The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, January 3, 2008, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:01 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
Vacant - District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Acting Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Pat Bitker, Food Services Manager
Rita Gardner, Parks Superintendent
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor

Approval of the Minutes

A motion for the approval of the minutes from November 1, 2007 was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Giardina.

Public Comments

Mrs. Bell stated P.O. Box 2763 Inglewood, CA 90305. The decorations for the holidays were shabby. Why were there very little decorations? I would like to welcome Commissioner Giardina back to Council, I mean the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Smith stated no further Public Comments. I would like to welcome Commissioner Giardina's mom to the meeting.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated Happy New Year Commissioners. Welcome back Commissioner Giardina. I will turn it over to Rita Gardner.

Rita Gardner stated good evening.

Parks

The Parks Construction crew is working on waterproofing the City Hall planter and excavating the swimming pool located in the City Hall Complex. After excavating the concrete slab, the Parks crew will haul dirt from the Inglewood Park Cemetery to backfill the hole and plant native grasses, bushes and trees.

The Parks Construction crew has installed the irrigation lines at Siminski Park. The sod will be laid by the beginning of next week due to inclement weather.

The renovation of the athletic fields at Vincent and Darby Parks will be pushed back to mid-February due to the Police Activities League Soccer Tournament scheduled for February 16 or 17, 2008.

I don't know if you have been out to the Adobe, but you can not read the sign there because of the trees so we are going to relocate the sign to be read by freeway drivers. The Parks crew will relocate the sign to the rear of the complex to increase visibility off the 405 freeway. A big wooden sign (20x5) is being hidden by brush at the museum located at the Centinela Adobe Complex. The sign has been covered with large bushes and trees growing on the walls of the building.

Culver Plumbing, Inc. provided the lowest bid to connect the sewer lateral to the sewer line at restroom #2 at Vincent Park. Staff is awaiting approval from the City Administrative Officer's.

King Fence will be installing a 21,000 square foot fencing around the baseball diamond.

Demolition of the Girl Scout Building has begun. We had to shut down the Skate Park and jogging area because of asbestos testing.

The Tree Maintenance Crew is finishing up the holiday trimming around the City. After the holiday trimming has been completed, the Tree Crews will be assigned to the eastern most area of each Council manic District.

Jesus Ramos from the Public Works GIS section has created maps for each Council manic District. These maps show areas that have been divided into three grids. The Tree Maintenance Supervisor will use the grids to keep track of where the crews have been assigned and how many trees have been trimmed. We are trying to trim trees every three years. You can link onto these maps through the internet. Special requests are going to be handled the last week of each month.

Commissioner Agee stated you mentioned fencing, where is that at?

Rita Gardner stated the ball diamonds around the field.

Commissioner Agee asked the baseball fields?

Rita Gardner stated yes.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you for getting the maps prepared for tree trimming.

Commissioner Giardina stated regarding the sewer issue at Vincent Park, are you expecting Culver Plumbing to repair that in the next two weeks?

Rita Gardner stated yes. We can't do it because it is six feet deep and there is electricity involved.

Commissioner Giardina asked will electricity come after that?

Rita Gardner stated yes, as soon as they are finished.

We are ordering native grass for the Centennial Celebration. We will be putting hydro seed on the multipurpose field at Darby park.

Arrick Turner stated good evening.

Youth Basketball

We are extremely excited about our youth basketball program this year. We will be playing in three tournaments (Joe Kimble, Bay Area (BAMA & SCMAF). We will host the Bay Area tournament this year. All games will be played at Rogers and Darby Parks.

Bernie Young Basketball Camp

The Annual Bernie Young Camp will be held at Darby and Rogers Parks on Friday, January 25, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Track and Field

Sign ups will be held from February 23, 2008 through March 8, 2008 at Darby and Rogers Park. We will participate in the Bay Area and SCMAF Track and Fields meets.

Tennis

Tennis lessons are available every Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ed Vincent Park.

The cost for the lessons are as follows: for youth residents $8.00 and adult residents $12.00. For youth non-resident $16, adult non-resident $20.00.

Inglewood Idol

Inglewood Idol auditions will be held at Rogers Park on Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. starting January 7, 2008 to February 1, 2008. Auditions will be open to youth ages five to twenty one years old for singing, dancing, poetry readings, and instrumental performances.

Soccer Tournament

On February 16th and 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department along with IPAL will conduct the First Annual Soccer Tournament at Vincent Park.

Commissioner Agee stated beautiful. We have baseball facilities but we don't have a good football facility.

Commissioner Brown stated just a comment on the Christmas Decorating Contest. There were a lot of people who participated but I was disappointed that the Council people weren't there to participate.

Commissioner Giardina stated we had a wonderful time. It seemed like we had an enormous amount of people that have aged, moved or whatever the circumstances may be. We have to work on trying to encourage people to participate. I think the people that did participate did a wonderful job.

Commissioner Smith stated the year we got involved in handing out applications - ? We got a lot more participants.

Sabrina Barnes stated this year we will be celebrating the City's 25th Annual MLK Day celebration which Commissioner Brown is the chairman of. The day will begin with Commemorative Services at 9 a.m. followed by the symbolic march to Hollywood Park where the day will conclude with a family festival including entertainment, interactive games, vendors, etc. this year we did ask for additional funds but we were turned down and missed out on having Cecily Tyson as our Grand Marshall.

Inglewood is turning 100. Join us as we kick-off the year-long celebration with the Centennial Kickoff Reception on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Centennial Pavilion at Grevillea Art Park.

On Saturday, February 9, 2008 the Centennial Opening Ceremony will take place at 3:30 p.m. at the Vincent Park Amphitheater which will include live entertainment, giveaways and more. It will be followed by a fireworks display at 5:30 p.m.

On Thursday, February 14, 2008 a Time Capsule Unveiling and Birthday Party will be held at City Hall in the North Mall area at 3:00 p.m. Join us as we unveil the contents of two historic time capsules. Birthday cake and refreshments will be served.

Pat Bitker stated good evening.

The senior center has been asked to assist with the opening of a new site in Ladera. The site will serve 50 people.

Lighting in the parking lot has not been repaired and the doors to the center have not been weather stripped yet.

Parking is now being allowed on days when there is street sweeping.

The American Society on Aging notified us on December 20th, that the City of Inglewood/Be Well Program is one out of three recipients to receive the 2008 Award for Excellence in Multicultural Aging which is sponsored by AARP Foundation. The award will be presented at the 2008 American Society on Aging – National Council on Aging America Conference in Washington DC on March 27-30, 2008. In addition, we will receive a cash award of $1,500. Sikizi Allen and Bonnie Hart will be in attendance and receive the award. The County AAA was so impressed with this award; they have decided to send Sue Kennedy and her supervisor Lan Ficht to attend the awards ceremony.

Grevillea Art Park and Mural Restoration Project

The next two months will be devoted to preparing the close out reports for the seven major grants that contributed to the project, yielding over $1 million in reimbursements. The interpretive plaques and monument will be installed and the final touches to the mural cap and items recommended by the Getty Conservation Institute and Office of Historic Preservation will be complete soon.

The Historic Site Preservation Committee is planning a Spring Concert Series at the Mural Site, to be held on the four Sundays in May. Part of each concert will include the youth that have for the past several years been educating the community about the mural and its era.

Commissioner Agee stated I had the honor of spending the day with the seniors. I had a wonderful time. I agree with you, the doors are not wind proof especially the doors on the Westside.

The doors on the north side are very difficult to open. If they take care of those two problems, it will be a good thing for the seniors.

Commissioner Brown stated we talked briefly about the mural, have funds been identified?

Sabrina Barnes stated that is still on the table.

Commissioner Giardina stated maybe the Gas Company can go out and do some weather stripping or maybe we can buy some solar heaters from Costco. I want to give you and your staff kudos for the awards.

Commissioner Smith stated I know you can explain why this hasn't been fixed. I know you are in communication with Public Works, what is taking so long?

Sabrina Barnes stated we are working in conjunction with the Public Works Department and they say we are still in the plan check process. We can't bring in solar heaters because of the electricity. It is a little more complicated than just changing the doors.

Commissioner Smith asked what can we do to keep the seniors warm and safe right now?

Rita Gardner stated we have unpaid bills so once those get paid, we can get the lights turned on.

Commissioner Giardina stated the only problem is, is that old people are colder and they don't understand bills not being paid then with the rain, its cold and it gets dark sooner, line of abuse.

<u>Commissioner Comments</u>

Commissioner Agee stated we need a football field, I hope next year we will have a football field.

Commissioner Brown stated demographics have changed in Public Schools. Soccer is as popular in the school system in Inglewood, Los Angeles and in the Valley, regardless of how we feel about our past time.

Commissioner Smith asked do we have football in high school?

Commissioner Giardina stated rededicate ourselves to what we do best. Make an effort to be a little more creative. Use us to advocate for the seniors and the children in whatever way we can. I challenge that to the rest of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Smith stated I agree with everything that Commissioner Giardina and Commissioner Agee said. There is a field for every sport in the City. We do need a football field.

Commissioner Agee stated we have two soccer fields and no football fields. Don't neglect kids who are playing football. School and city are two different entities. We need society to keep these kids busy.

Commissioner Brown stated I don't want my colleague to think I am disagreeing but I would suggest we be realistic about it and put our feelings at the door and work as a team.

Commissioner Giardina stated maybe we can relook at the possibility of getting the City and school district to work together when the school isn't using the fields we can use them.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Sabrina Barnes stated street Decorations are not handled by our department however they are under review by the Public Works Department.

Arrick Turner asked the Commission to incorporate a letter to Home Depot to donate a field.

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