

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, September 7, 2006, at the Lockhaven Community Center located at 11125 111<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Inglewood. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Henry Brown – District IV

### **Staff:**

Sabrina Barnes, Recreation Superintendent  
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary  
Stephanie Baltazar, Administrative Aide  
Pat Bitker, Food Service Manager  
Alma Bryant, Code Enforcement Manager  
Mario Smith, Recreation Supervisor

## **Public Comments**

**Commissioner Smith** stated we are here having our meeting tonight because there are a few people who want changes made at Center Park and before we suggest that those changes be made we need to hear from the community. Right now I'm going to call for public comments concerning Center Park and the soccer fields. Before I do that, let me acknowledge the principal from Worthington Elementary School, Mrs. Marquez and the assistant principal Joyce Kennedy. Public comments please.

### **Public Comments**

**Diane Sambrano** stated good evening Commissioners my name is Diane Sambrano. I want to thank you for doing the agenda as you have. To summarize what some of us have been concerned about for some time, not necessarily changes to the park in a sense but that we'd like some enforcement of the rules that currently exist and that is in regards to cleats and organized play, that type of thing. I have a summary for those who think that I all I do is run around and complain about children. It is my family today and neighbors who are still being negatively impacted and it is the same neighbors that are being negatively impacted today who had lobbied to get bathrooms repaired.

**Commissioner Smith** stated can you close the door please. There are seats over here you can come over here and sit down. You may continue.

**Diane Sambrano** stated we have been the ones who raised the bathroom issues. As you pass by there, you will notice there are signs there because we had asked for the park to be cleared for open space that is why there is no longer a baseball diamond. It's open space for an assortment of things. Unfortunately, we have a group of young people led by adults who claim they are not organized yet you have approximately 100-125 children there every night in uniforms, with cones, with goal posts and then we watch as trophies are given out and yet they claim they are not organized. Not only is that certainly not realistic, but it is also disregarding our rules. Every other group who chooses to use our facility whether it is baseball, football, tennis whoever it is, unfortunately that is not happening over at Center Park. So when the fields are destroyed, that comes out of general funds from the dollars that could be used for other improvements. Among the issues that we have is that the neighbors some of who are here tonight, some who could not make it deal with parents that disregard the rules also not correcting their children after the ball has been hit towards the window, towards a car or even towards a person. Those neighbors are cursed out and no one is corrected. How would you like it if your light fixture is broken, your front window is continuously being hit and you are cursed out because you are coming out to see what was going on. I don't think any of you would appreciate that. In addition, cars are blocking traffic. Just yesterday because of illegal parking, police cars could not go through the street. It took them several minutes because people think that those rules at that time does not apply to them. Our very safety can be put at risk because someone who chooses not to walk from a parked car but chooses to park illegally blocking a driveway or double parking. One of these days it will cause someone's life and I hope it's not ours. In addition I'm sure if staff was allowed to tell you, they would tell you that they are often times mistreated as well. Hopefully you will take that into consideration. Thank you.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you. Those who would like to speak on Center Park, please come up.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated now say that in Spanish.

**Commissioner Smith** stated excuse me for one second.

**Stephanie Baltazar** stated (in Spanish) for those of you who would like to speak please come forward and I can translate for you.

**Thomas Robinson** stated I am a resident here in Inglewood and I am just glad to see the kids having a really good time at Center Park, but also at the same time there are high fences there and sometimes they are all not closed and sometimes a ball comes over my gate and when I take it over and ask them not to kick higher than the fence, it still comes over.

I don't want to stop the kids from playing soccer over there but it's hard for us neighbors. The broken lamps on top of the house. I'd just appreciate if they gave us a little more consideration. Thank you.

**Commissioner Smith** stated while you are speaking on the problems you are having, give us some type of example of what you would like to see there. Is there anyone one else who would like to speak? If so, please come up.

**Carlos Ortiz** stated (in Spanish) good evening. My son trains at the park, but I don't think that is the problem there. If the kids are going to the park, they are going to participate in something positive because it doesn't involve gangs or drugs. I am a part of the Inglewood Neighborhood Watch and I help the community stay clean from drugs, gangs and prostitution. I think that the use of the park after school for the kids to practice soccer is something healthy. As long as I've been there I have never seen any problems or anyone calling the police. The reality is, is that they are paying taxes and so are we. I don't think it is taking anything away from the neighbors. So what is the problem? I am a part of the Neighborhood Watch and all of the people who are here complaining, they are always at Tuesday's Council meetings making complaints as well. I think if we want to have a clean city free of drugs and prostitution and every thing that is negative for kids, then I think it is right for the kids to be able to use the park. That is all, thank you.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked can you ask the people who are here that speak Spanish and live in the City of Inglewood and play at the park to please stand?

**Stephanie Baltazar** asked (in Spanish) will all the parents whose children play soccer at the park and live in the City of Inglewood please stand?

**Commissioner Giardina** stated basically what we asked them is that the people who live in the community that use the soccer field. These are the people who live in the community. Thank you very much.

**Commissioner Smith** stated before we go on, what I would like for each of you to do is take both sides into consideration, those who do not have young children and those who do, before you make any final decisions about what you want to do with the park. Thank you. Next speaker.

**Salvador Iniguez** stated good evening my name is Salvador Rodriguez and I am a parent of a soccer player who uses the field. One of the things that struck me when I first moved here a few years ago was the amount of violence that's in this neighborhood. I think that the people who take their kids to soccer are making a special effort to keep their kids away from other kinds of behaviors and creating a foundation for them. They don't want them to be involved in gangs where they would be a threat to the society they live in. I feel the kids mind their business and they are good kids.

I see some other group that hangs around there and I think we need police enforcement to take care of them. They are there when I take my son and they are not playing. Unless you can provide some other option for these kids we would appreciate it if you would let us continue to play there because like I said before, it is a very troubled neighborhood and we are trying to lay a foundation in our kids so later on in life they are not causing a burden to society and you guys know what I'm talking about.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated Mr. Iniguez can you please repeat that in Spanish so that people who didn't understand you could.

*Mr. Iniguez repeated what he said in Spanish.*

**Commissioner Agee** stated my name is Commissioner Willie Agee, I would like to know if you are aware that we have other activities such as football, baseball, lots of programs that are available in the city for youngsters like the age group you have. Are you aware of that?

**Salvador Iniguez** stated I've seen some over at the park over on Crenshaw.

**Commissioner Agee** stated are you aware of other activities that we have in the Parks and Recreation system in the City of Inglewood other than Center Park?

**Salvador Iniguez** stated yes I am.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Commissioner Agee.

**Commissioner Agee** asked do you participate in them?

**Salvador Iniguez** stated no I don't.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you, you may take your seat sir. Any one else?

**Juana Nolasco** stated (in Spanish) good evening my name is Juana Nolasco and I am a mother of three. Two of my children play soccer at the parks and I just wanted to ask you if you would prefer to see the kids playing in the park together or in the street doing graffiti on homes and breaking car windows? How would you prefer to see the kids? I imagine if you had young children you would want a park for your children as well. A lot of parents have their kids in activities at the park because of obesity or for their health, so I would appreciate for those opposed to it, to consider why we are taking their kids to the park.

**Commissioner Smith** stated so I won't have to keep asking, for those who would like to speak, can you please form a line. (*Stephanie Baltazar repeated that in Spanish*).

**David Hoff** stated hi my name is David Hoff. I just moved here from North Virginia and I would just like to say that the opportunity provided there at the park is for the kids to learn team work, dedication and discipline through soccer. I think you really learn life skills there. I understand there are other sports in the area, but around here soccer seems to be a real popular sport. My son loves it and I hope that I can see it continue.

**Commissioner Smith** stated before we continue we have a special guest who came in, your Councilman Ralph Franklin. I'd also like to introduce you to your Commissioner, Henry Brown.

**Fernando Meza** stated (in Spanish) good evening my name is Fernando Meza and I've lived in the City of Inglewood for 30 years. I have two children and they don't go to schools in Inglewood, nor do they play in the parks in Inglewood because there has always been the problem that all of the Parks Commissioners always want people to play volleyball or football. It's been 10 years that my children have participated in the program they wanted to change to the soccer program, but the commissioners didn't want that. I think that if those kids want to play soccer, you should let them play soccer. I don't understand why the politicians don't concentrate on that as opposed to having graffiti in the parks and drugs because the kids can not defend themselves for broken windows and the neighbors take advantage of them. Nothing happens to the kids who vandalize. On 111<sup>th</sup> and Lemoli there is a house that is full of graffiti and if you go to the parks, it is the same and I know that because I was a part of the Citizens Academy Program. I went on patrols and I saw in the parks the drug addicts, the prostitutes and they don't do anything to them, why? Why can they step all over the kids? I don't think that is right and I appreciate it if you would really think about this and support the children.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Commissioner Giardina would like to state a word or two.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated good evening. My name is Cindy Giardina and I am the Commissioner of the First District. I am just encouraged beyond words tonight for all these people who came out to speak about this park. I've been a probation officer for the County of Los Angeles for 23 years. I have worked the streets of Compton for the last 20 years. Commissioner Brown, myself, Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Agee are the only Commissioners on the Parks and Recreation Commission. We are extremely concerned about the children being able to play that is the reason why we requested this meeting in the community. It is impossible for everyone to speak tonight but it is extremely important for us to understand what is going on in the community. We are gratified that you came to speak and that you brought the kids. We will take into consideration everything that is said here tonight that is the reason why I asked them to stand.

There is an issue as to whether or not we should place more benches and trees in this park and I believe that that is to detour the soccer instead of encouraging it. We will not be able to have a vote per say, but we would like to ask at the end of the meeting that would like to say the condition that it is in with the ability to play soccer or have the park transformed. Maybe at the end of the meeting like in 20 minutes, so if you want to be part of that you need to stay to be incorporated in the vote.

**Commissioner Smith** stated actually I was going to leave that up to Commissioner Brown and Councilman Franklin.

**Councilman Franklin** stated good evening Commissioners. I am a resident of Inglewood; I reside at 3543 W. 111<sup>th</sup> Place. I am a proud parent of three. We have utilized Center Park for as long as I have been here, the last 32 years. We have seen the transition of that park where it became the haven of gang infiltration and we couldn't use the park because there were a number of park benches that were available and domineered the park. We have since had the luxury with the help of the Parks and Recreation Commission who helped us remove some of the benches to install some permanent restrooms so our children would be able to use the facility. The park use to have a baseball diamond and the field was hard enough that we had for use. Soccer wasn't popular back then, but baseball was. Since then the Parks and Recreation Commission made a decision to have the red clay removed and filled with grass. The community has changed. The community has now identified that the grassy area can be used for multipurpose and one of the things that they have utilized it for is soccer. I just left a program where 70 some students had just graduated from a competition and they received various awards which I was there to help pass out. It is definitely a life changing experience. They learn about individual and personal development. They learn about the team effort and realize that they can in fact work together for the positive. These frankenstein monsters that we are dealing with that are defacing our parks, I ask that you consider what the community is saying and that is to leave the park as it is, just have more control on the access and the usage of the park. I have even raised the issue and concern of having some kind of video taping so that you can over and see that particular park and facility so that way if we do have some undesirables the staff people at Darby Park which man that park can observe that and take appropriate action not only during the regular work week but on the weekends and holidays as well. I really appreciate your work on that.

**Commissioner Smith** stated we can take a couple more comments from the community.

**Frank Lowman** stated my name is Frank Lowman. I live on 113<sup>th</sup> Street and have been a long time resident. I was at the Town Hall Meeting Councilman Franklin had I believe a week ago.

The Inglewood School District has agreed to allow Parks and Recreation, correct me if I am wrong Councilman, for night time or open use of the south end of the football field and it would be lit at night because there is money for the lighting. If there is a crowd going on, those who want to play soccer should be able to go there also. I don't know what the plans are, but can you speak to that.

**Councilman Franklin** stated Morningside High is what you mean. We have a board member from the Inglewood Unified School District who has reached out to the community to open up the campus to expand the need for public use such as for soccer and football practice.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you. I believe all the Commissioners have spoken except for Commissioner Brown.

**Commissioner Brown** stated I was hoping that tonight we would hear some solutions. We have heard the story about Center Park, but I think one of the key things I have heard tonight is the enforcement of the rules and if we can get residents, the babies and the parents to work together to enforce the rules and remember that is only a small park. One of our big needs in this district is for space. Now we hear at the City Council meetings talks about all the expansions of businesses, I want to talk about expansion of space for our kids and our seniors. That is what is on our table. We know the story, we know the problem but we are doing the best we can with the little space we have. One of the things that I thought that could happen that I think Councilman Franklin talked about it is enforcement and utilizing the staff from Darby Park. Our staff in the Parks and Recreation Department is extended and we can only do so much. I'm joyful to see parents here because if you are starting with the babies then we will have a real serious community. Just look at the world soccer league, we have a program that is nationally recognized. I am a football player and a baseball player, but this park for whatever reason as I even drove in tonight I saw people playing soccer and that gratifies me, because those people could be somewhere else. We are hoping that we can come up with some kind of conclusion and that we can come up with some type of feasible plan which will be proposed to the school. I am very happy to see the principal from the school that is near that park here, because that park has services but we can only do so much. I'm gratified like my colleague says that you are here tonight and we are hoping that we are able to come up with a viable solution.

**Commissioner Smith** stated I know we haven't done a good job of translating everything that has been said, but for those of you who speak English will you please give those who don't speak English a summary of what has been said here tonight. There are two other people who I would like to hear from tonight who work closely to the park and that is the principal Mrs. Marquez and her vice principal.

**Mrs. Marquez** stated I was invited here today by the Parks and Recreation Department. I didn't quite know what the topic was going to be. I was told that it was going to talk about Worthington not being able to use the park. I'm glad that that is not the topic. I also do want to say that whether the soccer team that is there is organized or whether it is not organized, I see the difference in my students. My students are coming back and it is helping them build character. They are learning how to play as a team and they are learning how to share. Yes we still have our challenges with the students, but the kids will be kids. The district has worked closely with me and they have provided us with a campus supervisor for our campus because of the problems in the community. I work closely with Juan Torres; we have our Chief of Police from Inglewood Unified here, Kevin Scorggins. We are all trying to work together for the betterment of the students and I just feel that we need to come to some happy medium. I know that there are some issues, I get phone calls everyday about it but we are working together. But if we take the park away from the kids I'm afraid as to where my kids will go. I don't know what will happen with them. Hopefully we can work together and work out a happy medium. Thank you.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Mrs. Kennedy, can we hear from you?

**Joyce Kennedy** stated good evening everyone, my name is Joyce Kennedy and I am the newly appointed Vice-Principal for Worthington School. So I can't come to you as a resident or as a long time member of the community but what I can come to you as is a parent. I do have children and my children have always participated in sports and if I was anyone of these parents and had my children participating in sports, I would want them to be as close to home as possible. So if the services that my children are not available at the other parks throughout the neighborhood, then if this park is available and it is a public place then that is where I want my kids to be.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you. Like I said in this room we have the Police Chief from the Inglewood Unified School District. Would you like to say anything? Stand up so everyone can see who you are. Do you have anything to add?

**Kevin Scorggins** stated no.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Sergeant Torres.

**Juan Torres** stated thank you for the promotion. I am Officer Juan Torres. I am in charge of this area, District 4. I can only speak – we were invited thank you very much. I also have other officers here, that I'd like to introduce. We have Sergeant Arriaga and Sergeant Kirk and our anti-crime team also. Our anti-crime team is the officers that you might not see in uniform and what they do is they concentrate on problem areas.

You can give their team almost all the credit for giving you guys a significant decrease in the amount of gang activities that goes on at Center Park. The other day I went by Center Park as I do everyday and I go by there and I see what I would love to see at every park, the children playing. Whatever they are playing, they're playing. They are not involved in criminal activity, they are involved in something healthy, educational, something other than the street life that we well know is out there and we also have to credit our team for that. The other two detectives I want to introduce is Detective Tripp and Detective Miller. Again they are detectives and any intelligence that comes into our station; they are the ones who investigate that. Any kind of gang involved crime, they investigate that. Any questions for these officers or me, we will be here after the meeting. One thing I do want to say as Ms. Marquez said earlier, it is very important that we all work together here, regardless of what it is. A lot of people think about the police as law, there's the police again. But it is very important that we all understand one thing, the Police Department, not Juan Torres, but the Police Department needs to understand what the community needs and in return we as the Police Department need to know what the community wants in order for us to have communication. No more negativity. If you want to know, I wish I could get this many people out for a meeting. So again a lot of you in this room, you know who you are, keep doing what you are doing and those of you step up and help your community out.

**Commissioner Smith** stated we have one more guest Lynette Lewis from the Planning Commission, would you stand please. Parking and traffic, I'm sorry about that. I would like to thank all of you for coming tonight. I'm sorry Ms. Sambrano, I did say you'd have a chance to come back up, can you come up please.

**Diane Sambrano** stated Commissioners I want you to take into consideration that no where did anyone suggest that we ever close this park and I'm really, really offended that some people run around and say that I want to close the park since it was my mother, my father, the neighbors across the street who created the park, who lobbied to get the bathrooms and all of that. So I would hope that when you hear what our concerns are, that you understand that it's not because we don't like children, we are the ones who helped get the \$3 million in textbooks and I could go on, but I won't. I guess my concern is that you take into consideration those of us who worked to create it are not here to destroy it as so many chose to characterize us.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Ms. Sambrano.

**Diane Sambrano** stated can you translate that?

**Commissioner Smith** stated you remember what I said, those of you who speak English will you translate for those who don't afterwards. We can't translate every individual. Commissioner Agee would like to say a word.

**Commissioner Agee** stated since I was so rudely missed asked to speak, my name is Willie Agee and I am the Parks and Recreation Commissioner in the City of Inglewood. I'm Commissioner at Large. I've been working for kids, all kids for the last 5 ½ years. I'm worried about the little black kids who play football who don't have a park to play in, in the City of Inglewood. I'm not trying to stop the kids from playing soccer. It's the people in the neighborhood that are complaining about the kids over using the park. That's the information that I've been given. I would like to see black kids with football fields. We have 2 soccer fields at Centinela Park; we don't have a football field in the City of Inglewood. I'm sure you are worried about that too. I'm sure you are worried about the little black kids who don't play soccer have a place to play. You see the skate board parks, I'm the reason why you have the skate board parks three skate board parks in the city, and I fought for those.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Commissioner Agee can you please wrap that up for me sweetheart.

**Commissioner Agee** stated no, I'm going to finish.

**Commissioner Smith** stated well finish whatever you are going to say in the next minute or two.

**Commissioner Agee** stated I know that soccer is one of the most popular sports in the world. I'm not trying to kill soccer but I do want a level playing field. Thank you. I don't care if you keep the park. I don't live in this area, and you can have it as long as you want to. If that's what you want.

*At this time, Commissioner Agee walked out of the meeting and did not return.*

**Commissioner Smith** stated again, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out and expressing yourselves. Now we have to continue on with our business at hand but we will take everything into consideration and like they said we will be here after the meeting to take any of your concerns. Thank you, Sabrina Barnes.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated good evening everyone. My name is Sabrina Barnes and I am here on behalf of our Director Kevin Hawkins of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Thank you for coming out and giving your input on the area concerns.

At this point we would like to continue on with the Director's Report. We have our division staff supervisors and they will be reporting on the various activities, facilities and programs. As a Department, we are in charge of and oversee park maintenance, community beautification as well as senior services and recreation. I will start first with Alma Bryant; she is our Code Enforcement Manager.

**Alma Bryant** stated hi, I'm Alma Bryant and I am the Code Enforcement Manager. I'm also responsible for the graffiti section. Whenever you have any problems with graffiti feel free to call our hotline number.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked can she translate that? She's just going to give them a number.

**Commissioner Smith** stated excuse me, please you guys that speak English translate. The meeting is already an hour and since some of you do speak English, we can't translate every single thing that is being said, ok. So I would appreciate if you would translate later on. Thank you. You may continue Sabrina.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated Alma was giving out the graffiti hot line number.

**Alma Bryant** stated we only have 6 graffiti crew members and they do not see all the graffiti. We would really appreciate it if you guys could call in and assist us when you see graffiti on a building, the sidewalk, a street pole wherever. If you give us a call, we will have it removed in 24 hours. The phone number is 310-412-8739.

**Commissioner Smith** asked Commissioner Brown any questions?

**Commissioner Brown** stated no.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Commissioner Giardina?

**Commissioner Giardina** stated no.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Sabrina.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated Pat Bitker is our Chef Manager at our Senior Center. She will be speaking on behalf of the Human Services division.

**Pat Bitker** stated good evening. Many of you may know that the Senior Center on Locust, if you have any grandparents or parents or even yourself, the senior center that has been on Locust for decades. I'm not sure how long it has been there, but it has recently been moved. The building on Locust has been closed and we have moved into a temporary facility at Centinela Park at the Veteran's Building. So if you have parents or grandparents or you yourself are a senior, please know that we welcome you to join us at our new location. Just a few things that I wanted to mention. One of the things that we had to do when we closed Locust Street was close our central kitchen of which I was manager. We have begun having our food delivered and while there has been some difficulties, we are working well together, we are fixing the problems as they come up and the food has been quite sensible to the seniors. I think we are going to have a good partnership with these people.

Additionally we have welcomed the arrival of a new truck that helps us deliver meals to the seniors. We do 600 meals a day and we deliver to homebound seniors, a hot meal a day through a partnership with the County of Los Angeles and the City of Inglewood we now have another truck to help us deliver the hot food to the seniors.

There are a number of contracts being approved. Contracts such as the cab company, the nutrition contract, the care management contract, the free summer lunch and after school snack program and Be Well which is an exercise and nutrition program for seniors. Just in case people don't know, lunches that are provided are subsidized during the school year and we also provide snacks in the summer at the parks. We've worked hard to get the word out that those lunches are available at the parks and they are free, so if you didn't know this and you have children at home please join us next summer and have your kids come and we will be happy to feed them.

I also have the Parks Division report. They asked me to read their report and it seems lengthy. I hope they aren't angry with me, because I'm going to cut it down a bit.

They wanted to highlight a number of things that they do in the division that go above and beyond with what they are typically charged with.

Park Maintenance and Construction which has the responsibility of maintaining the beauty of 100 acres of parks and green areas throughout the city. They are also responsible for other things such as setting up the Jazz Festival, the Martin Luther King Festival and Market Street Festival, etc. They have been working hard to make those as successful as they have been. They set up tables and chairs, stands and stages and the clean up afterwards. They also have reseeded fields A & B at the soccer stadium and should be reopening in mid October. They have also installed some picnic arbors and a little league snack bar at Rogers Park. Irrigation at Florence Ave, Imperial Branch Library as well as Darby.

The tree section is responsible 26,000 trees in the City of Inglewood and they have been working hard at keeping those trimmed as well as all the parks and center medians. They remove broken limbs, replant trees, root prune. Thank you.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated thank you Pat. That last report was from our Parks Administration Division. Again they are charged with the upkeep and the maintenance of all of our parks and green space. Lastly, we will have our report from the Recreation Division. Mario Smith is the supervisor for Eastside Programs and Facilities not only Darby Park but Center Park and the Lockhaven Center here.

**Mario Smith** stated good evening everyone. I will be reporting on recreation this evening.

## Summer Activities Recap

Summer Arts Camp Performance - On Saturday, August 5, the Summer Performing Arts Camp delivered their final performance to the public. The event titled "All That Talent Competition" was held in the outdoor amphitheater at Ed Vincent Park. Over 300 residents, families, and friends came out to see the performance. This year 55 youth ages 5-18 participated in the camp. The event showcased each individual child's talent with an emphasis on singing, acting, and dancing. Highlighting the event were students from the Digital Video and Production camp. The students enrolled in the camp received hands-on training in broadcast camera operations and these students actually filmed the live performance. The event was a huge success and kudos to all the youth involved.

Movies in the Park - Also on Saturday, August 5, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services and Public Works Departments together sponsored another evening of cinema under the stars. More than 300 residents came out to see "Kicking and Screaming" on the big screen at Darby Park on August 5. The viewing of "Yours, Mine and Ours" was scheduled for August 12, but was cancelled due to a suspicious package that was left in the parking lot at the park.

Summer Day Camp - On Friday, August 11, the Department hosted a Day Camp Fun Day, at Rogers Park, marking the ending days of the City's 2006 Summer Day Camp program which served over 400 children. Campers from Darby, Ed Vincent and Rogers Parks and the Lockhaven Community Center spent a fun-filled day participating in interactive games, arts and crafts, and water activities. A great time was had by all including staff and volunteers who entertained the campers during a Staff vs. Volunteers basketball game. The volunteers won. We are looking to expanding our day camp services and anticipate offering a winter camp during the Christmas break period and a Spring Camp during spring break – 1 to 2 week sessions.

## Traditional Programming

Pre-school - The Department offers early childhood development classes for children ages two to five years old. The program provides an excellent recreation experience that includes creative arts and crafts, rhythms, finger plays, dance, storytelling, share time and free play. In addition, outdoor play activity, refreshment time, field trips, picnics, and various activities are offered. Classes are offered at Darby Park, Lockhaven Community Center, Rogers Park, Siminski Park and Edward Vincent Jr. Park. The class here at Lockhaven Center is offered Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The same applies to the class offered at Darby. Maria Ramirez is the instructor here.

## Sports and Physical Activities

Baseball - August 28 marked the end of the youth baseball season. The season culminated with the presentation of awards and pictures. Hot dogs, chips and sodas were prepared and given to all in attendance.

Football - Registration for the Flag Football Program now underway through September 23. Flag football is a seasonal activity offered to boys and girls, ages 5 to 13. This program offers an atmosphere that provides flag football instruction with emphasis on sportsmanship. Boys and girls, 5 to 13 years of age, who wish to participate in the flag football program, must complete this registration form and return it to either Rogers, Darby or Vincent Park, The registration fee is \$30.00 for Inglewood Residents and \$34.00 for Non-Residents. Proof of residency is required. Practice will be held once a week (after 5:00 p.m.) and games will be played on Saturdays.

Field Maintenance - The Soccer fields at Vincent Park have been closed for maintenance and will re-open in October.

Tennis - Last month we hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Inglewood Summer Tennis Tournament. We had 76 total entries in 8 events. August also saw the return of Friday Night Live tennis doubles event.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior Tennis Tournament is scheduled for the weekends of October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

We will be holding computer classed here at Lockhaven. There will be morning, afternoon and evening classes. The afternoon classes will be geared more towards the after school kids that are at the local schools. The morning and evening classes are more for adults. For more information call Darby Park (310) 412-5391.

We are looking to offer adult/senior activities. We are looking to offer bridge, dominos, jewelry making, and a walkers club. We already have a walking club at Darby Park with over 100 members. We are looking to have something like that here in the Lockhaven Community and also a chess club and much more. For more information, call Darby Park. Classes will begin in October. Thank you.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Mario. Commissioner Giardina, any questions?

**Commissioner Giardina** stated no.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Commissioner Brown.

**Commissioner Brown** stated not a question but I just want to comment that after you hear the report as I said earlier this staff does so many things and if you ever pick up the publications at City Hall you will find out that Parks and Recreation is doing something all of the time. One of my big contentions is that the community is still not informed enough because there is something that's going on in Parks and Recreation 24-7. Even going down Crenshaw, when you look at those beautiful trees, they are involved. So if we would stay the course then we can make this city a very great place to live. I always compliment them on a job well done.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Commissioner Brown, Sabrina.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated briefly, to receive information about our Department typically the community bulletin comes out quarterly. The fall bulletins I believe have been sent out to the residents and if you have not received one, you can pick one up at city hall, the library or any recreation center. Also to learn more about exactly what we do and how we do it, you can visit our website at [www.cityofinglewood.org](http://www.cityofinglewood.org), you can click on our Department and be able to find out more about our Department, facilities and programs we offer, where parks are located, and how to access certain senior and elderly programs. That information is on the website. And of course you can contact us directly at our main office at 310-412-8750.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Sabrina. Are there any further staff reports?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated no.

**Commissioner Smith** stated I am looking at our agenda and it says surveys, do you have a survey for the community to fill out?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated I will speak briefly about the survey. We are interested in hearing from you regarding a variety of matters, to let us know what your priorities are. As we look for funding or opportunities to expand recreational opportunities to serve the community, we'd like to hear from you. Tell us what is most important, what's least important. It is you the actual receivers of the service and we are asking for your help. Please complete the survey. The basic questions that are asked are what park do you go to, when, why. Do you go to parks in the City of Inglewood? If you don't, tell us why you don't go to the parks. Also we want to know what is important such as basketball courts or bicycling. Tell us exactly what you think. If you want to ask us something or comment please go ahead and do so.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Sabrina. And while they are passing the surveys out, there is something that I didn't approve. I didn't get proper approval of the minutes of August 3, 2006.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I make a motion to approve the minutes.

**Commissioner Brown** stated he second.

**Commissioner Smith** stated it has been moved and second that we approve the minutes of August 3, 2006, all in favor?

*Commissioner Giardina and Brown stated I.*

**Commissioner Smith** stated minutes approved.

#### Unfinished Minutes

None.

#### Commissioner Comments

**Commissioner Brown** stated December is a very meaningful month in District 4, so I am asking the neighbors to get prepared early for the Christmas decorating contest, so that when I come through, I'll be able to judge 1000 homes this year. We want to give you an early push and we hope to be working to get better prizes or awards. It is a very festive time and I really enjoy it and we just want to give you an early warning to start thinking about decorating your homes for Christmas.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Giardina.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated again I would just like to thank everyone for coming tonight, I think it has been very profound this experience incorporating the community. I know our commission meetings are some what dull and we take care of quite a bit of business. There are so many things going on in the Parks and Recreation division, trimming the trees, making sure our children have the resources in the park, activities that are important, the jazz festival, a lot of activities that go on in Inglewood come through this Commission. We appreciate the attendance tonight, it's almost overwhelming to see this many people out and concerned. I think Inglewood is really a very progressive city and I just hope that we may continue to have this kind of interaction with the community and the commission and thank you again for coming out tonight.

**Commissioner Brown** stated she forgot to mention her own district meeting which will take place tomorrow evening and even though you showed up here; you can come down there to.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated at the ICOP Center located at Manchester Blvd and Crenshaw, there is a trailer there in the Big Lots parking lot in District 1.

I represent District 1. Mr. Price is out of town at a very important event in San Diego so he asked me to represent him tonight. Eloy Morales also wanted to be here tonight, but he had his own personal family emergency tonight, he plans to attend tomorrow night. Anyone who is interested in District 1's meeting tomorrow night you are more than welcome and please, please feel free to come and attend. Thank you.

**Commissioner Smith** stated and by the way it's concerning another park for the children.

If there are no further comments or questions, I would like to adjourn the meeting of September 7, 2006 at 8:15 p.m.

**Commissioner Brown** stated I move that the meeting stand adjourned Commissioner.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I second.

**Commissioner Smith** stated it has been moved and second, all in favor?

*Commissioner Brown and Giardina stated I.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.