responsibly. Also, there is an issue of the field being destroyed. With the understanding that the deposit will be taken as well as the permission to use the field, it may no longer be available if they fail to comply. In my mind I think this will probably give some cohesiveness and compliance which is what we are after, not to move people out of the City of Inglewood who want to partake in soccer. I think that is outrageous that we would even think of something like that or moving them way. We all live here and we need to find a way to accommodate these people because we all want our kids to partake in whatever sport it is. What if you golf and you are at the park popping up wedges in the park. That's destroying the park too. But I think we should still encourage golf. I think we need to find a way and I think the deposit might be a good way.

Commissioner Smith stated, I think that is an excellent suggestion Commissioner.

But again, I think he is concentrating on people at lunch time coming onto the field with no permits and they are just playing. I think that is where the concentration is, not the people who are renting the field legally right? Am I correct?

Commissioner Agee stated that is no problem. The kids, I have no problem with the kids. It is the adults who are tearing up the field and most of them don't even live in the City of Inglewood. that is the problem we need to work on. That is why I'm a Commissioner today. Because if you really want to get the facts, the little black kids in this city didn't have a place to play. All the fields were tore up when I was appointed Commissioner, which is why I took the job in the first place. I don't have anything against soccer players, I know it is a popular sport and I would never do anything to harm people who play it but we also have football, baseball and basketball. We have other sports. If someone wanted to come in here and establish a stable here to ride horses we can't afford to supply all the needs people have in the city. You have to limit to what your city will take. These people come in here and tear our parks up and they should be limited and there should be an ordinance to stop it. You will never have beautiful parks as long as these people are allowed to play 12 months out of the year.

Sabrina Barnes stated I just want to acknowledge all of your comments. I hear clearly what you are saying. This is not a new dialogue that we are having but hopefully we can come to some resolution where everyone's desires are met and at the same time we are able to allow everyone to do their recreational expression, whatever it may be.

Commissioner Smith stated I think we are all on the same page and I don't think that was recognized. We are on the same page and we are looking at something that is happening at our parks and wanting them to be better. So, Sabrina I think you have all of our suggestions and we appreciate you taking the time to listen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS

1. Capital Improvement Update
2. Park Maintenance – North/South
3. Park Construction
4. Tree Maintenance/Street Landscaping

RECREATION

1. Inglewood Idol
2. Technology Fair
3. Memorial Day Celebration
4. Relocation of Recreation Programs

HUMAN SERVICES

1. Senior Center Temporary Relocation Update
2. Bids for Summer Food and Home Delivered Meals
3. Care Management

COMMUNITY SERVICES