The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, February 7, 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 6:00 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 Don Nicholson - District III Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Staff:

Sikizi Allen, Senior Center Manager Teresa Estrada-Quintanar, Acting Recreation Superintendent Rita Gardner, Parks Superintendent Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary

Commissioner Smith stated before we begin, I'd like to welcome Commissioner Nicholson to the Commission.

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

None.

Director's Report

Rita Gardner stated I am here representing Sabrina Barnes who was unable to be here tonight. With that, I'll go ahead and start with my section the Parks Division.

Vincent Park Restrooms

As was mentioned in January, Vincent Park's restroom number six located next to the soccer stadium is in full operation. Restroom two is the only restroom not in operation due to sewer lines needing to be connected to the County storm drains.

The sewer was cut off by the County a couple of years ago and now we need to reconnect it. We've hired Culver Plumbing to complete that work. As soon as we provide the City Attorney's Office with satisfactory documents relating to the insurance, they will begin work and connect the sewer lines.

Siminski Park Renovation

If you haven't had the chance to go over and see how we've completed the landscaping at Siminski Park, you should. Public Works renovated the building and it looks like a whole new facility. We will continue with the landscaping once they are done with the irrigation system.

Girls Scout Building

The Girls Scout building at Vincent Park is almost completely demolished. They've worked on removing the asbestos for the first 14 days. The project began on December 26th. The roof has been removed and they will now be working on the demolition of the remainder of the building which should be done by the end of the month.

Tree Trim Schedule

The tree trim schedule is on the website. We do have grids that were developed by the GIS section of the Public Works Department and we implemented a tree schedule where all of our tree crews are scheduled to trim trees starting in and from the most eastern part to the western part of the district. For the month of February, in District 1 a crew is working on 78th Street and 3rd Avenue, on 65th Street between Long and West Boulevards in District 2. In District 3 they are on Hindry Street and Isis Street between Florence Avenue and Hillcrest Boulevard. Our tower truck in District 4 is down so our crew has been working on Citywide Special requests.

Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District has announced that the City is going to receive \$250,000 from Prop A for Capital Improvement Projects. These funds maybe used to develop, improve, rehabilate, restoration of vegetation for parks, trails, wild habitats or natural land. These funds will be available for new projects or to supplement ongoing grants. A list of projects has been passed out and we would like for your approval and recommendation to consider these projects for earmarking. If you can take a look at the list and let us know what you'd like to recommend, I can go before Council and ask them to approval a submittal to the County by March 31. I'd like to go before Council by February 29th with a resolution as well as a grant application.

Commissioner Smith asked you want us to give you a list once we go over what we recommend?

Rita Gardner stated yes.

Commissioner Smith stated do you want us to bring it to City Hall? Do you want us to have a special meeting about it?

Rita Gardner stated you can just bring your recommendation up to me at City Hall.

Commissioner Agee stated looking over the list, I'm in agreement and you have my approval.

Commissioner Nicholson asked are there cost estimates to go with these items?

Rita Gardner stated these are rough cost estimates. We are going to get a contractor and vendor to give us a better cost estimate, so it will be within the \$250,000 range. We may not be able to include everything on the list but we would like for you to at least provide us with your prioritized list.

Commissioner Giardina asked do you think the \$250,000 will cover all of these requests?

Rita Gardner stated no, I would say one fourth of it.

Commissioner Giardina stated I think we should do one project per district.

Rita Gardner stated we did make sure every district is represented.

Now I will be turning it over to Teresa who was recently appointed Acting Recreation Superintendent.

Teresa Estrada stated good evening. Tonight I will be reporting on upcoming events.

The Rogers Park Girls and Boys Club along with S.H.A.P.E. will host Lively Lyrics on Friday, February 22, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Library Lecture Hall. The theme this year is "A Tribute to Black History." Singers, dancers and poets will pay tribute in their own way. Presale tickets are being sold for \$3 or \$5 at the door.

Auditions for Inglewood Idol are being held Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you know of anyone who would like to participate, please have them call Rogers Park or drop by the park. The event will take place in the auditorium if it is finished. If not it will be held in the gym or at the Library Lecture Hall.

Darby Park will be hosting a Black History Event on Saturday, February 23, 2008. The event will include spoken word, praise dancers, local choirs and an art exhibit. Light refreshments will be served.

Plans are now being made for the upcoming Cesar Chavez Day Celebration. The event will take on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Darby Park. The event will begin with a Unity March facilitated by the Inglewood Unified School District.

Youth basketball games will begin on February 23, 2008. The City of Inglewood will host the Bay Area tournament on March 15th and 16th at Darby and Rogers Parks.

Track and Field sign ups will start on February 23, 2008 at Darby and Rogers Parks.

Commissioner Giardina asked what time is Inglewood Idol?

Teresa Estrada stated 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Brown stated I just wanted to point out I'm really interested in the Black History Month Celebration. I'm thankful for what we are doing here in this department. But what's interesting is that's only a one day celebration. We have so many great things going on in the city and sitting back looking at that wall (referring to the Transportation Mural) we have there on the corner, Black History really starts here in the City. Parks and Recreation and the Inglewood Unified School District really need to put more on emphasis on Black History Month. I remember several years ago Councilman Price put on a program/festival type activity. I'm just shocked and surprised that we don't have something going on to celebrate African Americans.

Rita Gardner asked do you have any ideas you'd like to share?

Commissioner Brown stated I'm glad you brought this up. I brought some things with me to pass around tonight. These are faces of prominent African Americans and was wondering if we were going to have a say in the spoken word? Where would America be without African Americans? When I read it and showed it to some young adults, they thought the same thing.

Teresa Estrada stated I do encourage you to go over to Darby Park to see the display we have there. It's put up every year by Esther Thiery who does such a wonderful job. Every year she does add something new to it.

Commissioner Smith stated I would like for you to take some input from him for the Black History Program.

Rita Gardner stated I'd like to add we have a couple of other events coming up. The first Centennial event that took place last week was very successful despite the wind and cold. There was a really good turn out. Even Sandra who was sick came out and worked. The next event will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the Vincent Park Amphitheater from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be speeches, commemorations, and fireworks. We invite you all to attend. If you can not make it to Saturday's event, we will be having another event on Thursday, February 14th to celebrate the City's birthday with the opening of two time capsules right here at City Hall, so please mark your calendars.

I'll now turn it over to Sikizi Allen.

Sikizi Allen stated good evening.

The following is a list of repairs that have been completed at the Veteran's Building:

- Lights in the senior center parking lot are operational
- Lights on the exterior of the Veteran's Building are operational
- Weather stripping of 2 of 5 exterior doors has been completed
- A handle has been installed on the front door
- Automatic closure hardware installed on main entrance door
- Pot holes filled at corner of Warren Lane and Centinela
- Office #2 door lock replaced
- Fallen ceiling tile in PAL's office replaced
- Heating system has been maximized and new thermostat installed and secured
- "No Parking" restrictions removed on street sweeping days for the immediate area of the Senior Center

Repairs that remain:

- Four Klieg lights are out in the ceiling of the dining room (work order to Conchita last week)
- Paint damage to ceiling in main hallway after the last big rain was assessed by Public Works but unrepaired

Senior Activities/Events

On Friday, January 25, the Senior Center celebrated Mary Henderson's 100th birthday. Mayor Dorn, a representative from Supervisor Burke's office, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Agee, California Senior Legislature, staff, seniors, family and friends attended this celebration. Mrs. Henderson received several proclamations. Cake, ice cream and punch was served.

Identified seniors age 100+ for Inglewood's Centennial Celebration. Out of 38 identified in our data base, only 23 were Inglewood residents. Currently three (3) seniors have been confirmed. Working to confirm status of the remaining twenty (20) others to see if they remain in the city, have relocated or passed.

Essie Dixon has been chosen as the volunteer to be recognized at Supervisor Burke's annual Senior Citizens Observance of African American History month. Mrs. Dixon folds our monthly newsletters for distribution and assists with some clerical tasks. The event is scheduled for Thursday, February 21st at Athens Park, Los Angeles.

Loyola Marymount University students will volunteer approximately 15 hours with Lennox Seniors as a service learning project. The LMU students are enrolled in a Hispanic Cultural Studies course and will bring short documentaries on arpilleras which is done bilingually. The students will meet on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A girl's group from Morningside High School also comes out on their days off to assist with the special programs and events.

Commissioner Agee stated I would like to congratulate you on the birthdays. It's nice to see two centenarians dancing to the music. The seniors are happy because its warm inside and staff has done a good job. When they are happy, I am happy.

Commissioner Giardina stated I would like to commend you on the long list of things that have been corrected. I think you and your staff do a wonderful job.

Commissioner Brown stated I would like to say kudos to your staff.

Commissioner Smith stated I would like to piggyback on what both of the Commissioners said and thank you for getting those issues taken care of, thank you.

Rita Gardner stated I'd like to also acknowledge the fact that, the work was really handled by our Public Works department who we worked with hand in hand to get that taken care of and thanks to Pat for bringing that to our attention.

In the package you received we sent a proposal for the Ashwood Park Billboard. The following is the recommendation: I move that the Planning Commission recommended to the City Council, that the prohibition on the installation of billboard signs in the O-S zone as stated in Section 12-80 and specifically in Section 12-80 (A) remain, and any attempt to allow such installation or any requests to allow such installation, would be looked at unfavorably by the Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission based on the following findings:

Allowing such installation would be counter to the intent of the Highway Beautification Act, the California Highway Advertising Act, the Inglewood Municipal Code, Section 12-80 and Policy 3 of the Inglewood General Plan Open Space Element, all of which among other things, promote the safety recreational value of the public travel, preserve natural beauty, prevent unreasonable distraction of operators of motor vehicles, assure permanent open space in and for public parks and recreation, and reduce visual clutter.

Allowing such installation would significantly alter the use of O-S property designated for public park use, potentially annoy, or endanger the comfort, health or convenience of the public, offend the public convenience and enjoyment of areas designated by the City for recreation and open space, significantly intrude or reduce available park and open space lands intended to benefit residents and finally it would establish an unwelcome precedent for other non-open space uses in the O-S zone.

Commissioner Smith stated I assume all the Commissioners have had a chance to read this. Commissioner Agee do you agree?

Commissioner Agee stated yes I do.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated I'm still trying to digest this.

Commissioner Smith stated I read mine and I went out to the park to take a look at it. I don't know what the rest of the Commissioners think but I will get their opinion first.

Commissioner Giardina stated I also went out to the park and I concur. I think that the billboard in the park would become a hazardous problem. I know that at La Tijera near Fox Hills mall the one there cause traffic. I think the impact of that will affect our parks.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Agee, any comments?

Commissioner Agee stated it would definitely be an eyesore.

Commissioner Nicholson stated I abstain since I am a new Commissioner.

Commissioner Smith stated can I have a motion?

Commissioner Giardina stated I make a motion that we concur with the Planning Commission's recommendation on the installation of a billboard at Ashwood Park.

Commissioner Brown stated I second.

Commissioner Agee stated if I may comment, I think it should be up to us not the Planning Commission to decide.

Commissioner Smith stated what we are doing is agreeing with what they recommend.

Commissioner Agee stated I agree with what they are saying.

Commissioner Smith stated what she said is that we concur with the Planning Commission's findings. If we concur, we don't have to necessarily reinvent the wheel. Commissioner Brown has also abstained because he hasn't read it and Commissioner Nicholson because he's new. Three of us said no with two who abstain. She just now put a motion on the floor saying we agree with the Planning Commission, we did our research and we say no way.

Commissioner Agee stated I second.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. It's been moved, all in favor?

Commissioner Agee, Smith and Giardina stated I.

Commissioner Smith stated all opposed?

None.

Any abstentions?

Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Nicholson stated I.

Commissioner Smith stated it has been moved and seconded, the motion passes. Are there any other staff reports?

Rita Gardner stated one last thing. I'd like to announce that Sabrina Barnes has been appointed to the Director position of our department; she is no longer the Acting Director. She has worked hard and is an outstanding person and we all look forward to her leadership. We all congratulate her.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Agee stated I was just a little concerned about the aerobics class over at Darby Park, are you getting a new instructor?

Sikizi Allen stated as of this morning, we've been working on that. The instructor we've been working with is going to think about returning and let me know.

Commissioner Agee stated I hope we get this resolved; I'd like to see her back.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like to congratulate Sabrina on her promotion.

Commissioner Brown stated I concur.

I do have something I want to share with you about the minutes. At the last meeting I did comment on the extent on the MLK celebration and for whatever reason I didn't see it in the minutes. We haven't had our briefing meeting about the MLK Celebration yet but I will tell you it was one of the best ones I've been involved in. We had a dynamic speaker and a warm Grand Marshall. I do have some suggestions. I spoke briefly with the Mayor at the Centennial Kick Off and told him that we need to start planning in a way now in terms of finding a keynote speaker because Sabrina and the staff really pulled their hair out trying to get someone that would be dynamic with a great presence. The same holds true for a Grand Marshall and a theme itself. I was also disappointed when I picked up the local newspapers the following day. I saw nothing about the dynamic activity our City held. When I did pick up the LA Times, they had an article but it was about our new Police Chief and one of the legacy winners George Dotson walking in the parade. I hope next year we will increase the parade participants and the IUSD band to the 500 members because you see those young people at the LA parade. Also if we target our local high schools. When I look at the city, what a sight it would be to have each department march in their uniforms in the parade to let the residents know we are very serious about what we do. The same would hold true for local ministers because they are offered a monetary sum. I think that should be a negotiation, I don't think we should just shut the door and say no way no how.

Commissioner Smith stated I think that it (the billboard) would be an eyesore in the community.

Commissioner Giardina stated I think that if these people pay a couple of hundred dollars a month and I'm sure they spend thousands of dollars advertising, they should offer the city a certain amount of money a month, I think it's disrespectful. If they were to go to Los Feliz were its \$275 a square foot to advertise, but the come here and want to pay \$5. I think its insulting. We are founders of the South Bay; I don't think they are really serious.

Commissioner Smith stated if there are no further comments, I will adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.