

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on July 2, 2009, in the Council Chambers located in City Hall on the 9th floor. Chairman Norma Smith, presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Norma Smith, Chairperson – District Two
Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three
Commissioner Henry Brown – District Four

Absent:

Commissioner Willie Agee – Commissioner at Large
Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District One

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Sr. Administrative Secretary
Thomas Uwal, Transportation Manager
Kevin Carroll, Code Enforcement Officer
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor
Juan Mata, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Brown made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and was seconded by Commissioner McLemore. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Stewart Banks stated my comments are about Rogers Park. I know it's a bad thing to say all the time because I am an advocate and it is a very nice park in Inglewood. Issues like windows being covered, I think it's a very bad safety issue because the rooms are covered with paper over the glass. If something catastrophic would happen to one of the rooms, I think that we should have the glass uncovered so that staff and anyone walking by can see that everything is being maintained in a proper order at the park. For this summer, we have a lot of activity that is going on at the park; on the weekends I notice like on Friday nights, we have softball and we have things going on outside and inside. Do we have a plan as far as safety for the whole summer because as we know Rogers Park is known for having heavy gang activity and I just am looking out for the public's safety? This is my main concern with Rogers Park as well as the City of Inglewood Parks and Recreation areas. Thank you and may you have a good evening.

Chairwoman Smith stated any further comments? Sabrina I am turning it over to you.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. Commissioner Brown, the Supervisor for Rogers Park is here and I am sure that he will be glad to address that issue later on in the meeting.

Again good evening everyone, seems like it's been about a month since I saw you. Let's get started as not to delay this meeting. Under Director's Business we have several division reports and we will first hear from our Parks Section - Parks Maintenance Supervisor Juan Mata is here and will be reporting.

Juan Mata stated good evening Commissioners, it's good to see you again. I would like to report on the following:

Capital Improvement Projects

- Darby and Vincent Park Lighting Improvement Projects – staff reports were prepared to seek approval by the Mayor and Council Members to award the contract to the lowest bidder. This project provides the replacement of transformers and ballasts and retrofitting of existing fixtures at Darby and Vincent Park.
- Vincent Park Swimming Pool - Federal law requires all public pools and spas be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers/grates that comply with American National Standard (ANS) American Society of mechanical Engineers (ASME) effective December 2008. The retrofitting of both pools has been completed as of Monday and the pool is scheduled to open on Friday, July 3.
- Rogers Park Playground Rubber Matting - On March 25, the Head Start Program at Rogers Park was audited. The team found the rubber surfacing located in the playground area to be non-compliant to Head Start regulations. The rubber matting has been repaired and is in compliance as of last week.
- Hardy Slope/Median Renovation Project - The City of Inglewood will receive grant funds of \$12,200 for the Hardy Slope Renovation Project from the West Basin Municipal Water District. This project will provide for the retrofitting of the street median. That will reduce water use by 75% and water runoff by 100%. That will be on Crenshaw between Hardy and 99th Street. Any questions?

Tree Maintenance Update

The City's two three-man City crews continue to handle special requests in the respective districts, with attention given to each Council district. Additionally, City crews concentrate their efforts on the removal of dead or diseased trees identified by WCA and tree trimming at City parks and facilities. The July, August and September tree trimming schedule is as follows:

July 2009

- Queen Park (7-1 through 7-10)
- Center Park (7-13 through 7-24)
- Special request (7-27 through 7-30)

August 2009

- Centinela Adobe (8-3 through 8-13)
- North Park (8-17 through 8-21)
- Special request (8-24 through 8-31)

September

- Ashwood Park and Siminski Park (9-01 through 9-10)
- Park and Ride Parking Lots on Arbor Vitae (9-14 through 9-18)
- Special request (9-21 through 9-30)
- Removal of 8 Ficus trees on Redondo Avenue at West Boulevard

The Tree Trimming Schedule is followed as closely as possible. However, changes may occur or deviations from the list may happen due to emergencies, potentially hazardous situations, or when equipment breakdowns occur. Note: All citizen generated special requests are handled the last week of each month.

Chairwoman Smith stated Juan will you please do me a favor and give me a copy of the tree trimming schedule and mail it out to us in a new packet. Thank you. Any questions Commissioner McLemore?

Commissioner McLemore stated so all of the trees have been trimmed in the city now that you are going to the parks?

Juan Mata stated Sabrina will have more information on that.

Sabrina Barnes stated there are approximately 18,000 trees on private property and the residential areas. West Coast Arborist has trimmed 15,525. Of the remaining trees they weren't deemed that they did not need trimming either because our city crews had addressed them recently or perhaps there were removals or we may have gotten to a site where it may have been removed and not documented into the system. The trees on the city's property like in the park, city yard, and the parking ride lots are being addressed by our crews; so they are making their way to the various sites to get them addressed. That is what they are working on, and then we will resume grid trimming on October 1, 2009.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated two things; I had brought up to you my concerns about sprinklers and water. I haven't seen any improvement in terms of smell and damage of the recycling water. What is the city's position? Are they making any kind of improvement and from what I hear of talking to the workers anonymously is that the water is so strong that it does damage our pipes and all. What is happening in that area? The other thing you talked about are some small infractions of the mats for the head start program. Was there any other thing and how was our overall evaluation towards the program?

Juan Mata stated regarding your first question; the only thing that we can do is contact West Basin because they are our water supplier. We had complained before.

Commissioner Brown stated I am especially talking about Crenshaw. Have you looked at the cars or where do you put in small claims with the city?

Juan Mata stated is that regarding the smell?

Commissioner Brown stated it's regarding the smell and damage to cars.

Juan Mata stated what we can do is adjust the sprinklers and make sure that they no longer spray and regarding the smell we have to get in contact with West Basin because they are in charge of that.

Sabrina Barnes stated commissioner I don't know if these are addresses that you have given us before or if you can just give it to us again and Juan and his crew can go back out there. We can try to address where the water sprays; but as Juan has indicated with regards to the smell and the concentration of whatever is in it, that is up to West Basin Water District.

Commissioner Brown stated it is from 108th and Crenshaw to 111th Street.

Sabrina Barnes stated the entire corridor?

Commissioner Brown stated the entire corridor. When the sprinklers turn on, its like if you are in a cow palace.

Sabrina Barnes stated that is everywhere, everywhere we use reclaimed water.

Commissioner Brown stated I am only making a claim here.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown. Any further questions?

Commissioner Brown stated and also the Head Start? You mentioned about an evaluation about the Head Start Program.

Sabrina Barnes stated playground equipment.

Commissioner Brown stated about the playground equipment and stuff with the Head Start Program.

Juan Mata stated it was in regards to the rubber matting. There was a hole on the rubber matting but we repaired it already.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you!

Chairwoman Smith stated you got it repaired or replaced?

Juan Mata stated no we just repaired it.

Chairwoman Smith stated so it was a small one?

Juan Mata stated yes.

Chairwoman Smith stated Sabrina?

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you Juan. At this time we will move on to Recreation, our Westside Programs and Activities Supervisor, Arrick Turner, is here and will be reporting.

Arrick Turner stated good evening Commissioners! How is everyone doing? First I will start with the swimming program.

Swimming Lessons

On Friday, July 3, 2009 summer swimming classes and recreational swimming begin. The swimming classes will be offered from July 3, 2009 to August 21, 2009. The costs for swimming lessons are \$10 for residents and \$14 for non-residents, and the lessons are held from Tuesday through Friday at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. Recreational swimming is offered Monday through Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. any questions regarding the swimming lessons?

Summer Camp

Recreation Department Summer Program began on June 22, 2009. Currently the Eastside Facilities, which is Darby and Lockhaven, have 178 participants; the Westside Facilities, which is Rogers Park and Siminski Park, have 104 participants and the Sports Department has 102 participants.

July 4 Celebration

On July 4, the celebration of fireworks will take place at Edward Vincent Jr. Park from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. There will be live performances by For Those with Soul, Living Proof, Javon Davis Band, Friends, Bob Desena, Latin Jazz Band and Chazzi and the Greenbacks.

Movies in the Park

Everyone is invited to bring their blankets, lawn chairs and have an unforgettable evening under the stars. The city's Annual Movies in the Park showings will begin on Saturday, July 11, at Edward Vincent Jr. Park and will feature "Hotel for Dogs." All movies are free and will be shown on the soccer field; gates open at 6:30 p.m. and movies will begin at 8:00 p.m. Bring six (6) recyclable items and receive a free popcorn voucher. You can refer to your flyers for any additional information and for the pre-list of movies to be shown on a big screen, call the city's movie info hotline at (310) 412-8880. We hope that you enjoy your unforgettable evening of cinema under the stars.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Arrick.

Arrick Turner stated you're welcome. Are there any questions?

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated I just want to compliment you in terms of the Summer Camp Program because I have been looking at the numbers and almost 400 kids, and I think its fee oriented so it's nothing free; I think that is a tremendous number based on the fees and how difficult it is with incomes and all. I've showed your brochure to some other colleagues and other cities and they just smile. I just want you to know that I am quite proud.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner don't you have a question about the covering of the windows?

Commissioner Brown stated yes I did because I heard the gentleman made a comment, so I am trying to figure out where these windows are.

Arrick Turner stated I believe the windows that Mr. Banks is referring to are the windows from the preschool room, the dance room and the library. Those windows are covered for the child and participant's privacy because in the dance room there are dance classes where the female participants are in leotards, and the windows are covered to keep unwanted eyes from peeking in at the participants. All of our doors are locked, which means that once the doors close it locks and one of the staff has to open the door in order for someone to enter. So we do that for safety purposes; and as far as the extra activities that will be taking place in the Summer at Rogers Park, we have had a meeting with PD (Police Department) to address the situation and we have offered PD a standing office at Rogers Park hooked up with a computer and a phone so they can come up on a lunch break, handle paperwork and to roam the facility. We will give them keys to the facilities and access to their discretion; and hopefully that will control our security matter.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown. Thank you Arrick, Commissioner McLemore do you have any questions?

Commissioner McLemore stated no questions.

Chairwoman Smith stated Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much. At this time we will hear from our Human Services Transportation Manager, Thomas Uwal is reporting.

Thomas Uwal stated good evening Commissioners. My name is Thomas Uwal, I am the Human Services Transportation Manager and I will report out a couple of things.

Transportation

We are finishing reports for the fiscal year because our fiscal year ends in June, so we are trying to do our National Transit Database where we report all of our miles, hours, maintenance costs, passengers and all that goes to MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) and then MTA sends it to the Federal Government. So this month and next month will be very busy for us because not only are our annual reports due, our monthly reports are due this month. We also have an audit coming up in August.

Also, CHP (California Highway Patrol) does an annual inspection of all of our buses and vehicles. They were just here last week to inspect all of our buses in conjunction with Fleet Services Management and they are coming back on the 16th (July 16) to follow up.

Chairwoman Smith stated excuse me did you say the 16th of July?

Thomas Uwal stated yes the 16th of July. As usual our buses continue to serve all communities. Not only do we serve the community of Inglewood, but we serve the communities of Lennox and Hawthorne on a controlled basis.

On another note we have been asked to cut our budget by 10% by our Director. We have met individually within the department and have discussed if grant funds can be excused from getting cut because if the buses or one of the drivers were cut then the seniors would be affected. But so far what we have been hearing from upper-management is that we have to do the 10% cut. That is something to be noted because our trips and passengers have been high. For April, May and June we've transported about 16,754 people in 8 Para-transit vans, buses and also the I-Line Trolley. Do you have any questions?

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner McLemore do you have any questions?

Commissioner McLemore stated so are the buses just for seniors or can anyone ride them?

Thomas Uwal stated our buses are for seniors and disabled persons, but anyone can ride the I-Line Trolley free of charge and it goes around downtown Inglewood, and it targets medical facilities and high schools.

Commissioner McLemore stated and you said you were going to have a 10% budget cut?

Thomas Uwal stated that is of course per the City Administrator, but yeah it was a management decision.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner McLemore. Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated now when you talk about cuts, what does that entail? Is it losing personnel or cutting on activities? What does that mean?

Thomas Uwal stated well first of all I am very hopeful that it doesn't take place for the grants, but I believe Sabrina can address it.

Commissioner Brown stated distances of our buses; do we have a range that those buses go?

Thomas Uwal stated yeah we service the community of Lennox, Inglewood and Hawthorne.

Commissioner Brown stated but I am going outside of where you take citizens.

Thomas Uwal stated we rarely go outside because our parameters are those three (3) cities, but sometimes in case seniors want to go as a group whether as a group to Manhattan Beach or wherever it is then yes we do go beyond Inglewood, Lennox and Hawthorne. But that has to be approved by the Director and Superintendent.

Commissioner Brown stated you also mentioned service wise, 60,000, is that annual?

Thomas Uwal stated well our annual passengers count is a little over 60,000 a year. I just reported for the month of April, May and June as a quarter and that was 16,000. So sixteen thousand (16,000) times four (4) is about 64,000.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown. Sabrina do you think that you and Thomas can give us a copy of the audit in August and also the inspection in July. Thank you, Sabrina back to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you and at this time I can respond to you with in regards to the budget. As I said in the last meeting, all departments have been provided a directive to cut 10%. We are in the people service business, the bulk of our budget is in salaries so 10% of our salary will go away or bottom line is that we have a certain amount of dollars that we have to achieve. We are doing our best to minimize the impact to both the individuals and services; for example, as opposed of getting rid of five (5) people we are asking staff to share the burden. So how about we say that we are going to give up two (2) hours, and we may have to close down facilities at 8 o'clock instead of at 10 o'clock to achieve some of our savings. There are other recommendations like we are going to have to water our grass a little less, so when you come to Commission I'll listen to you say that our grass is brown, it's dying. Well that's because we can't water as often as we used to, and those will be some of the impacts and I am hoping that as we make these reductions; and as these things come out, I hope the full picture is painted and the community, the Commissioners know the impact of what's going to happen with these items.

Now I want to talk to you about our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requests. There will be a Public Hearing next week and I will share our dollar amounts and talk to you about the significance of us getting full allocations as opposed to them getting cut (**inaudible**)...so if you can talk to your Councilmember, it will help us.

Chairwoman Smith stated well I know that because the Councilwoman has been saying that and I remember you talking about the cuts, was it last month?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

Chairwoman Smith stated and we were hoping that you didn't have to cut employees, and I am sure that you aren't having too many problems concerning giving up a few dollars, as opposed to somebody giving up a job.

Sabrina Barnes stated I think that folks will appreciate it. Now we haven't taken that to the general body of staff, but collectively as management we'd like to look over and still see our peers here as opposed to not. I still have my salary and I'm still here, so if we

can all share the love and share the burden we can make sure as many people as possible keep their jobs.

Chairwoman Smith stated ten percent (10%) from someone's salary may not seem like a lot, but it is when it comes to somebody losing their job. Speaking from the Commission, I really appreciate that you guys are trying to figure something out as opposed to losing employees; back to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. At this time we will hear from our Community Services Section, we have Code Enforcement Office Mr. Kevin Carroll reporting.

Kevin Carroll stated good evening Commissioners. How are you? This will be very brief; this was for the Task Force for June 21, 2009, Father's Day, and we actually detained and confiscated materials and goods from twelve (12) vendors, and we cited one (1) property for no yard sale permit. So what we are doing now is we are actually trying to find people that have habitually been trying to have yard sales and things of that nature, weekend after weekend, and instead of giving them a slap on the hand we are actually fining and citing them. But actually it was a pretty quiet and a very good day from vendors. So that's it; are there any questions?

Chairwoman Smith stated always sweet and to the point. Commissioner McLemore?

Commissioner McLemore stated you need a permit to have a yard sale?

Kevin Carroll stated yes you do. You must come to the seventh (7th) floor and get a permit that will cost you \$5, and you can have it twice a year. Plus there are special dates that we have that the actual city allows you to have a permit, they give you a free permit when they have their annual yard sales. But as far as our position is with the city as Code Enforcement Division, twice a year and it only cost you \$5.

Commissioner McLemore stated is that being enforced, because I see yard sales everywhere?

Kevin Carroll stated yes it is being enforced. We just put a new system in and we will write them up whenever we can or whenever we have to.

Commissioner McLemore stated so when you write them up, how much does that cost?

Kevin Carroll stated well it ranges in terms of the fine, because it's a substantial fine. We actually fine people who have habitual yard sales.

Chairwoman Smith stated but we want to know how much?

Kevin Carroll stated I actually don't have the numbers with me here, but I can get them to you as soon as possible. I will definitely do that.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you. So that ends your report Kevin?

Kevin Carroll stated yes, that's it.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated I am glad you brought that up about the yard sales because there seems to be a home on 109th, it's the third house from the corner that seems to have a yard sale every Saturday and I can't believe that they have taken the time to come over here to the City of Inglewood. They have it there every Saturday and start it from at least 11 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m. every Saturday.

Kevin Carroll stated is there a cross corner on the street of 109th Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated right on 109th and Crenshaw. I can call you but you are off tomorrow right?

Kevin Carroll stated I will put it on the roster anyway so it can be part of one of our patrol areas. What we are trying to do is actually increase our patrol areas, not only just for yard sales but for everything. Like I was saying, we have testing on the Eden system and been updating everything.

Commissioner Brown stated so everything, all fancy and all. Does that get swap meet help?

Kevin Carroll stated I will leave a notation for the officer that will be on this weekend, so he'll take a look.

Chairwoman Smith stated it exceeds what you said of you can only have it twice a year.

Commissioner Brown stated yeah they have it every Saturday, they got everything.

Chairwoman Smith stated if you see it this weekend, then you have to report it.

Kevin Carroll stated yeah and that is all that you have to do is give us the address and we will take the appropriate actions.

Commissioner Brown stated I will be glad to; it isn't anything I can wear anyways.

Chairwoman Smith stated Sabrina do you have any comments from the staff?

Sabrina Barnes stated no, I do have a couple of items on the Director's Status Report. At the last meeting there was a discussion about the soccer field/football field, and Commissioner Agee said that we had been directed to put in place a football field. While I was not able to confirm that, at Tuesday night's Council Meeting it was made very clear to me after the Public Hearing - we were talking about the artificial turf at Vincent Park - that we need to identify a football field, not necessarily a new field, not necessarily a new playing area but to designate a field for football. So I will be meeting with the City Administrator on Monday to move forward as directed.

Chairwoman Smith stated and that was from Council?

Sabrina Barnes stated that came from the dais, yes. I will be meeting with the City Administrator on Monday to discuss options and our recommendations. As you know pretty much we have the multi-purpose field at Darby Park on 90th Street in which we play baseball, soccer, football, everything there. The seasonal sport per our ordinance takes priority; at the soccer fields, by ordinance we should only play soccer, however, we also play football because during football season we allow football players to practice there. They don't play their full seasonal games with us. They typically go to the Inglewood Unified School District but that is not available to them due to the prohibitive costs.

it is to my understanding but I haven't gotten this officially yet, that they may be going to Hawthorne. But I believe the directive is still to make a football field available to our residents. So just in terms of our recommendation, in terms of the largest and best place that allows for parking and spectators, it will be one of the soccer fields at Vincent Park. You can also play at Darby Park but there are probably more cons than pros there with regards to the limited parking and then general access to the facility. Ultimately, the directive will come from Admin once I share the information but I am also hoping to get some reinforcement in actively and forcing our Athletic Use Field Policy, which basically dictates that the use of our fields will be because of the demand of our community is so high. It has kind of gone out the door because we are trying to make space available whatever the case, if our field goes down for maintenance, we will move that group to whatever space is available so that they can play their sport even if it is not the designated sport field. So we are hoping that it will all work out.

Chairwoman Smith stated Sabrina I want to say something.

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

Chairwoman Smith stated as long as we're on the subject. It was my understanding that the reason that they were playing they're games elsewhere was because we didn't have a football field for them. So I don't want you to think that they wanted to go to other parks to play, because they have complained to us for years about it.

Sabrina Barnes stated well we as in Parks and Recreation, we don't have a football field for that group; we have a football field that accommodates the city's football program. It is not Jr. All-American Football because they're league is so large and they play for so long; for their requirements they would use Coleman Stadium, which again was inside the city limits. But because the fees were absorbent, they went away and then turned to the city and said we can't use that field, we need you to provide a field.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated may I ask you a question?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

Commissioner Brown stated there is so much soccer going on and having permits, how much money has soccer generated to the city with fees by them utilizing the fields as much as they do?

Sabrina Barnes stated Commissioner you are asking me a question that I don't have that number in my head. I believe I have provided it and I can dig that up for you, it really depends on the group that is playing. If they are resident groups, they pay little or no fees and may just pay for lights. Pretty much if an outside group gets a field because it is not being used by a resident, they may be required to pay. But just in terms of the total amount I don't have that information here tonight.

Commissioner Brown stated so the groups that I see at Darby Park on early Saturday and the afternoon on Sunday, are these outside groups or are these considered residents because I have seen them coming from all over.

Sabrina Barnes stated and again you are asking me a question that I don't have that information available for you; I would need to check with that Supervisor to see specifically who the group is, how they qualify for use of the field.

Commissioner Brown stated but they play in not like a tournament, but like a league.

Sabrina Barnes stated I will say that it's the nature of the sports that participants play year-round and it's the same thing that happens at Vincent Park as well. It's the same groups that we have consistently; I believe it's like seven (7) or eight (8) groups that play regularly. They line up, they know that requests are taken monthly and they are standing there waiting to put their in reservations. There are few fields, so the fact that we make them available even in the community because some communities do not allow non-residents to use fields. So it is only a matter of what type of enforcement of rules or laws that you want to put in place and enforce that will govern our fields.

Chairwoman Smith stated well we have to do something as far as putting in rules and laws because the citizens of Inglewood are paying for the repairs of these fields, so we have grown people coming and playing on the little kids' soccer field. We are destroying the field, so we are replacing the field more then we should have to, so maybe we should have something that governs how often they can play or use our fields; that is a suggestion.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you, I appreciate it. I will have Mrs. Green send a copy of our Athletic Field Use Policy, and I actually think that it speaks volumes but it is just a matter of enforcement. For example, it indicates that you can't play in steel cleats; well adults play in steel cleats but we don't have the man power to enforce that, like who is going to do a cleat check at every soccer game. Then are we going to ticket everybody that is in steel cleats, how do you deal with that? So those are the things that we need to look at and make work as a part of the policy.

Commissioner Brown stated well you have the Code Enforcer over there, and I know that they can make at the early start of those leagues a visit and increase the fees because from what I hear, our fees are very reasonable compared to other cities like South Gate and their fees. But that's why people come to Inglewood, we tend to be very cheap in terms of our fees; and when we start increasing our fees, it tells them to go somewhere else and at least it recoups some of the money from the damage that they have done to the fields.

Sabrina Barnes stated with regards to fees, we are making recommendations for fee increases because in general our fees are low. We are offering a four-week Summer Day Camp for \$200, when individuals pay \$200 a week for camps in surrounding cities.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner McLemore do you have any questions concerning this?

Commissioner McLemore stated no questions.

Sabrina Barnes stated okay I am going to move on to our agenda, we have been getting our gymnasium and racquetball floors done at Darby and Rogers Park. A little over two (2) weeks ago the Mayor and Council Members approved the contract with the vendor. The first vendor that actually was the lowest bidder actually did not comply with all the requirements, and there was a protest in place and it delayed the process; but we now have a bid awarded to a vendor, it is anticipated that the repair at Darby Park for the racquetball court will begin on July 20, 2009. It should take no more than three (3) weeks, they are telling us two (2) but I want to put a cushion in there in case anything happens. It shouldn't, but you never know the way things are. In August, they will start on the gymnasium floor but we don't have the exact date and then they will move to Rogers depending on the movement of the work at Darby. That will be for the refinishing of floors and the replacement of the gym floor at Darby Park, including the membrane that was missing and all of those things that we needed to do to address like the fact that the floor kept buckling due to moisture, those problems have been identified and they will be addressed.

I just have two (2) more items, CDBG, as I mentioned in regards to our budget, I am asking for your support because we have asked from our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) section to fund several projects for our department. Namely we asked for \$60,443 for our After-School Recreation Program, and that money provides staffing and program expenses for after-school programs at Payne, Highland and Centinela Elementary Schools. Which is three (3) of our nine (9) sites are funded through grants, and that's primarily what we try to do but those are in CDBG eligible areas. We also ask for \$70,000 for programs at Siminski Park, and that supports just daily after-school programming and weekend activities. You may recall that we have not been regularly programming there and we were just doing the early childhood development programs and some programs for seniors. But now we are offering a cadre of classes and activities for youth, and also a Boys and Girls Club type of environment. For our Lockhaven Center, we actually increased the ask on this, it is Lockhaven/Center Park, we are asking for \$80,000 for it. We will also fund after-school programs and activities and programs on Saturdays as well as the Darby Park Camp, which now is coming out of the general fund and we are trying to defray some of that cost to free up money to minimize the impact of the reductions. Code Enforcement will be receiving or we have asked for \$232,815 and it ideally funds a portion of our Code Enforcement efforts. Returning, we've asked for \$68,720 for our Home Delivered Meals Program. It will take care of our current waiting list; we have approximately 40 individuals on the waiting list that we cannot serve. These monies will take them off of the waiting list and we'll be able to deliver meals to them because of their health condition or assessments determined by our Case Management Section. Meals should be delivered to them because we can't accommodate due to no money for it. This fund will take care of the drivers as well as the meals.

I think I hit everything, but again we are asking for your support such that our allocations are not chopped up and we end up with less than we've asked for. Part of these funds will augment what will be lost from the general fund.

Chairwoman Smith stated okay. Can you do me a favor and next week can you make us a copy of everything you want and the \$60,000 or \$80,000 and what is involved in that so that we can inform and reach our Council people.

Sabrina Barnes stated okay we will get this out if you want to peruse it immediately, it should be included in the Agenda packet for next week in which I believe has already been published. It will be under the CDBG plan, but we will get the individual copy of that mailed to you.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you.

Sabrina Barnes stated okay. Finally, on June 19, 2009 the City received a distinguished designation as All-America City. It is a designation that we had twenty (20) years ago, you may have seen this some years ago on the signs that read 1989; but now we have a new designation as of 2009. A team from the city went and competed along with 29 other cities; 10 cities were awarded the designation. The competition included a 10 minute presentation; we chose a time travel themed skit that basically looked at the City of Inglewood between a period of 10 years ago when the area along Century was called "The Bottoms," it was crime infested. There was gangs and graffiti, old apartments that had been abandoned, but now it's "The Village at Century," a commercial corridor that is ranking in the top 5 to 10% amongst national retailers. I believe its 60% of the employees there that are Inglewood residents, plus crime in the area is down by 43%. All of those things made that award worthy.

We also highlighted our Residential Sound Insulation Programs (RSIP), which is one of the top programs in the nation. This is where we are addressing issues with the aircraft noise; I believe the number is, I don't know, 1800 or 18,000 planes that travel over the city in the course of a day. If you are under a flight path, you know what it means to say hold on when an airplane passes. Well we now have a program where it insulates windows, puts in new air conditioning and does those things to lessen the impact of the noise. Finally we have an Auto repair Apprenticeship Program that our Fleet Services Department along with the Los Angeles Industrialization Center, train youth to work on automotive vehicles. The cool thing is that they are training them now to work on green vehicles, which basically you'll need to know this as we move into the future. One of the kids that graduated that program actually got to travel to Florida and speak of his experience and we also had a staff person that had the Residential Sound Installation done; they were part of the private presentation team, so to kill two (2) birds with one (1) stone he went to speak about that experience. We had some dramatic experts with us, it was rigorous. After the presentation we walked off the stage going "Yeah we got this!" We were amongst the first to present, and then you sit in the audience and you watch these other cities and they are walking in with full-on production staging, props, costumes, sound effects. We were pretty straight-forward because we had a time machine and an attitude, an attitude to win. After the presentation there are 10 minutes of questions and answers, and all I can say is that it was awesome! The city won the designation and there is a celebration that is going to happen in the future to really unveil this and kind of speak to what this means to the city. So as the Director of the All-American City for 2009, that ends my report.

Commissioner Brown stated where did this take place?

Sabrina Barnes stated in Tampa, Florida.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioners do you have any final comments?

Commissioner Brown stated yeah can I comment.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Brown go ahead.

Commissioner Brown stated I saw an email from the Council and also from the OIC; I am just shocked that we hear so many negative things about the City of Inglewood, but these should've been one of the excerpts to go to The Wave and to all the local newspapers to offset some of the negativity that we hear about the Police Department. The piece was done; and I work very closely with OIC, but if you ever visited the Motor Pool when they first set up the program, the work that these young men do and all of the help and assistance that we get from the staff of the City of Inglewood to help them. This is something that should be really talked about a lot better than you saying you just went all the way to Florida to say that you the All-America City because this says something about our city and these are the kinds of things that I been harping on the PR (Public Relations) Department of the city. I am going to say it over and over again because it is great that you are making this presentation; but this should be in all of the newspapers, you know this should've been a big thing because this is something you don't take lightly. It is almost on the same order as the Malcolm Walridge Award that is given to organizations for excellence, and this stands out a lot because it is not just a simple banner but it puts you up there really high. I congratulate all of those who were involved, and I just think this should've been pumped up a little bit more.

Sabrina Barnes stated please let me respond. This is one of those instances where I personally witnessed our press effort. That press release that you received via email, was drafted from the city's press release. When we walked off the stage after being announced as a winner - our press rep Hill Nolton was with us - she went immediately to the press room and faxed and blasted our notices. On that Sunday, I think the article was about this big (hand signals) in the Los Angeles Times. The best press we got was of course from our own local newspaper - in the Inglewood Today Magazine. The press release was sent to every media outlet in the area. After that it was up to the media and what they choose to pick up - the fact that somebody stole the car in the city versus our All America City award triumph.

Commissioner Brown stated yeah I know and I understand but it's just funny how sensational stuff gets out of something where it talks about the city of what we are all proud of and live in, it just gets a caption.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown. Commissioner McLemore?

Commissioner McLemore stated I heard about this and I was most impressed with the award and I am a part of the Sound Installation, and it is wonderful because for so many years we had to turn the TV up or turn it off because of planes going over. But now it is so much better, and we are totally appreciating the sound proofing in the area and all that; but I also want to congratulate you because I heard that you did an excellent job in your performance, so my hat is off to you. Thank you very much.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you.

Chairwoman Smith stated seeing that there are no further comments or questions, the Parks and Recreation Commission of July 2, 2009 is adjourned at 6:51 p.m. Thank you everyone.