

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on August 6, 2009, at the Lockhaven Community Center. Chairman Norma Smith, presiding called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – Commissioner at Large
Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District One
Commissioner Norma Smith, Chairperson – District Two
Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three
Commissioner Henry Brown – District Four

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Director
Stephanie Maldonado, Administrative Aide
Tynelia Morris, Administrative Aide
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor
Trina Tyson, Program Specialist

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Giardina stated I make a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections.

Commissioner Smith stated I have some corrections. Corrections on page 9 it should read 10% may seem like a lot but when it comes to someone losing their job its very little, page 12 paragraph 6 should read they, not we are destroying the fields, page 14 paragraph 2 the last sentence should say so that we can be informed when we talk to our Council person. Any further corrections? None. I call for the approval of the minutes, all in favor.

All of the Commissioners stated I, minutes approved with the necessary corrections.

Public Comments

Diane Sambrano stated good evening Commissioners my name is Diane Sambrano. Let me first start by saying on this agenda I noticed that you have person's that wish to address the Commission on any items on today's agenda but you don't have a place for things not on the agenda which could be a problem. I ask that in the future you make that designation clear since I guess at some point you address those items, I would ask that it is now or not?

Commissioner Smith stated we do allow for you to come up on speak on any subject but maybe we need to put that in writing.

Diane Sambrano stated I am glad that you are here today in this location and I would hope that if you already haven't gone to Center Park you go before you leave or if its too dark come back in the

day time. One of the things that is of great concern in that park is the apparatus has been down for over two months and it got spruced up a little bit this last week so that the visual impact was a little bit better than it was but for about two months maybe even before school ended it had the sawhorses all over it keeping children from using the area that had either broken or fallen apart. It seems that two months is a very long time to look for that part or do something for it because right now it is summer and right now we only have recreation leaders in that park on Tuesdays, Fridays and some times Saturdays. All of the children of this community have no place to go that is a supervised area within that park on the other days and nothing in the morning. I think that if you walk around this area you will probably see a lot of graffiti and we have several turf issues in this neighborhood. I know that one of the young man that lives directly across the street from the park was shot probably about four weeks ago (he's alive and well) but wounded, down on Lemoli and over here on Doty but yet we only have supervision at the park for approximately ten hours a week. I would hope that some how we would look at the staffing at all the other parks or particularly at the larger parks and find a way to perhaps pull two or three from those over staffed parks and bring them not to just this park but to Siminski and all the other parks that do not have supervision because right now if someone does get hurt we'll say on Monday or Wednesday it is up to the neighbors to be vigilant and find out if something happened and at this point we don't know what that can be and we hope that the neighbors call the police and usually its only about two or three in this neighborhood who call. Since this is a city park my concern is that there are still no bathroom doors on the girls' bathroom. That is one of my you've got to be kidding. We fought very hard to get that bathroom there, it cost us \$168,000. It's approximately 200 yards from the school bathroom that always operated when I was a child and then the school decided to lock the gate so children really truly do not have a comfortable place to go to the bathroom for fear of someone may walk in and see them and I don't know if any of us would like that situation for us or our daughters. So I would hope that you come up with some type of solution but for any of the others that have that same situation. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Ms. Sambrano.

Nanette Marchand stated Nanette Marchand from the 2nd district. I'm here to speak on an issue that happened on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 4th over at North Park. First, I want to acknowledge Ms. Sabrina Barnes who came over and addressed one of the issues. The sidewalk was broken where the residents enter the parks for our event and when I arrived around 3 o'clock that afternoon they were putting up caution tape, cones and a sawhorse to block the entry. I knew that was going to be problematic and I called my councilmember who in turn called some people at City Hall and as I said Ms. Barnes came out and I have to commend her because she was very attentive, apologetic and got something done right a way. My other issue was trees. I was there earlier in the morning because I wanted to meet with our musician to see where he'd be setting up and the tree trimmers were there along the parkway. I had no reason to believe they were going to cut all of the trees just at the entrance of the park. No other tree within the park was trimmed, but those trees right at the entrance again where all of our residents were going to enter the park were lush and plentiful, it was beautiful but by the time our event started the trees were bare. I realized because the sun was going to set in the west we weren't going to have much coverage or canopy as I was told. The last part of what I want to mention is that I had never met Ms. Gardner before; she came out to address the tree issue she was extremely combative, I don't understand why. I was disappointed and I knew Councilmember Dunlap was going to be sorely disappointed to see how shear those trees were.

She came out to explain how the tree trimming is done in the city, I'm fully aware, I am a resident, an environmentalist, I'm a green person so I understand they do have to be trimmed and that they are going to replenish in a year or so but my objection was that day. The timing was very, very bad and even from an aesthetic value or the ambience of his beautiful park, those were the only three trees right where the people entered, every other tree was untouched. It was explained to me that they finished a project earlier than expected so they went over to North Park. Like I said, I was there in the morning and I saw the parkway trees being trimmed. I had no reason to believe they were going to go inside the park and literally bare the trees. It was just a very unexpected situation to arrive to. I spent 12 hours that day trying to make a nice and wonderful event for our constituents and that was the only sore spot, but like I said I give kudos to Sabrina Barnes because she was there. She came on the spot and had the crew do a temporary fix to the sidewalk because otherwise the city would have been liable for a number of injuries. There was a fresh break in the sidewalk that could have happened that day, so I just want to make it completely clear that this can not happen again. Thank you.

Ms. Bell stated good evening. I too was at the Night Out, it was a good celebration but I almost fell coming in. I came late after Dunlap was introducing various people and because you don't have any lighting there, I didn't see how the cement was going up so I kind of tripped. I really think that maybe if you can put a motion light there for when you are walking in because you have a tree there that is messing up the cement and if someone older than me walked in might have fallen. So if a motion light can be put near the building, we'd have lighting there to see where you are going. I was hoping that maybe that would happen, thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated with no further public comments, I would like to comment. Earlier that day I was there and I was bringing someone who was going to perform to see where he wanted to set up. The sidewalk was fine; they were not cutting in the park they were in the parkway. Then when she called me and asked why didn't I tell her there were trees scheduled to be cut, there weren't.

Sabrina Barnes stated that is correct.

Commissioner Smith stated so my thing is from now on, if we change our schedule at any point on a day of an event, we just cancel it and wait until the following day because the cement was not busted when I was there earlier. I don't know how it got broken but it was broken that evening and I'm glad you came out so you can witness that. But I would ask you guys from now on whenever we have an event planned in the park that we wait on the tree trimming because that really is an inconvenience for everyone and we could have been liable for a number of suits if she hadn't called. So I thank you ladies for reporting that. Any further comments on that?

Commissioner Agee stated this is North Park? Sounds like to me these things happened before the Night Out. Were you familiar with these problems at the park?

Sabrina Barnes stated actually no and let me give you some history about it. We actually took quite a few hits this week regarding our trees and I'm sure you may hear some amens coming from Ms. Sambrano here. According to our schedule we were scheduled to be over at the Adobe. Staff had been given clear direction based on the meeting in June to not do any trimming at the Adobe without first phoning and discussing the process with Ms. Sambrano. That didn't happen and staff

went over. That was quick addressed and the crews were pulled out of the Adobe. Well with them not doing the Adobe site that week, the next scheduled activity was North Park so with that they went on to the next project. What happened there was generally poor judgment calls and what we learn daily is that the standard trimming practice does not apply everywhere. We know that per Councilwoman Dunlap she wants to know when trees are being trimmed in her district and why. Well because the crews got shifted that morning there was not proper notification so we could advise. We did send a list to the Council Office but Ms. Marchand was out taking care of National Night Out business. The bottom line is it was a big catastrophe and we will own that. We have a directive from our City Administrator that our performance counts and the responsible parties were dealt with but we are also discussing the trimming practices. The Tree Supervisor has been instructed to discuss with his staff before they go out in a particular area the preferences. I know for example we had to trim some trees on Ellis due to street maintenance. The directive there was that we need to know, we don't want our trees trimmed to nakedness, we like lush trees as that is the characteristics of our neighborhood where as we may go into another area but the trees in District 4 are so thick here that we try to cut them back when we do so that they can unblock the lights and the streets are not as wide so we have to be aware of what the circumstances are in the various communities. We do own it, I believe I've addressed it and it will not happen again. So to answer your question, did I know it was happening before hand? No I learned of all the incidents on the day of.

Commissioner Agee stated since Ms. Gardner's name was mentioned by a speaker, I'd like to say that I've known Ms. Gardner since I've been involved with the city and I can tell you for a fact that Ms. Gardner is one of the most dependable, outstanding workers we have here in the city and I'm really surprised to hear the statement from the speaker. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee and the fact is that we all know Rita Gardner and we all respect her but that's not the point. The point is just like they started over there where Judy's Night Out was taking place, they could have started on the other side of the park and got to that side after the event.

Sabrina Barnes stated I understand. The expectation was that they were going to be trimming there all of this week and they would get to all of the trees by the time they left. They started there and the job they did there was not viewed as good.

Commissioner Giardina stated I was there also because I made my rounds that night. I just think we need to communicate, I mean that is a National Event and each district had an enormous event planned and so I think that we need to do a better job coordinating and probably some of that frustration had to do with the calamities in the area and being challenged the way we were. The trees were substantially cut, they are beautiful trees and they really present an eye sore rather than a beautification. I think maybe we just need to have a conversation with them like you said about each district being idiosyncratic and how we expect them to perform their duties. Our tree trimmers are much more sensitive to each area and are more familiar with what the residents want verses what happened so maybe we can just circle the wagons and reiterate what the expectation is.

Sabrina Barnes stated I had an opportunity to speak with the actual trimmer that was trimming at that site and what he shared with me while it doesn't make it right, he indicated to me that they are working with limited manpower. We have two 3-man crews. We don't know when we are going to

get back to the parks so we were trying to address them in a manner so that once they grew back it would take them a while but once the whole park was done, it wouldn't look so choppy. Bottom line, the timing was bad, the communication was off.

Commissioner Giardina stated I do appreciate your response and addressing those issues there because again I have no idea how the sidewalk was broken but it is still something we need to talk to them about, we want them to trim the trees not destroy the walkways.

Sabrina Barnes stated I definitely plan to revisit the sidewalk because although I was there with Ms. Marchand and it looked very, very fresh, I also received communication the next day that this had been reported on Monday because it was discovered during an inspection so I need to go back and revisit it and see what happened there because I hadn't been there in a few days so I don't know if it was or was not broken, but I hear you were there earlier that morning.

Commissioner Smith stated I was there earlier that morning and they had leaves all over the place but they were working on the outside trees not the inside. I know you said there was miscommunication and I can deal with that but common sense tells you if there is an event here I'll go somewhere else in the meantime.

Sabrina Barnes stated and that is a miscommunication thing because while the supervisor may have known or may not have known, I knew, Rita knew, but that information didn't get to us fast enough that they were switching locations, matter of fact if we hadn't received that call we would have never known. That's all a part of the conversation when these things happen they need to be reported so that when I get a call from Mr. Wanamaker and he is asking why are you cutting, I won't have my mouth open saying well uh, I'll be able to address that.

Commissioner Smith stated we respect you and Rita and I respect Ms. Marchand and that is the reason I asked her to bring it to the Parks Commission so we will know what is going on, not just me the whole Commission. If I didn't have respect for the three of you she wouldn't have had to come, I would have just said what I had to say that day. But you guys have earned the respect.

Sabrina Barnes stated do know that we definitely heard and I know that this might not make it better even for Ms. Sambrano because we heard the statement at the June meeting but it is clear and I expect staff to adhere to the directives that are given. The guys are ready to go back to District 2 and I'd like to talk to the Councilwoman to see if she'd like for us to come back. Diane I can call you to see if you want anything done there, but we would like to while we have it on our schedule to come get it done.

Diane Sambrano stated after this experience, I don't want you guys near the property.

Commissioner Agee stated there is a rumor going around here that maybe next year the Night Out event will be at one spot at Market Street and I support that. I think that's a good idea.

Commissioner Brown stated I came in on the tail end, but it's good to hear comments negative and positive about tree trimming and things that do happen. I think looking over the year after the tragic accident when we lost one of our crew members we are becoming more conscious but sidewalk and trees are a problem that we have not only in one district but all over. We really need

to take a serious look at not just how the trees are trimmed but also the underbrush of the roots that makes the sidewalks wobble back and forth. It is a positive thing and I compliment them. I think sometimes we want to jump on our city workers for making mistakes, but we all make mistakes but it is a good thing that we are so sensitive that we can act very quickly because other city's that have problems with trees and sidewalks getting broken can care less and I just want to compliment the staff for being very sensitive and so let's look at that. I'm hoping that residents come to our meeting with positive concerns and suggestions because I remember the day this crew (referring to West Coast Arborists, Inc.) came in to work with us in this hot library and I did not see not one resident give any input on how we need to address the tree situation and this is just one incident out of many that they have worked on and I think that it is a plus. I appreciate your input and let's try to work on it. Communication in a city that is 9.3 miles sometime is so difficult that sometimes I can't understand it myself.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated at this time we have reporting for our Parks Section, Trina Tyson.

Trina Tyson stated good evening Commissioners.

Capital Improvement Update

- Vincent Park Lighting Improvement Project – Mayor and Council Members approved the contract with Quality Lighting and Electrical on July 21st. Project is slated to begin August 26.
- Hardy Slope Street Median Renovation Project – Mayor and Council Members approved the agreement with West Basin Municipal Water District to receive grant funds to retrofit the Hardy Slope Street Median to reduce water usage and run off. Project is slated to begin October 12 and will be completed by January 8, 2010.
- Playground Matting Replacement (Rogers and Vincent Parks) – Based on the hazardous conditions of the playground matting at both Rogers and Vincent Parks, Parks Construction staff repaired the matting purchased from Spectra Turf, Inc.
- Siminski Park Restroom Construction Project – Staff from the Park Maintenance and Construction Crews and Public Works met to discuss the status of the project. It was determined that opening of the bids will be December 1st and the awarding of the bid will be January 19, 2010. Scope of work will include building, transporting and delivering the unit to the park.
- Vincent Park Soccer Stadium Artificial Turf Installation Project – A State Representative from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program performed an on-site inspection of Field B on July 15th in consideration of the grant application submitted in March.

Commissioner Agee stated Trina do you have a company selected from where you're going to get the artificial turf from?

Trina Tyson stated not at this time.

Sabrina Barnes stated we're not quite there yet because we haven't secured all the funding. This process that Trina spoke about is for the grant application that we made with the State. Right now we made it to the second level and we expect to know if we received the award by the end of August.

Commissioner Brown stated just one question for Sabrina, it was brought to my attention there is some additional monies from the stimulus package. I don't know how extensive our grant writers look for money from state and county, but have we resolved all of our avenues looking for additional monies to cover some of our Capital Improvements?

Sabrina Barnes stated the city has been very aggressive looking for money whether it'd be for extra police officers or for various projects. One project I know that we have in is to address issues over at Rogers Park and addressing the air condition system that has been out there for quite a while. The challenge with our Capital Improvement Projects is that if you look at our budget they are rarely ever funded from the General Fund, they all rely on grant funding. So to answer your question we have looked at stimulus package projects, the city has a hug list and they were prioritized.

Commissioner Giardina stated I just want to ask you Sabrina, as mentioned in the comments earlier, do we still not have doors on the restrooms?

Sabrina Barnes stated we don't have doors on any of the restrooms.

Commissioner Giardina stated when we approved this project we had extensive conversation about how women are socialized and the expectation of privacy especially in a public park. We specifically talked about having doors in the restroom for that renovation and we sure got berated and chewed up for the amount of money we spent on the restrooms. It should be a part of our minutes and I know there was extensive conversation about the doors and making sure it was ADA and that it was also going to provide privacy and doors for the users. Again this is hard to believe but it is August 2009 and for us to still be addressing doors which was three or four years becomes really worrisome to me because we have these conversations and it is exhaustive about how we discussed it and yet still have no doors, there's something wrong here. I think we really need to start having some follow up or time table for us to be able to address those deficiencies because the project could not be complete if the doors or not there.

Sabrina Barnes stated in regards to the Vincent Park project, because I was neither at the helm or working closely to that project, I would need to look back at the minutes and look back at that folder to see what the discussion about the doors is and see how and when it fell off of the table. I understand what you are saying but let me get some more background on that and I can be prepared to bring that to you at the next meeting.

Commissioner Giardina stated so are the restrooms finished?

Sabrina Barnes stated oh yes, they've been finished for quite a while.

Commissioner Giardina stated that is what I am saying. Rita came to a couple of meetings and we were this close to talking about they are almost finished and I kept waiting thinking we were

going to have a walk through because of the beating we took for \$700-800,000 restrooms for the park was exhaustive in of itself, it was severe. I think Rita was privy to a lot of those conversations that were severe and brutal so I can't believe we finished it and the doors are not part of the renovation that is just unacceptable. I'm requesting that that be on the next agenda so we can revisit it.

Commissioner Smith stated piggy backing what she said, I think maybe we should have walk thru's on big projects like that because if this is the kind of stuff that happens when our backs are turned then we need to make sure everything that we ask for and was agreed upon is taking place. From now on for any big projects, I'd like for you to let us know when it is time for a walk thru before you finalize it.

Commissioner Agee stated do I understand that they do not have partitions in the new ladies restroom that was just built?

Commissioner Smith stated no.

Commissioner Agee stated they were in the contract weren't they?

Sabrina Barnes stated I will report to you next month.

Commissioner Giardina stated just so we don't digress, I just really want to say that this Commission is a functioning Commission; we try to meet and be proactive. We advocate for all of these things because we believe in Parks and Recreation and their mantra and the reason why they exist. But it is very discouraging to think that we are advocating for this, moving this, and participating in this but then when you have something like this, if it's finished and the doors are not part of it that's really an abomination of this Commission and what we stand for because that has nothing to do with what we talked about, agreed on and advocated for. We could have kept those same restrooms as deficient as they were if these were going to be equally deficient after all that money was spent. It's absurd.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm assuming you will get that to all of us at the next meeting.

Sabrina Barnes stated most definitely.

Commissioner McLemore stated when were the doors approved on this?

Commissioner Smith stated this has been going on for more than five years.

Commissioner Giardina stated this is a four or five year project and as Commissioner Brown has stated this was an exhaustive discussion and we specifically stated we wanted doors and when we stated that they said it was going to up the price and we said we didn't really care because there was no need to build the bathrooms if there were going to be no doors. I think that the minutes should reflect that.

Sabrina Barnes stated West Coast Arborist is on hold for tree trimming because they have trimmed over 15,000 trees and right now we have them on an on-call basis. They did complete

training with city staff on July 24th and we are scheduled to have two more trainings within the next few months.

Commissioner Smith stated you said the contract is for 15,000 trees?

Sabrina Barnes stated when we actually contracted them the contract was for three years and they were suppose to trim approximately 6,100 trees a year. In moving through the process, the City Administrator directed us to keep going and get the trees trimmed. Why should we have to wait three years to trim all the trees and they assigned staff in a much more aggressive capacity than we thought we'd have and they would come in with several crews of 10 and so they knocked off about 15,000 trees of the 18,000 they were required to trim and the others that were trimmed either we had gotten to them already.

Commissioner Smith stated so they will be fulfilling their contract at a later date?

Sabrina Barnes stated right it is a three year contract. We do have some recommendations and if you don't mind, this is actually a part of our budget process I'd like to share. There is some money left on this particular project and we met with the City Administrator and we checked with Legal to see if this is something we can do with the contract. We want to take a portion of the money to fund a third body for the third crew. Right now we have two 3-man crew and we have two guys that float and do ground work because they can't trim because they have to work in a three person capacity. We wanted to take a portion of the remaining money to fund that position.

When we moved from the Senior Center some of our staff was displaced and are in a place that is not the most conducive for conducting business and we don't operate our preschool program right now because we don't have the space for it. We were able to acquire trailers (I believe I mentioned to you before) from Kaiser Permanente. They will require some rehabilitation and we want to use a portion of the remaining money for that.

Commissioner Giardina stated I know when we discussed the contract for West Coast Arborist not only was it for tree trimming and removals but it was also for planting and so I would hope that before we exhaust whatever money remains that we use it to replace trees that were problematic. I hope that some of that money goes to replanting those problematic trees.

Sabrina Barnes stated what we did was we itemized the list by identifying money for removals, replanting and tree trimming as well as emergency on-call money in the event that anything happened and our city crews had to be out but we still needed additional resources. We have a cafeteria list that we can pull from and planting is on the list.

Commissioner Smith stated you did say they were already planting the trees before didn't you?

Sabrina Barnes stated our guys were coming behind and planting.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm just making sure.

Sabrina Barnes oh yes, for a while we were out of stock on inventory during the bid process, but our guys have replanted at the sites where there were removals done by West Coast. There were few removals that they did; we were moving more trees than they were.

Commissioner Agee stated I don't know if this was reported on 7th Avenue between 104th and 108th there is a dead tree that needs to be removed and a new one planted.

Sabrina Barnes stated ok.

Commissioner McLemore stated are the tree trimmers contracted or are they City of Inglewood employees?

Sabrina Barnes stated both. Prior to our industrial accident we had four 2-man crews, after our accident we moved to having three man crews. So what that basically made it to where we had two full crews. There was also a decision to bring in a contracted group to help us knock out the trees because for the most part a resident was lucky if their tree got trimmed every four or five years and we were trying to get that number down to at least two or three. For the last year, effective in October we began working with a contractor West Coast Arborist and a lot of residents didn't necessarily know that it wasn't city crews when they were out trimming so they may have seen them and thought the City was being a little more aggressive and we were but they weren't city crews. Right now if you see anyone on the streets trimming trees they are city crews.

Now onto Recreation, we have Arrick Turner reporting.

Arrick Turner stated good evening.

Movies in the Park

Everyone is invited to come out for the finally showings of the Movies in the Park series. Movies will be shown on the multipurpose field at Darby Park. All movies are free and this month's feature films include Long Shots on August 8 and Beverly Hills Chihuahua on August 18. Gates open at 6:300 p.m. and movies begin at 8:00 p.m. Bring six recyclable items and receive a free popcorn voucher. For additional information please call the city's movie information hotline at (310) 412-8880. We hope you will join us for unforgettable evening for cinema under the stars.

Commissioner Giardina stated I love this program.

Sabrina Barnes stated one more item since we had our location was up in the air for a minute because we were trying to actually use the auditorium over at Crozier, but we are going to do it at Darby Park. We partnered again this year with the South Bay WIB and we have a large number of summer youth employment workers and if you've been around for quite a while either because you've lived here or on the Commission, you know we use to do a summer theater project. We are doing that this year. We are doing the production of Fame. We will have showings at Darby Park on Saturday, August 15 and Thursday the 13th at 1:00 p.m., it is free and open to the public.

Moving along now to Human Services, Trina is reporting.

Trina Tyson stated good evening again Commissioners, I will be reporting on some senior programs and support groups that we have.

- Falls Prevention Program – For seniors 65 and older this program is to help reduce the risk of falls and improve stability. Included in the program is exercise done at home, risk assessment and medical risk. The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1. Program is free for 12 weeks and held at the Senior Center.
- Bereavement Support Group – We have had great response to this. We will be offering a bereavement support group to members of the community who are suffering the loss of a loved one. A lot of our seniors lose a spouse, children, and sometimes even parents. It is a six week group beginning this month and we will rotate sessions from afternoons to evenings to meet the needs of those that are in need of the group. The facilitator is Sheila Mc Killian and she received her training in Torrance at Vista Innovative Hospice Care and she is very good and we have received a very good response for this support group.
- Healthy Brain Champion Workshop – The Senior Center in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association will be hosting a Healthy Brain Champion Workshop on August 1st and 22nd. The folks of the workshop are to educate African American baby boomers on healthy wellness including healthy brains, healthy behaviors and nutrition. The August 1st workshop will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Veteran's Building.

Commissioner Smith asked do you have a flyer for that event?

Trina Tyson stated to my understanding they were sent to you with your minutes.

Sabrina Barnes stated yes, they were sent with your minutes.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I've been hearing a rumor that some of the senior food has been cut by the list, is that true?

Trina Tyson stated food as in the congregated meals or home delivered meals?

Commissioner Agee stated lunch time.

Trina Tyson stated I don't know that to be true, we definitely serve the seniors that do come at lunch time.

Sabrina Barnes stated we have not cut any of our numbers at the Vet's Building. I would need to know a day specifically. I cannot say that a senior was not served because we have a certain amount of meals we get per day so say we order 80 meals and for some reason 85 seniors show up, we will not be able to offer them that meal that was brought in catered. We do try offer shelf stable product on hand. If someone elects to have it - maybe some chicken salad or something that is acceptable by county standards - but because we are catered we only order a certain amount of meals per day and we base it on both an estimate and what the number has looked like in the days and weeks before.

Commissioner Agee stated the reason I ask is because I received a telephone call saying part of the seniors had been dropped from a list and the individual I think is involved or a part of a food program, I believe her name is Washington and if she comes to you I don't recommend her but I told her to call staff.

Sabrina Barnes stated I am not familiar with what you are talking about, but again our in house meals we have a certain amount of numbers. We do have a waiting list for our home delivered meals and I'm not sure if that is what this individual is speaking about but we are at capacity. Seniors are being heavily affected by the recession and various funding sources they are relying on are drying up.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm glad to hear that you are not dropping anyone from the list.

Commissioner Smith stated at one point you guys were suppose to get us a list of the number of seniors that were coming through on a daily basis so we can average out how many meals you use per day because you said you were running short on meals. So we can see what we can do to help if you can recall.

Commissioner McLemore stated I thought she said they were working on a program where people can donate money, whatever happened to that?

Sabrina Barnes stated it is in Legal right now for their review. Because we are asking for funding for non-profit we are trying to get our documentation in place. We are accepting donations through our non-profit but our official campaign has not kicked off yet.

We are well into our budget preparation period for 2009-2010 and as previously reported and you may have also heard it at Council Meetings, most departments have been asked for 10% to help us prepare for certain conditions that may arise within the city or just to make sure we stay afloat. With that, as you know our department is primarily service based and to provide services you have to have people. We have had to make some tough decisions as to what we are offering up. Our priority has been to try to stay as whole as possible such that we don't lose bodies and people are out of jobs. To address some of that, what we have recommended for example as opposed to laying off two or three people, how about we close a center at 8:00 p.m. as opposed to 10:00 p.m. Our usership is down at 8:00 p.m. at night kids should be at home while the people who are still at the park are typically playing ball. If it is appropriate and ok they can play at the outside courts. Each section was asked to give up, we didn't make any one section bare any burden unduly. For example, for our Parks section since we are already staff challenged there we did not offer up any positions but we did offer up some of the overtime hours which will affect our ability to do special events. We have to prioritize, do we want to do a special event or do we want to keep a body? We also looked at our usage of utility and water; we know that the aesthetic of the city is really important so we basically have been doing some trial runs right now to see if the grass is browning. Ultimately making the decisions for our cuts were hard because we are people based. Our M & O which is the money we use to operate our programs and activities is rather limited. We are in the beginning stages of budget sessions that started on Monday of this week and we have our session with the Council next Monday at 1:00 p.m. We will be talking to them about our budget, what our needs and concerns our and ultimately they'll be deciding what goes and what stays

As you all know there was a security process put in place at City Hall and as a part of that we had been asked to move all meetings from the 9th floor to the Community Room or the Library or in our case we had use of outside facilities so that is how we ended up here tonight. After the publishing and the mailing of these minutes we learned that the 9th floor restrictions that we thought were still in effect are not in effect so we expect to be going back to our regular meetings. If we want to or at any time whether it is quarterly and you choose to venture out then let us know what your decisions are. Madam Chair maybe you can do a survey and let us know but next month we expect to be back at City Hall.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm not really surprised, that was a messed up deal there. Someone jumped the gun and that should have never happened, it scared a lot of people to death. A lot of citizens came to City Hall very upset. Most of it I think happened because of a misunderstanding and because staff didn't listen. In order for something to be approved, there has to be a vote by Council. They let out some things but they didn't vote on it so it wasn't legal.

Commissioner McLemore stated can you explain to me again what happened with the whole 9th floor thing.

Sabrina Barnes stated some security restrictions were put into place about two weeks ago on the 27th whereby if a resident or anyone came to City Hall, access to all the floors were restricted, you could only access the first floor. If you needed to go see someone you had to check in and or be escorted to your floor and with that one of the added security measures was they were limiting access to the 9th floor so any meetings that were taking place be it Commission or other meetings in the Council Chambers had to be relocated. In our looking around to find out where can we go tonight specifically, the Community Room and Library was not available so we decided to go to one of our own facilities. Next month is not a problem so we will be back at our regular meeting location.

Commissioner Brown stated I have a special request. It is very difficult for me to be here at a timely fashion because I don't get off until 6:00 p.m. and I spoke to one of the Commissioners about bringing to the whole body if we could move the meeting 30 minutes to 6:30 p.m. I don't know if that is a major request and I don't want to go out of the bounds but it would allow me without jumping on the freeway and running over John to get here in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Smith stated there is a request, do I have a motion?

Commissioner Giardina stated I make a motion to accommodate Commissioner Brown if it is fitting with staff. I know you work long hours and we will try to have an abbreviated version so we don't have these lengthy and spirited meetings.

Commissioner Agee stated I second that motion.

Commissioner Smith asked for a discussion?

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd just like to ask if staff would like to comment if that presents a hardship or problem.

Sabrina Barnes stated we are at your disposal. Most of the other Commissions, although this is not the suggestion, meet at 7 p.m. So 6:30 p.m. is not a problem.

Commissioner Smith stated if it presents a problem, we can always go back. It has been moved and second to switch our Commission meetings to 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of every month. All in favor?

Commissioner Giardina stated can I make an amendment? Because we didn't have this on the agenda, we probably need to reagendaize it so the public will be able to speak on it so we will be within the framework of the Brown Act and for proper posting. Even if we deal with it now it requires proper posting.

Commissioner Smith stated all in favor?

All the Commissioners stated I.

Sabrina Barnes stated so am I to understand the meeting for next month is or is not at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Smith stated it can't be at 6:30 p.m. next month because that is not legal.

Sabrina Barnes stated so we are calling a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. verses 6:00 p.m.?

Commissioner Smith stated are there any further questions or comments?

Commissioner Giardina stated Sabrina made a report and I would just like to say that I fully support your recommendations (referring to the budget). I think it is far more important that we cut whatever special activity to be able to maintain integrity of staff and our programs. If there is anything we can do to advocate and to assist you with that, I think it is significant, I think it is important and we should all be focused on one page, on one item. I know it is an extremely difficult time and we want to reach out to staff and tell them how much we appreciate their professionalism, dedication and hard work, to you especially (referring to Supervisors in attendance) and your staff. I think those are far more compassionate recommendations as opposed to some sweeping cuts to try and maintain a program and cause someone their livelihood. I would hope that this Commission would fully support your recommendations in terms of how you go about addressing the budget challenge.

Sabrina Barnes stated if your schedules permit we'd love for you to be there and hear the presentation and then you can engage your Council members appropriately about any visions you may have or advocate on our behalf.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Agee stated at the walk-a-thon last Tuesday I was embarrassed, it's a disgrace that any park in the City of Inglewood would look like that park.

Sabrina Barnes stated our park?

Commissioner Agee stated yes, the so called soccer fields. The people were walking in the dirt, that shouldn't happen. I really don't care how it gets done but these parks are for the public and that means everyone. If one organization is tearing the parks up destroying the fields away then that should be put under control. That was a disgrace and I heard a lot of complaints about walking in the dust, it was outrageous. They need to find some other place to have the walk-a-thon. Do you have anything in the making for Center Park so that it can serve the people in the neighborhood instead of people from Gardena, Torrance and every where else? Tthe same groups that uses that park, destroys it. If you go over there right now I don't know how many people you are going to see in there playing one particular sport. No one sport is suppose to dominate the parks in this city. Like I said the residents in this area deserve to have a place to go to relax and enjoy themselves. But not at Center Park. It should be changed and I know we've worked on this once before but something needs to be done so that park can be turned back over to the people in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Smith stated can you strike that vote from the record because it is against the Brown Act and we will make the corrections next month.

Commissioner McLemore stated was there a report on the Cancer walk?

Sabrina Barnes stated the Relay for Life event is what Commissioner Agee was partially talking about. To the extent, I don't think any of us were there. Some of our staff was very actively involved, walked, staffed the event and raised money. Our reports indicated it was very successful in terms of the over all event, it was very well attended. I saw pictures and it looked like individuals were having a ball.

Commissioner Brown stated I would like us to possibly close this meeting in recognition and warm hearts for the young man Spencer who was killed on Sunday morning by a speeding driver. Speaking to our Police Chief Tuesday night, it was a great thing that tips lead to the apprehension of the person. In memory of Spencer, I hope that we can close this meeting on his behalf. Along with that staff did attend the Night Out activity in District 4. I'm not sure about the other areas, but we had a tremendous turn out and the support, speakers, lights and police presence there gave a real warm feeling. The merchants where thrilled, I didn't leave there until 10:00 p.m. To add to that, having the stage and the mics shows that the staff of Parks and Recreation is over extended but they do a great job with the resources they have and we were very impressed.

Sabrina Barnes stated I will let them know, thank you.

Commissioner Giardina stated again, I want to applaud you guys for National Night Out, Parks and Recreation always does a phenomenal job. Every district I visited and I visited each one, was just phenomenal. I hope that you pass that on to the work ants that get it done because I know that they work long hours and a lot of work. I am encouraged by what we do here but I'm a little troubled by this. With the information that we have tonight, we all come here I think in the spirit of trying to get things done so I'm going to make a motion requesting a report on the doors at the restrooms as well as here at Center Park, to make sure we are actually doing this and holding people contractually to what it was and the expectation. I have to talk about my Circle Park fountain. It's only six years now and I don't want to appear to be grouchy but I think there should be some report. There was something brought back to us that was completely unacceptable. I also

believe that out of something bad comes something good, again we spoke tonight about meeting at the city and sometimes it is nice to get out in the community. I think we should try and have a conversation about moving us around so we are able to visit and be visible. Maybe if we give enough time and notice to the community, they can come and be involved. With that, I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight and I hope that in our special meeting at 6:30 p.m. in September we can address these items and maybe possible come to some solutions and closure on them.

Commissioner Smith stated last month I asked for a copy of the CHP report.

Sabrina Barnes stated from Thomas and we don't have that report yet.

Commissioner Smith stated when will the audit for transportation take place?

Sabrina Barnes stated I don't have the date. They had just been out and the audit findings we don't have yet, that is what you are asking for to my understanding. When we receive the audit findings I will get that to you as well as when their return date is.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. I'd like to close this meeting in memory of Cindy Giardina's mother who passed June 12, 2009. She was 82 years young. In memory of her, I'd like to close this meeting in the name of Martha Jean Voyd as well as Smhai Spencer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.