

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, May 3, 2007, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Brenda J. Payne – District I
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Raena Banks-Neal – District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Acting Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Alma Bryant, Code Enforcement Manager
Ramon Mata, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor
Sikizi Allen, Senior Program Specialist

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Brown stated the minutes will be accepted with necessary corrections.

*Commissioner Brown made a motion and was seconded by Commissioner Neal.
Motion Carried.*

Public Comments

Ms. Bell stated good evening. Well I wanted to speak under Human Services Item 4 (III), the bid opening for the new caterer. The food that is delivered to my cousin is pretty good. Sometimes she doesn't want to eat the food because she doesn't have an appetite when she takes certain medicines. Basically I don't understand why you want to get rid of the caterer because she likes the food, especially the chicken with the rice.

Sandra Green-Hilliard stated can you give us your name and address please?

Ms. Bell stated my name is Bell and I am going to give you my P.O BOX.

Sandra Green-Hilliard stated ok.

Ms. Bell stated P.O BOX 2763 Inglewood, CA 90305

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated good evening commissioners. For Commissioner Payne, hello and welcome, I'm Sabrina Barnes and Commissioner Banks-Neal I've seen you in passing. So again hello, commissioners! As you know, April 20th was Kevin Hawkins' last day and I've been appointed Acting Director for Parks, Recreation and Community Services. With that, we have lots to report on tonight; Madam Chair if you don't mind, I would like to hold off on Item 4 (i) and 4 (ii) and speak on those last and let our Parks Section go first.

Commissioner Smith stated that's fine.

Sabrina Barnes stated and actually, Ramon is caught in traffic, so Rita can speak on it or we can come back to him in the event that he arrives. Whatever your pleasure?

Commissioner Smith stated are you prepared Rita?

Rita Gardner stated jokingly, unfortunately he has all of the documents that were to be brought forth to you. I can report some of the items, I don't have the tree trimming schedule for May and June but I can give you an update on the Capital Improvement Projects. Here he comes. Perfect timing!

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Rita.

Rita Gardner stated ok.

Commissioner Agee stated (laughs jokingly) going right into the fire.

Ramon Mata stated good evening.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Vincent Park Restroom Construction Project – the project is ongoing. They have sewers and it looks pretty good. We are looking forward to completion by the end of this month.
- The Girl Scout Building Demolition Project – Teresa Kneedler is the Project Manager. The specifications are almost complete. After the specs are approved the project must go through a bid and award process, which can take several months. A tentative schedule will be provided to you when the specs are approved and the project goes to advertise for bid.

- Playground Rubber Matting – We were planning a walk-thru with the vendor but the appointment was cancelled. We plan to reschedule - set-up another appointment to inspect the rubber matting.
- Circle Park Water Feature Installation Project – plans and drawings are still pending, as soon as we get more information we'll give back to Commission.

Tree Section

The tree trimming schedule is as follows:

District 1: We are working on West 81st Street from 8th Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard; District 2 on East Hyde Park Boulevard from East Welton Way to North Long Street; District 3, South Truro Avenue from West Arbor Vitae to West Hardy Street; and District 4, West 106th Street from Yukon Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard and West 107th Street from Yukon Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard. That is the tree trimming schedule for May/June.

The tree trimmers are as follows: District 1, Rafael Jimenez and Valentin Mata with one Tower Truck; District 2, Gilbert Del Real and Edward Jones; District 3, Filiberto Campos and Juan Ruelas; District 4, Jose Gonzalez and Jose Reyes. For stump removing, Angel Hernandez and Jose Campos.

Thank you very much. Any questions?

Commissioner Smith stated (clears throat) excuse me. Rita.

Rita Gardner stated yes I'd like to expand on some of the Capital Improvement Projects, as I mentioned before in last month's meeting,

- Vincent Park Restroom Construction Project is almost complete. Hopefully by the beginning of June it will be complete. If you take a tour over to Vincent Park, you will see that the walls are up, the plumbing and sewer lines have been complete. The roof is almost there, we are waiting for them to put the shingles on. Hopefully, the completion date will be by the beginning of June. Please take a ride over there and see the progress because it has been a long standing project for maybe the last 5 years. You will see progress and the contractor worked earnestly to try to complete this project as quick as possible. We are quite pleased because they are working with us and we are working with them.
- Girl Scout Building Demolition is coming up soon. We are working with Public Works so that we can have the demolition done as soon as possible. We are going out to bid. As soon as they demolish the building, then we can set-up a trailer. We have been meeting with ITC; they are

trying to get AT&T to put up the wires. We have identified a location of where the wires have to be relayed because they are going to demolish the building and they need to have lights at the tennis courts as well as all diamonds; and the wiring will allow us to have this remote control feature. We worked with Public Works and had a contractor out, shortly we will have the wiring relayed and the demolition will take place; and then we'll have everything up and going.

- In terms of the replacement of the playground rubber matting, we're working with the L.A County Regional Parking and Open Space District to get funding for the matting replacement on various parks in Inglewood. The matting is really worn and I believe it's beyond its life-span of 15 years and some of the park locations have gone beyond that span.
- Circle Park Water Feature Installation – we are working with Public Works so that they can begin implementing some drawings and specs so that we can start the installation of the fountain at Circle Park. Any Questions?

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated yes I'd like to congratulate someone from the Parks, although he was a little bit late. I can understand why you are late. But I want to congratulate you and recognize the service that you have given to the City of Inglewood Department of Parks and Recreation and I wish you the best of luck over at your new city.

Ramon Mata stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Payne.

Commissioner Payne stated no comments.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Banks

Commissioner Banks stated no comments.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Brown

Commissioner Brown stated I would like to comment briefly, especially in terms to tree trimming. Staff does such a good job. As I was making notes, I am going to work on a recommendation for them on behalf of the city as an unsung hero because not only do they go out and do the work to keep our community beautiful, but there have been emergencies where they have gone out to cut trees down following a citing of a little tornado. They have gone beyond the call of duty, with sometimes not the best of equipment. That will be part of my presentation to the Inglewood Ministers' Association.

Rita Gardner states I'd like to add that during that one windstorm that took place a couple of weeks ago, within an hour we had 16 calls where trees fell on cars, blocking streets. Our guys were on it - they worked until 11 at night. They worked from 6 in the morning to 11 o'clock that night. So thank you so much for pointing that out.

Commissioner Smith stated Rita; I have one question about the Circle Park Water Feature. I thought the specs were already done on that.

Rita Gardner stated we had preliminary drawings, no specs. Public Works came up with some real preliminary schematics. It was maybe about 4 years ago that we looked at it. We took those schematics and we gave them to a contractor/vendor just to see what kind of cost estimate they would be able to provide us with. They gave us some good cost estimates.

Commissioner Smith stated ok. How soon will those specs be done?

Rita Gardner stated we are working with Public Works and I believe. Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated right now the Circle Park Water Feature is under consideration by Administration and the Public Works Director. They are working in concert with District 1 Councilwoman Giardina. We are actually awaiting further direction, we are corresponding with Public Works but I also am aware now that she is providing some additional input. So we are not sure if the scope is going to change or what it is going to look like right now, but we are waiting for additional information.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Rita. Thank you Sabrina. Shall we continue?

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you Juan, thank you Rita and thank you Ray very much. At this particular time, we will here from the Recreation Division, you will hear from Arrick Turner; Arrick is the supervisor of Westside facilities, programs and activities.

Arrick Turner stated good evening. I will start with the updates.

Updates

The renewal agreement between the City of Inglewood and Training and Research Foundation (TRF) went before City Council on April 24 and was approved. This agreement is for a three year extension of the Head Start/State Preschool Child Development Program at Rogers Park.

City Council also approved the item to replace the carpet in the IPAL Office at the Veteran's Memorial Building.

Summer Activities

Final plans are being made for the 2007 Summer Day Camp Programs. This year the department will offer four exciting camp experiences for youth, ages 5 and up. Each camp is an exciting recreational and educational all-day program for the children. Kids investigate a different theme in each session as well as participate in periods of arts & crafts, exercise, dance and more. In conjunction with the hands-on explorations of the various themes includes: "That's Entertainment," "Wide World of Sports," "Exploration Station," and "Be My Guest". Children also will enjoy swimming, supervised outdoor activities and two field trips. Summer Day Camp is offered in two 4-week sessions with an extended day program offered before and after camp. Session 1 will run June 25th to July 20th and Session 2 will run July 23rd to August 17th. The hours of camp are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Extended Care is available from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$200 for residents and \$216 for non-residents. The cost for the extended childcare is an additional \$49 for residents and \$56 for non-residents. Registration will take place on May 21 for Inglewood residents and May 28 for non-residents.

Annual Memorial Day Celebration

The City's Annual Memorial Day Celebration will take place on Monday, May 28, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in the South Mall area of City Hall.

Sports

Youth Baseball and Swimming lessons will open for registration on June 11th. Enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis. The cost for baseball is \$30 for residents and \$34 for non-residents. Swimming lessons are \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents.

Inglewood Games 2

On Saturday, April 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Darby Park was our City of Inglewood, Inglewood Games 2 which is a skating competition. Lamont Jordan of Team Took, which is Inglewood's own skate team, took 1st place in the California State Freestyle Championship.

Annual Health, College, Career and Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 21st our Annual Health, College, Career and Earth Day Celebration was held over at Rogers Park. Over 400 patrons visited the different health and career booths throughout the day; the event was a huge success.

First Annual Juneteenth Celebration

On Saturday, June 9th, 2007 the First Annual Juneteenth Celebration will be held at Edward Vincent Park Amphitheater from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The theme is "A Message through Music". Local churches, schools, recreational programs and community talent will perform.

Any questions?

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Arrick. Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated no questions.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Payne.

Commissioner Payne stated none.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Brown stated just a couple of comments. One is the Health and Earth Day Celebration; I had an opportunity to attend. I had myself checked out, and I think a lot of individuals should have. I thought it was well received and somewhere with the flow of people, we lost a lot of counts of getting people to the registration area and getting proper attendance counts. But I really enjoyed myself and I had the opportunity to take in a couple of basketball games and really looked at our young people who are officiating games and how well they do it. There are two brothers who really excel. They are very good and possibly look to be professional officials; and I just want some more information regarding the Juneteenth Celebration that you and I talked about.

Arrick Turner stated jokingly, would you like to come on over?

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Banks.

Commissioner Banks-Neal stated just on the Inglewood Games; I didn't get a chance to go to the Inglewood Games, but I saw the Inglewood team practice and they are very good. It's amazing the different tricks and things they do, so I just want to commend you all. I know Commissioner Agee had a lot to do with the skate park and has been working with you guys because the kids over there have been developing some skills; and we can really put these people on the map in an area where a lot of young black kids aren't really into extreme sports. I appreciate that.

Commissioner Smith stated Arrick, for the Juneteenth Celebration were the local churches receptive to your letters?

Arrick Turner stated the local churches and businesses that I did contact were receptive to the Juneteenth Celebration.

Commissioner Smith stated so where did you get most of your money from, the local businesses or churches?

Arrick Turner stated we did fundraisers.

Commissioner Smith stated ok, you will need to let us know ahead of time so that we can help you.

Arrick Turner stated yes, will do.

Commissioner Smith stated Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. Just on the lines of the skate park, I do want to announce that we actually are proud that we have 3 skate parks; we have the one at Darby Park, we also have the one at Rogers Park and one at Vincent Park. We anticipate in the coming years of moving the Skate Jam around, or letting each site have their own, so that all of the parks will get the same or increased exposure and participation.

Thank you Arrick; at this time we will hear from our Human Services Section, we have Sikizi Allen, Project Director for the Inglewood Senior Center.

Sikizi Allen stated good evening! Hello commissioners! First I would like to start off with the April-May activities and programs. The month of April we had National Volunteer Week, and we celebrated at our 3 main meal sites which are the Inglewood, Hawthorne and the Lennox site. We were able to give all of our volunteers t-shirts and a city bag and have them go through socialization, but the highlight is that they really appreciated it so I would like to thank our volunteers for supporting our cause.

For May. It's Older Americans Month, so we are celebrating Older Americans Month throughout the month of May; and the Mayor and the City Council have already provided us with the proclamation and we will have them at our new site. Artis Spriggs is Volunteer of the Year. She was selected by her peers. Tomorrow, Cinco de Mayo, we will celebrate at Lennox. It has become the annual event and I think that this is the fourth year that Inglewood, Hawthorne, and the Meal Program has worked with and celebrate at the Lennox site. So we are looking to have a fabulous time with a fantastic meal and decorations at the site. (*Cell Phone Rings*)

For your information, our County contract for our Nutrition Program, Care Management and Transportation covers Lennox and Hawthorne also.

Senior Center Update

We met our new project manager who will oversee the renovations at the Veteran's building. The meetings with the Public Works Staff have been brief; we meet every Tuesday to touch basis. A work plan is being developed so that we all will be able to follow it and stay on course with improvements. We will try to minimize the disruption of repairs during the renovations.

Commissioner Smith stated bids for the new caterer, yesterday?

Caterer Bid Opening

Yesterday the bid was opened for vendors that would like to apply to serve our meal program; and we've actually added a clause to the bidding package that we will not just accept the lowest bidder but they need to have some standards that they have to give in order for us to select them, stipulations if you may. We've learned a lot, that's why through the bidding process we have included that language that indicates that we must do better.

Commissioner Smith stated "Be Well" Graduation.

Be Well

Today, we celebrated our "Be Well" class; 4 months intensive and 6 months of maintenance at Darby Park where the classes were being held in partnership with Kaiser which helped in funding it. Today we had our celebration and luncheon, it was really exciting; and we had at least 4 participants that had 100 % attendance. We had one that lost 20 pounds, and we added a new award category that we added for couples because we had four couples. So it's really a highlight, they received a fitness badge from the White House. We had a good turnout, and received a good 30 participants in this particular event. What we learned today, we didn't know until today, that Kaiser is willing to continue to fund the program. That was grand news because this was the fourth class and we are comfortable with the things we find; and Kaiser has really been impressed with their dollars in the program and announced it today that they will fund the program for another year.

One Time Only Money

We are looking to receive a total of \$72,301 for one time only money.

Commissioner Smith stated can you repeat that again please?

Sikizi Allen stated \$72,301. It will purchase the delivery truck for the meal program, furniture, laptops and consultant services for the Care Management Program. There was an official \$300,000 from the County of One Time Only

Money and they offered it for proposals for Title III E Family Care givers support funds and we presented the proposals for the Care Giver Fair in June. One Time Only Money must be spent by June 30th of the Fiscal year, and we have not received approval for that yet but we have requested funds for a Care Giver Fair.

Grevillea Art Park and Mural Restoration Project

On April 25th, they began the task of hanging the mural panels on the new wall, and also on April 18th the Citizens' Historic Site Preservation Committee began planning the Dedication event, which will be held on August 11th. There are also several Committee members that stuffed press kits and are working on a special event planned for the mural project.

Any questions?

Commissioner Smith stated any questions? Commissioner Agee are there any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated yes I do. I want to congratulate you on doing such a fabulous job and I am glad to see the department and catering getting the food out. I don't think the senior citizens like the food that that fellow is producing and I am also glad that you are not going to except the lowest bid because in my opinion it doesn't pay for it. Keep up the good work.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Banks?

Commissioner Banks stated I just wanted to know if maybe the seniors can be engaged on some level in picking the caterer or engaging of people coming in and maybe just like a representative or two as far as a food taste test?

Sikizi Allen stated yes, we have seniors that participate.

Commissioner Banks stated and you will be able to do that for this.

Sikizi Allen stated yes.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Banks. Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Brown stated one question is, since the transition from the Locust facility, how has the attendance been at the new site as far as seniors?

Sikizi Allen stated attendance is lower than in the past.

Commissioner Brown stated and what seems to be the major complaint?

Sikizi Allen stated I don't think it comes down to one thing; it's the numbers, transitions, the move and how we relocated and our adjusting in the building. I truly believe that attendance is building; our activity coordinator is planning a lot of trips and having a lot of outings that they like. The afternoon crowd is building, so I think that, yes, we are building; I truly want the attendance to go up.

Commissioner Smith stated let me ask you a question. How efficient is the transportation there in getting them to and from on a timely basis?

Sikizi Allen stated yes, I would say that we have had some concerns regarding the vans.

Commissioner Smith stated yeah. The last time I was over there, they were complaining about the vans being too slow; so I am wondering if you guys have made the corrections to that.

Sikizi Allen stated I can say that Thomas Uwal, the Transportation Manager, has been spending time at the sites and working with the drivers and with the assistants. So I can see the coordination is better, but we do have a major problem with our cabs; and when we have a major problem like waiting for a long time, then we will ask our transit vans to pick them up. Sometimes it throws them off, but we try to accommodate them and not let seniors wait too long.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Payne.

Commissioner Payne stated no questions.

Commissioner Smith stated I have one question. You mentioned something about a meeting every Tuesday for the Veteran's Building, what time and where would the meeting take place? Would it take place at the Senior Center?

Sikizi Allen stated it will take place in Public Works on the 3rd Floor every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. You always give a good report. I love your reports! Sabrina back to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much, Sikizi thank you. At this time we'll hear from Community Services, Alma Bryant.

Alma Bryant stated good evening. I am going to report on the Task Force that Code Enforcement participated in on April 25, 2007 and the Task Force in regards to the "Market Place at Hollywood Park." The Task Force focused on day laborers and the littering of trash throughout the complex. As a result, we arrested 2 people, stored 2 vehicles, gave 1 parking citation, 2 court citations, warned 20 day laborers and warned 2 truck haulers. We've also been in contact

with the maintenance company for the “Market Place at Hollywood Park” and they’re also on board with us in regards to the day laborers, trash and upkeep of the facility. So within the next two months it should start looking a little cleaner.

On May 1st, we did our Regulatory Enforcement with the Sylmar Run-off Investigation Team, the Community Services Investigation Team and Code Enforcement. The Task Force focused on the illegal activity at Center Park and the parking violations around the park. We also enforced on push carts, ice cream vendors, tamale vendors and the scavengers going through the city trash cans. Center Park was locked up at the time, and we made sure there were no violations. We warned 13 vendors, gave 2 parking citations, warned 4 people for parking and cited 3 vendors and warned 2 auto repairs, people doing auto jobs.

Any questions?

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Brown stated Center Park seems to always come before us; I noticed in our last month’s minutes that the Task Force would be going out to take care of those people who park illegally and also can you give us a status report of if has it had any impact?

Alma Bryant stated well I have an officer who works Monday thru Wednesday until 8:00 p.m. and the days that he goes out, there is no one there. Also the Task Force has the parks locked up and there is no one there; I also spoke to some traffic officers, and 4 of them said that they don’t really know the time of the vandalism and when they’re there.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Banks.

Commissioner Banks stated no questions.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Payne.

Commissioner Payne stated no questions.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated yes I do. Centinela Park restrooms, we are having a serious problem with the illegal activity going on. I think we need to put the clamp down on these people because summer is almost coming up; and with all of the kids playing in the park, I don’t think there should be this type of activity going on. These people don’t care about kids; they do the same thing whether they are playing in the park or what not. I think something should be done about this.

Alma Bryant stated during the day?

Commissioner Agee stated on weekends.

Alma Bryant stated oh, ok. On weekends.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Smith stated for the record, Commissioner Agee is talking about Edward Vincent Park.

Commissioner Agee stated its Centinela Park as far as I am concerned.

Alma Bryant stated I will advise a unit to stay on the park a little longer.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you for your report Alma. Sabrina would you like to give the Director's Report.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. Along the lines of the PD preference at Edward Vincent Park we have requested additional patrol. We are especially mindful as we start gearing up for our summer activities when we know the usage by our youth will be increased. We've noticed an additional police presence, definitely during the weekdays, and we will be mindful to make sure that that same presence is available on the weekends. But we are maintaining contact with the Police Department so that we can mitigate any issues that may arise out of activities there. Thank you very much.

Director's Report

At this time, I would like to brief you on our recent 6 month budget review; our department just went through our budget review which you can look at where we are in relation to the money that we were allocated. At this time, we are showing a very modest savings of about \$150,000; but if we serve true to form the way we normally do, we end up over serving, and there is a great demand for services. So that savings will dwindle down by the end of the year because we'll be called upon to do additional services whether it's inter-departmentally, community-wide or through an Admin/Council request. We do use up all of our budget funds and at our next meeting we'll probably be sharing information with you about the upcoming budget process. We expect to get information within the next month or so to start planning the next fiscal year, 07-08 budget year; at that time we will let you know what direction we've been given and also seek your guidance in the budget preparation process.

Centennial Celebration

On plan for the city, next year on February 14th the city will celebrate its 100th Anniversary as an incorporated city. Plans are currently underway to have a great yearlong celebration for the city. It's anticipated that the celebration activities will kick-off on Saturday, February 9th, 2008 and will culminate on Saturday, February 7th, 2009. The Planning Committee consists of a body including residents, representations from the Inglewood Unified School District, Historical Society of Centinela Valley, the Chamber of Commerce and other community groups that attend the meeting. Thus far, the committee has made several recommendations, but the recommendations are not final yet and they will go to the Mayor and Council Members on May 15th for acceptance or approval of the recommendations and also consideration of the fiscal impact. The budget is being finalized and there will be a fund-raising campaign associated with the celebration so that the amount of general funds needed, will be minimal, if any. We will be approaching businesses on the corporate level, a sponsorship range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. There will also be a structure where families and folks who cannot give on a corporate level who can also give donations. Their donations will support, but also help offset some of the cost for the particular event. Just in terms of some of the activities that have been recommended, there is a birthday celebration and recognition ceremony that will kick-off the event. If you haven't noticed, there is a time capsule actually located on the North Mall; it was put in place in the 70's, about 25 years ago. That capsule will be unveiled and when we culminate the Centennial activity, we will install a new capsule which will be opened in another 25 years. Also there will be celebrations or recognitions of 100's, including centenarians – those persons who are celebrating 100+ years alive, their birthdays - and also natives, elected officials and other special categories that we'll acknowledge; those will be key signature events. The Centennial theme will also be incorporated into the city's regularly planned activities, which will help us to round out the celebration calendar for the year. It's a monumental occasion and we are looking forward to celebrate it in grand style. We will continue to report back to the Commission. Our department has been charged with taking the leadership; however, there is participation from all of the departments in the city, they also serve on the Planning Committee and we'll have roles in the planning and implementation of the activities. With that, that's it for us.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated is this the end now?

Commissioner Smith stated are you commenting on the Director's Report?

Commissioner Agee stated I am not commenting on the Director's Report.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Payne.

Commissioner Payne stated when is the date for the unveiling of the capsule?

Sabrina Barnes stated the unveiling of the capsule will actually take place on the opening day and that is Saturday, February 9th, 2008. It will be incorporated in the day's opening activities and then we'll do an installation of a capsule that will be opened 25 years later at the closing activity of 2009.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Banks.

Commissioner Banks stated no questions.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Brown stated I know that things are going to be very exciting and several people from the District IV have already started working on the planning and they all seem very excited. I know it's a lot of work and I am just trying to visualize you working with the MLK prior to that one. So I wish you well.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you and again these are the recommendations put forth by the committee. They are not determined final until the Mayor and Council Members weigh in; and we expect to go to Council with the second report. This will be the second update report on May 15th.

Commissioner Smith stated Sabrina, how long is the budget process?

Sabrina Barnes stated we normally start planning and get in the trenches of it in the end of May/June; and the City Administrator typically tells us what date we need to be concluded in the process. Then we turn it over to the budget team, they take time to massage it and put it in perspective and they usually look at adapting in early September, end of August, it varies. So that we have a budget in place for October 1; in regards to our turnaround time, we are usually given about 2 weeks to put our pieces together and give it back to the budget team.

Commissioner Smith stated ok. I would like, when you finally put your pieces together, that you call the Commissioners 1 or 2 at a time so we can go over it and maybe put our input in. But we want to have some say in that if you don't mind.

Sabrina Barnes stated no I don't. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Sabrina.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Agee stated I don't have a report.

Commissioner Payne stated I don't have a report.

Commissioner Smith stated do you have a comment?

Commissioner Payne stated I just want to thank everyone for being here. I am new to this and I am looking forward to the experience and if you bear with me I will be happy to serve our city well. I will go out on my part and check everything out and do my best to serve our community.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Payne. Sabrina, could you arrange time to take Commissioner Payne around to various parks and give her an overall view of what's going on.

Sabrina Barnes stated most definitely.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you.

Commissioner Banks stated before I comment, I know I did the parks, but I was supposed to be getting a schedule for the Senior Center. Not the center, I mean the services and maybe walk through of the temporary facility. I just wanted to speak about the activities with the bathrooms and maybe some illegal or questionable activities in the park. I want to challenge us to maybe think of some alternative ways to monitor the things that are going on in the park. First and foremost, the thing we have to do is have police presence, but I notice that sometimes in the summer there is a lot of police presence and I know that we do have to be safe. But a lot of the times it can be intimidating and I know that the park staff is highly respected-so maybe they can take a higher roll.

Commissioner Brown stated I would like to congratulate our new commissioner, she has some difficult shoes to fill there but I know that with guidance and leadership she will do a great job. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.