The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on January 7, 2010, in the Council Chambers located at City Hall on the ninth floor. Chairman Norma Smith, presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Sikizi Allen, Senior Center Manager Kevin Carroll, Code Enforcement Officer James Henry, Recreation Supervisor Juan Mata, Park Maintenance Supervisor

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Commissioner Giardina made a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections and Commissioner Agee seconded, motion carried.

#### **Public Comments**

None.

# Director's Report

**Sabrina Barnes** stated good evening Happy New Year. I hope you had a great holiday season, we did and we are looking forward to a new and great 2010. With that we will get on with the business at hand, following the agenda. First our Parks Report, we have Juan Mata reporting for Parks, but first we have an oral report regarding the capital improvement projects from Public Works. The representative will introduce himself when he comes up to the podium.

**Boytrese Osias** stated good evening my name is Boytrese Osias and I'm the Senior Engineer from the Public Works Department. I'm here to make a presentation regarding the Circle Park Improvement. This project was assigned to me last August or September and I understand that there was a preliminary proposal made by someone, so first thing I asked was what the budget was and then we went out into the field and made some observations.

Boytrese Osias continued on with his oral report, which included the following information:

## Circle Park Information

The Park is located in 8300 Fifth Avenue and comprise of 2 acres area. Its function shall be as a common place of activities or relaxation for low or middle class people with limited yard in a single residential area. It is simply a round shape area with green grasses, few trees, few plants, 4 benches and 6 light poles. There were no recreational facilities, short of benches, few trees, and obviously dark when sunset began. There were few benches around and there is no access for disabled person.

# The Project

The City of Inglewood pushes its objective and acquired funding to make an improvement for the park to make it beneficial to the citizen. Through study, site visit and reasonable funding the following scope of works are considered in the Design for construction:

- 1. **Construction of fountain** in the center area to feel the morning breeze and fresh water moisture when relaxing in the park. Attract citizen to sit or lay down around the fountain.
- 2. Construction of Pedestrian walkway The park is a circled center point of 6 streets (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue-north and south, Byrd Avenue, 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and Maitland Avenue), but there were no walkways resulting from people to walk in the grass area. Consequently people can not get in if the grass is wet or under sprinkling time.
- 3. Construction of Disabled or Pedestrian Ramp The Park is encircled with an 8 inches high curb and therefore no way for the disabled person to get in. The pedestrian ramp will be constructed on all walkway entry.
- 4. Construction of Additional light poles Apparently the inner circle of the park is in dark mode after sunset. It will limit the citizens activities on daytime especially people who are day time worker and become a safe haven for illegal activities at night.
- 5. Construction of additional concrete pad around the fountain. These will enable the citizen to walk around the fountain and take a glimpse of the beautiful fountain.
- Construction of colored concrete tiles around the fountain –These will bring additional beauty to the fountain as well as a convenient picnic pad or sit in area around the fountain.
- 7. **Installation of additional Benches**, **Pad and trees** These are additional elements that will make the park greener and accommodate more physically disable person to sit in the benches which are under the trees.

8. **Other construction** – These are components of the construction comprising of utility pipes, conduits, electrical works and others to complete the project.

Project Estimated Cost – \$ 224,410.23

**Sabrina Barnes** stated are there any questions, concerns are direction.

**Commissioner Smith** stated since we postponed this until Commissioner Giardina could be here, we will give her the floor at this time.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated one quick question; do you have the picture of the actual fountain being proposed?

**Commissioner Giardina** stated yes. We originally submitted a proposal and actually had a rendition for the renovation there. This park has been there 60 years, at least and the no disability access has to do with the curb, not necessarily walkways up to the park, one ramp would accommodate us. I'm just wondering what you show the budget for Circle Park.

Boytrese Osias stated it is estimated to be \$224,410.

Commissioner Giardina stated what we had originally talked about here was more that there are more then four or five trees at Circle Park, it is actually ringed with palm trees and there are four or five other trees symmetrically around it. What is the cost for pouring the cement?

Boytrese Osias stated \$6,200.

Commissioner Giardina stated when you say changing the box, how much is that?

**Boytrese Osias** stated it is only like \$5,000. One of the major things is to install lighting that will be around \$30,000.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated all that added up it is \$97,000.

**Boytrese Osias** stated we also have the installation of the disabled ramps and that is \$4,000 each.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated but the city is actually doing a renovation now with the stimulus money where they are changing the curbs.

**Boytrese Osias** stated that is only for Manchester Boulevard.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked have you ever seen the original rendition for that fountain.

**Boytrese Osias** stated yes, but it is only about the fountain.

Commissioner Giardina stated right, and what else was discussed and approved at this Commission had to do with the old Spanish style fountain and rod iron seating that would circle that, there would be lighting to accommodate the fountain on that inside that would provide light at

night and there was actually suppose to be the area around the fountain to be rubberized to allow the people low impact while they walk or jog because it is highly used by people morning, noon and night. I think we originally had like \$280,000 but what we did was give some money to the mural and we were waiting for that money to be replenished.

**Boytrese Osias** stated we did not include that because we are going with the budget they gave me. There are two types of designs. First you have to design according to the budget and the first consideration I had was with the walkways and the lighting.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated but I am saying there is a number of lighting around the circle already in between the palm trees and if we had lights in the fountain.

Boytrese Osias stated yes that was considered.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated are you saying that the rendition of the fountain you have there is \$30,000?

**Boytrese Osias** stated yes. If you are going to go with rubber around the circle, it will cost more and will be more than \$300,000. That is why we did not consider that. I'm just working with the budget. When I saw the people out there running, I didn't see any problems.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated this particular fountain is not the fountain that we picked at all. This is a complete abomination of the original plan that was approved by this commission and the one we submitted to the City Council.

**Boytrese Osias** stated we don't have any problem with changing the fountain. There are a lot of fountains and the price will come out the same.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated our issue is the water in the fountain is recycled.

Boytrese Osias stated corrected.

Commissioner Giardina stated so when you empty the fountain, what we were actually talking about was actually using a mechanism like in an aquarium which is like a pump hose that would actually allow for the water to be recycled on the grass.

**Boytrese Osias** stated we do not allow that especially now that we have a landscape ordinance. We will have to drain it to the sewer pump because LA County has an ordinance where we can't send it to any cutter so we will have to drain it to the sewer manhole.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated that wasn't what we talked about, because it is not like it is a pool. This is a fountain that is just water that the water will have to be recycled to water the grass.

**Boytrese Osias** stated the water is chlorinated, so we don't need to be pump it to the grass, it would have to be de-chlorinate before we pump it to the grass because the grass will die, so I don't know who proposed that.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated this thing is about seven years old now, I'm sure there is some sort of system there already, maybe that was before the new landscape ordinance.

**Boytrese Osias** stated basically the water will stay there; we are just recycling it so we don't get rid of the water, and we just get rid of it probably once a year so they can scrub the fountain.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated what difference would it make if instead of having 4 ramps, we have 2 ramps?

**Commissioner Giardina** stated even if we just had one ramp. Instead of having this quad here, we can basically have one ramp that will allow you to enter on the north side of 83<sup>rd</sup> Street or the Southside of that and once you get up there, the concrete already allows you to go around the fountain so that is pretty much already there, I don't think we need four ramps there.

**Boytrese Osias** stated we are trying to make it symmetrical to the streets there.

Commissioner Giardina stated but that breaks the park up and kids come and play football on there and use it differently and I think the concrete will actually be a hindrance to the way that the park is being used. The school comes in the school sometimes and I think with the concrete in four different places and around the circle, you break up the use of it. The only thing we wanted to do was enhance this by aesthetically providing a fountain and different seating to allow people to enjoy the fountain and the rubberize track to afford people the opportunity to be able to exercise in a manner with low impact. That is complete opposite of the way we use the park now. They even put a palm tree in the middle and didn't even water that, they had to remove the palm tree because it died and it was only there six months. I think they way they use it now, they have the small cinder block and they have plants in there that are not maintained and the water they get from sprinklers or overflow but I don't really think that that is a good use of the park. I've been in my house 32 years and I exercise around that park routinely and it is almost religious the way people track around this circle. They have been doing it for years. Sabrina is my neighbor, and this is our park, our community. I'm just saying to me this is not consistent with the use of the park for the people who are use to using the park. I'm thinking that a better use of the money rather than putting that money into the concrete, I certainly do believe it should be ADA and be able to accommodate people with disabilities. The question is, is that how we really want to use the money because that does not best utilize and service the people who use the park. This is the red clay tile district, this is a historic area and we had a Spanish style fountain because all the homes over there are classic old Spanish art deco, 1920's, 1930's and we need a fountain that is consistent with that time. It is really more about an aesthetic feature and not carving the park up.

**Commissioner Smith** stated excuse me, Commissioner Agee do you have any comments?

**Commissioner Agee** asked what is the total cost of this project?

Boytrese Osias stated \$224,410.

Commissioner Agee stated when this project first began, we had two town hall meetings, one held here and one held at the Police Prescient on Manchester Boulevard and if I can recall correctly, no one attended the meetings that supported this project. Like the Commissioner said, it

is used now by kids, why change it so that the kids can't play football. You don't have very many seniors who go in there that are going to participate in this park. The park is well kept now, I don't have any problem with seniors having access as far as ramps to get into the park, but I do not think it is necessary to put a fountain in there. If you put a fountain in there with water, it is going to attract pigeons and kids playing in it, it's just going to create problems for the neighborhood. Most people in that neighbor are senior citizens and like I said, I haven't found anyone yet and I've walked it twice, that really want this park to be changed from what it is right now.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee, I'm sorry for interrupting you but you are not on task. We've already voted on this. We are trying to figure out how we want this park to look because we've already voted on it.

**Commissioner Agee** stated well I think we need to vote on it again.

**Commissioner Smith** stated we can't do that.

Commissioner Agee stated because the way times are right now, we just don't have the money to invest in something like this while there are so many other things in the city that we can use that money to benefit the people more than this would.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner McLemore stated I guess you guys have been doing this a long time, and the money has been budgeted just for this project?

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I lobbied in Sacramento and got a grant for almost \$300,000. Commissioner McLemore stated so do all parks have fountains and all these other things.

**Commissioner Smith** stated no, she lobbied especially for that.

Commissioner Giardina stated they have various amenities; some have tennis courts, swimming pools, and basketball courts and skate parks. This particular park has nothing, it is just a round circular thing that use to have a fountain or some feature 30 or 40 years ago but for some reason I think they may have taken the original feature out and put plants in because there is a 2 foot round cinder block that circles this area and what this will do is probably restore what was originally there.

Commissioner Brown stated I'm more confused because what we originally wanted and now you come back with something all together different and the cost for it is astronomical. I can't see myself voting for something that I asked for over here then you give me another model.

Commissioner Smith stated what my suggestion would be for you (referring to Mr. Osias) and Commissioner Giardina to get together and look over the plan we voted on and workout something because we can talk about this for two hours. That is not the plan that she drew up.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'm just saying that this money was lobbied and at the time that we got the grant, it was to enhance the park. The original feature was to be the fountain with other features so we didn't really elaborate except for that round rubberized material for the low impact. I

know in District 1, Public Works has done a phenomenal job fixing the curbs so in my mind the curbs that would accommodate the ADA access, and when Kevin was here we talked about that. I just think this thing has been tainted for several years and the money has always been there. This job had never taken precedence because we were doing the mural and we actually made a loan to the mural to allow the mural to take precedence over Circle Park so they can finish, repair and install the mural which was well over \$120,000 from this particular project. This money is sitting there, earmarked specifically for this project and I don't think that it is a question that the people want it, clearly they do. I think with this board conquering on the original rendition and passing this just seem ludicrous now, this is the second or third rendition that is no where near. They had a Universal City Walk spurting water show that they had submitted to us after we gave them the original rendition. It is not a question of water, there will be a water feature there and I just want to make sure we understand there was an original rendition of the fountain, this has already been approved and sent to City Council. With everyone completely disregarding the first rendition is absurd because that was approved by the Commission. I would love to meet with you; I have those renditions and the concept.

Sabrina Barnes stated I first want to acknowledge Boytrese because I think if nothing else, we are definitely going to be moving in the right direction. Boytrese was assigned the project and within a couple of weeks he had something back to us that we were ready to present to you. It is not exactly what you asked for but again it is based on the dollars that we have available. Admittedly we had a lot more money at the time and at that time again I wasn't involved at that phase and I don't know if that money was enough to do the original concept. The things that need to be considered now are to do what you want to do, \$200,000 clearly isn't enough so the question is, is there a willingness to do some type of compromise so that we get the fountain and some of the other amenities, you don't need as many walk ways, but the reality of it is, right now we actually have \$200,000. Boytrese reported \$224,000 which is built up in overhead and other expenses. The grant amount money that is left is \$200,000; we are allocated in our budget the \$224,000 which brings in some other fees that comes in with the project.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Sabrina can you set up a time and date for the two of them to meet?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated we will coordinate. You can let us know when the best date is good for you to meet within the next two weeks.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you Sabrina and thank you Boytrese for coming back again.

Commissioner Agee stated Sabrina do you have \$224,000 available for this project at this time?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated allocated in the budget under the Circle Park Project is the \$224,000 that has been carried over from year to year, so that money that you approved use of is still there for this project.

**Commissioner Agee** stated what about the money the mural borrowed?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated I'd like to correct that terminology; the mural didn't borrow it as I understand it, the Commission voted to give that money to the project.

**Commissioner Agee** stated you are absolutely correct.

Commissioner Giardina stated that is not absolutely correct. Skip came and talked to us and said at the time because the mural was on track to open and being advertised, they asked to make a loan from the grant money to actually cover that. but at this point we are not really arguing about whether the money was borrowed, the fact of the matter is that this money was specifically earmarked for this fountain project and I just want to make it clear that I lobbied for it and it's been 5-7 years that we have had this money, carrying it on the books specially for Circle Park.

**Commissioner Smith** stated bottom line is they lobbied for this money specifically for this park.

**Commissioner Agee** stated who lobbied for this?

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I did, with Assemblyman Horton. He and I went and got it passed as CDBG funds specifically earmarked for Circle Park in Inglewood in 90305.

**Commissioner Smith** stated that is why it has been carried over from year to year. Now that we have this straight you and you guys will get together and meet on this particular item, we can carry on with the regular meeting. Thank you again for coming.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated one more thing, Boytrese is new and I was told by Public Works Director that we should see some movement with our projects because he is now getting staff on board, so thank you Boytrese.

**Commissioner McLemore** stated maybe I should direct my question to Sabrina; this money was lobbied and can only be used for Circle Park fountain to enhance the park, correct?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated this was a part of a grant pool of money and specifically money was lobbied for Circle Park and approved at a large dollar amount. About two years ago when we were short on our Mural Project, some of the money went to complete the project and left \$200,000 but we do have overhead that's builted into the money.

Commissioner McLemore stated and this money can only be used for this project?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated the money is used for this project because it has been allocated, if anything else happens that's another determination.

**Commissioner Smith** stated thank you.

Sabrina Barnes stated I will now turn it over to Juan.

**Juan Mata** stated good evening.

#### **Parks**

A request was submitted to the LA County Regional Park and Open Space District for maintenance and to seek funds for completed Capital Improvement Projects funded by the State Proposition Act

of 1992 and 1996. Funds will be used to replace playground equipment and rubber matting at various Inglewood Parks.

### **Tree Maintenance**

City Crews will continue with special requests with special attention given to each Council district. City Crews will also continue to concentrate on the removal of dead or diseased trees throughout the city.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated at this time I will turn it over to Mr. James Henry who will be reporting for Recreation.

James Henry stated good evening.

Commissioner Brown stated two comments. The Christmas decorating contest, what I found that was quite interesting, the area in the 4<sup>th</sup> district on 117<sup>th</sup>, south of Imperial really came through this year for whatever the reason is, because in the past that is the area that had not put forth the effort but what I'm also finding is that there are numerous homes in the district that don't enter the contest. I shared with my Councilman that maybe a day before the deadline we can get a Recreation vehicle that can go by and knock on doors for more participation. We were able to get footage of homes that were not in the contest in spite of the economic challenges. Lastly, you mentioned the MLK event and I want to commend the committee and the staff who have been working very diligently since almost August. I spoke to City Council on Tuesday to indicate that if you might die before that date, make sure you show up because we promise you that this will be one of the most entertaining from the service to the parade to the festival. I look at Teresa and she has been inundated with people who want to participate at the festival. We are looking at such a great opportunity to bring together the family and not run to LA's festivities because as history shows it, Inglewood was really the first one to start a major celebration and there are committee members still serving on that committee, we have longevity plus the high school students who are participating. We have some treats for you so put your seatbelt on because we are going to kick down on January 16th.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated great report.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated you will hear from Human Services, Sikizi Allen is here to report on those services.

Sikizi Allen stated good evening.

We ended 2009 on a very high note, by having the Holiday Connection where we served over 200 families with food baskets, toys and gifts to those 0 to 100 in age. Along with that we invited families to dinner at Hollywood Park. We had over 100 families who came out to the event. It was a family oriented evening where we were able to showcase what we can do for the community. Everyone who attended walked away with a gift or two.

Senior Center Saturday activities are officially opening this Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> with structure classes and activities. Hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be offering adult health wellness classes, scrapbooking and other classes to the seniors.

We are happy to announce that we received a \$75,000 grant from Kaiser Foundation to start two new Be Well classes, one at Darby Park and one at Lennox. We will have the opportunity to serve the Spanish speaking cliental with this grant. We also have an added component where we will be addressing depression that we have found a lot of in our previous classes. We are working with D.D. Hirsh Mental Health Center for assessments and help reduce it.

Transportation will start a door through door, meaning right now we do curb to curb where we pick up the seniors at the curb. We are partnering with Circle of Friends where we will go to the door and pick up the person and escort them to the van. We have clients who have early stages of dementia who we need to be more mindful of and need assistance and with this particular service, we will be able to meet those needs.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to say that you do a very good job. There is one question I would like to ask you, I was over at the Veteran's Building a couple of weeks ago and they had the coffee cups in one place and the pot in another, you had to walk over by the door to get a cup and go back to the pot. A lot of seniors are unhappy about that, is there a reason for that?

**Sikizi Allen** stated I can't speak to that. I will inquiry with the Food Service Manager.

**Commissioner Agee** stated maybe the Director should speak to it.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated actually I can not speak to that either, that is the first that I am hearing of it, so we will definitely look into it.

**Commissioner Agee** stated I sure appreciate it because there are a lot of unhappy seniors.

**Commissioner McLemore** stated very good report. I've already been over with Deborah, because I want to volunteer over there.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated just another fabulous report, 200 people, what a phenomenal gift. Thank God we were able to do it.

**Sikizi Allen** stated it took everyone to be involved; it was really a good collaboration.

Commissioner Brown stated kudos to the city. It tells you the sensitivity we have and what is really remarkable, I don't think sometimes we realize how accessible our services are and how we make things happen. You read so many negative things in the local papers, but things like this we never see it. If there was a shooting, people would be ramping and raving but here we are doing something for the families and keep up the good work.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Ms. Allen; you know the way I feel about you, you are always doing an excellent job, thank you.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated here reporting for Community Service, Kevin Carroll.

**Kevin Carroll** stated good evening Commissioners.

No new reports other than we have done an improvement on our Web requests responses. I was told by the Superintendent, whenever we get a complaint from a resident or a business owner regarding to something they see, I go out every day and respond to those. That is all I have for you.

Commissioner Agee stated I have notice at 1 o'clock at night on trash day; people are pushing carts and going through cans.

**Kevin Carroll** stated what we would like to do and it has to actually be funded, a special task force which we call overnighters in order for us to detain or arrest some of the scavengers that are doing that. We try to get the ones we can during our normal business hours. I know the Commission is familiar with the task forces we use to have but due to lack of funding, all of that had been cut back until we have funding.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I just want to give kudos to your department again; you guys are just Johnny on the Spot with the graffiti abatement. Whenever we call, it's gone. That is a neverending job and you do a phenomenal job. Please past that onto the line staff.

Sabrina Barnes stated last on the Director's Business is a report coming from the Director asking that you recommend to the Mayor and Councilmember's the approval of a Prop 84 grant application for rehabilitation of Center Park. You have before you a bullet point sheet that I will touch basis on. On November 7, California voters approved Proposition 84 effectively making money available for cities, districts, non-profits, etc to do development specific to Parks and Recreation, adding new recreational opportunities. There is approximately \$368 million dollars available. There are two rounds that will be funded. The city plans to apply for both rounds. Initially we are recommending that the first application go towards Center Park and then the second round part is yet to be determined. Grant awards can range from \$100,000 to \$5 million dollars. What they are looking for individuals to do is be competitive and provide new parks and new recreational activity in critically underserved areas where there is little or no park space. These parks spaces have to benefit the health of families, youth, senior citizens and other population by meeting recreational, cultural, social, educational and environmental needs. You can acquire and develop properties. You must have recreational features or major recreational amenities and when we talked about features and amenities the size and the type of the park counts. If you have a 1-acre park, of course it will determine what type of features and amenities are included as opposed to a 55-acre Vincent Park type park which is unlimited in types of recreational types of amenities that can be placed there. There are six requirements you must meet to qualify for this funding. There must be a critical lack of park space or significant poverty, it has to be a certain type of project, and it has to address safe public use, adhere to project funding and be accessible through little or no fees and access to the public with certain hours of operation. Who is eligible: cities, districts, nonprofit, counties, joint powers of authority, but not school districts. The application is due by March 1st; notification of award will come approximately 8 months there after. The criteria are judged and there is a certain point spread that you get. The critical portion is part of this program is community based planning and as a matter of fact, it is significant in the process. We often time have a vision as a department and think we know what want, I know when Mr. Givens was here there was a plan

that was developed for Center Park and I believe he worked with a couple of residents in the area and there was a whole schematic that was drawn up but that project did not move forward. That was done with a very small intimate group of people. Unlike that project, we could not approach this project. It had to involve community based planning. With that, we held a serious of meetings with residents. We basically had to ask them what you want the park to look and feel like when it is redeveloped. We shared with them the photograph here to show them what the park looks like now. The playground equipment at the park now is in great disrepair. We have been trying to fundraise for equipment. We learned that we are the recipients of a KaBoom Community Playground Build which means KaBoom and a funding partner, Kraft Foods, will provide a playground for the city. We submitted five parks for consideration and Center Park was selected by KaBoom. Although we have a playground in the scope of this project, they will already have one there and we will be able to get reimbursed for that project. On the back page of your handout you will see what the scope of work is: 6 meetings with those who are in a half a mile radius of the park, cater meetings to PTA and afterschool programs where they said what they wanted which includes a new restroom with doors, new playground equipment, they want to make the area friendly so the neighbors can enjoy picnic benches, bbq pits, trees, planters, new sod, irrigation systems and drainage system. Once again this is the recommendation on how we apply for these monies; there is a second round of funding. We will not know until late 2010 possibly early 2011 if we will even get this money before it is realized. However, monies that are spent on the playground can be recovered through this particular project and put towards something else. It will be small because 70% of that KaBoom project is paid for by Kraft Foods, the other portion is paid by the city but it comes in the form of in-kind staff work, donations from the community like food for the volunteers, any extra landscape equipment we may need. What we are asking you to do is support a recommendation to the Mayor and Council that awe move forward with this project. This project actually came about with discussions by the City Administrator and the Councilman for this area. With that, once the grant opportunity was made known the direction that was provided to pursue monies for Center Park mainly because that is the only park in that area and they are very dense in term of population they have little to no recreational space in the area. Any questions?

**Commissioner Smith** stated this property belongs to the city not the school district?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated not all of this belongs to the city. We will only be allowed to program our portion of it, so if we get the money, the park will have an L shape look. The state will only be funding that area. I cannot speak to the portion that belongs to the district, maybe some discussions will take place prior to that program but right now we will only program the city's portion.

**Commissioner Smith** stated if there is further discussion on this, why are you bringing this to us right now? Is there a deadline?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated yes, there is a grant application deadline.

**Commissioner Smith** stated so you are just asking to apply for the grant.

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

**Commissioner Agee** stated it's about time. Will the city supply the money so that you can get this project on the way?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated the money is not from the city. Again, we are applying for a grant so we are going after some money that is available from the State.

**Commissioner Agee** stated how long do you think to get that park running?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated as I indicated, we won't know if we will get this money until 6-9 months, so ideally that maybe be the end of 2010 or early 2011. Immediately we will have the new playground there by the end of March, but in terms of reconfiguring it, making it look totally brand new, we won't have monies for that within a year.

**Commissioner Agee** stated in other words you are going to get some money to invest in it around March.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated no sir. We are applying for a grant, what I am talking about in March is the KaBoom project which I have mentioned in the last few meetings. That is where a community funder is coming forth to pay for 70% of that and the other 30% is absorbed by the city we also have support from a non-profit that won't exceed \$12,000.

**Commissioner Agee** stated that graph there that you have, is that the plan.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated absolutely not, this is just a GPS map of overlooking the park right now. We are working with Public Works now to get a rendering to see how it would look with all of the things in place.

**Commissioner McLemore** stated so the playground equipment now is inadequate for the children?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated yes it is. It has been vandalized and broken. Someone had torn up the rocking horse and put it in the trash can. Other things from when we had our audit, the auditors identified issues and it was determined that it would cost more money to repair them than to replace them, so that is the approach we have been taking to replace the equipment.

**Commissioner McLemore** stated so are there any safeguards to keep that from happening again.

Sabrina Barnes stated absolutely not and I say that because that is just the nature of the beast. We have constant graffiti, on the playground equipment. What we are looking to do especially with this Prop 84 money that we are trying to get is in included security cameras and something's that will help bring greater visibility to the park so that there is less of a desire to do it. We have that problem at every park. That is one of the major concerns that have been brought to our attention by the residents, public safety in the park. They wanted to be able to feel comfortable going to the park as opposed to going to another park outside of the city.

Commissioner Brown stated I think Sabrina has indicated numerous meetings that have taken place with small groups. One of the big concerns is about renegade soccer teams coming in and

tearing up the park and if this really takes place, and it is done with a family atmosphere with picnics and all that kind of problem will disappear because there won't be that much space for people to get over the fence and tear it up. The residents do want it and any improvement is better than what we have now and I would like to see us apply for that grant because this has been a sore thumb that we have talked about many times and the only thing we have done in the past is like a band-aid and here is our chance to really enhance the park.

Commissioner Giardina stated we actually have discussed this at the school board at our intergovernmental meetings and it is just a little problematic because a large portion of that park actually belongs to the school's property so I think it is a little premature. I know that we have talked about KaBoom did give the playground equipment so we have to some how some up with putting it together and installing it. It is exciting, any time we can rehab any area or park for the kids is great we just have not approved it at the school board level. I think if we are fortunate we can convince the rest of the school board members that this maybe a good thing not only for the community but for the children. The park is problematic because the way it is situated but maybe we can figure something out. Certainly getting the grant and equipment is a good start because that is where a large chunk of the money goes to and that is very ambitious with the lights and cameras. I hope that we can find some common ground and do this.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated what I would like to emphasize is that we just want to put our name in a hat and readily have money available. We don't want to come to an agreement and not have acquired the money.

**Commissioner Smith** stated I call for a motion, that we are giving permission to apply for Prop 84 grant.

**Commissioner Brown** stated I make a motion that we move ahead to pursue this grant.

Commissioner Agee stated I second.

**Commissioner Smith** asked all in favor.

Commissioner Brown, Agee and McLemore stated I.

**Commissioner Smith** stated all opposed. None, motion carried.

**Commissioner Smith** stated any further public comments?

Stewart Bailey stated good evening Commission, happy New Year. Once again it was a beautiful holiday and I'd like to commend the people of the graffiti abatement section of the city. In my area there was no graffiti and if it was it was immediately taken down so I'd like to say thank you to everyone who is responsible for that service. Regarding the grant, that is a good thing because any time you can improve citizens' activities and aesthetics makes you feel good about the community. Even if we don't get the money until 2011, it's always worth waiting for. Have a good year everyone.

Ms. Bell stated good evening. I'd really like to commend meals on wheels. My brother is a part of that program. They are double wrapping everything. I also want to get the word out to the community, I know that we are going out of our way for the King Event but I'm hearing that some of the church people that we are not having participation from the activities from the church although we have always met at Faithful Central and walked ending up at the other church, but to help people from the community. Bishop Jones, my elder is part of his apostle division as far as churches and I really like him and I think we should have some of our own churches be a part of it, that's the buzz I wanted to bring to this Commission's attention because people won't come out and say it but they will be out in the background saying it. I just wanted to know if you have gone to some of the churches in our community and if they are going to be a part of it other than Faithful Fame. Everyone knows about Fame, but that is in LA. We really need some participants from the heart of Inglewood, thank you.

# Commissioner's Comments

**Commissioner Agee** stated this is towards the director, I understand the exercise room at Darby Park is closed and I'd like to know why.

Sabrina Barnes stated sure. What we are dealing with is a lot of our infrastructure being our playground equipment, our weight rooms, those items have not been replaced in years, certainly not in my two years, nor 10 or 15 years before that and we are now paying the price. We had an auditor out at our sites inspecting the equipment. There were concerns brought forth and we were told to close it up until we address it. For example in one of the weight rooms we have glass mirrors, folks like to look at their selves when they pump iron but they are not shatter proof so that is an issue, some of the equipment maybe old, broken but still being used. We are actively working on getting cost estimates to see how much that will cost and I go into a budget meeting with our City Administrator and just yesterday in our Executive Staff meeting he talked about us trying to find funds for us to take care of some of our capital improvement projects because there are little to no grant funds out there and monies that we have even anticipated from the state as they started to slow things up because of the fiscal condition, they are not coming in as quickly or fast as we want them to. So yes, the weight room at Darby and Rogers Parks are closed. There is some access at Darby through the weight room because we just got our floors redone and you have to go through the weight room to get to the racquetball court.

**Commissioner Agee** stated so that racquetball court is open.

Sabrina Barnes stated most definitely.

**Commissioner Agee** stated there is no money available to repair that exercise room.

Sabrina Barnes stated immediately no Commissioner and I say no quickly because we have a long list of things that we need to get fixed in this department. Right now playground equipment at all the parks is highest on the list. Its been on the list before the weight room and then we have to look at where is the greater use. Although it all is important and we are getting together all the numbers to know exactly what we are talking about then to see how we can do this. We believe that we may have a small piece of change left from the money that we received to resurface the floors because the bids came in a little lower. We are wrapping that up and getting all the bills paid

and if there is some money there we would like to apply some of that to the weight rooms, but ultimately we need a lot of money.

**Commissioner Agee** stated you are absolutely right there because things are really getting bad at the parks. It just takes too long to repair equipment when it breaks down. First priority any money that is available needs to be spent to benefit the most people is my suggestion. The \$200,000 for Circle Park should be where it will serve people most.

**Commissioner Smith** stated can you write a list of everything that is wrong with the weight rooms after your meeting with the City Administrator and report to us next month.

Sabrina Barnes stated we have a report about what all is an issue.

**Commissioner McLemore** stated I just wanted to thank you all for your reports; you guys are working really hard. Kudos to you for your information.

Commissioner Brown stated just a comment regarding MLK. One of vehicles we have used and maybe in the near future we might have to change our focus is working closing with the IMA which is the Inglewood Ministers Association and it hurts me because of lack of participation on their part and we end up at the last minute having to – if you look at our program there are several points in the program where the Inglewood Minister's Association is covered there and maybe through the Council, their appointees can expand and we can continue to get new activates. There has been a lot of feed back from certain residents that maybe we should do away with the kind of religious service that we have. Trying to balance the old and the new is quite a challenge. There will always be name sayers who make comments about what we do, but it is an open meeting that we have and we take all input. I'm just one of the chairs and we have one vote and we have done a magnificent mark and I think if King was here today he would be guite pleased with the input not just from the adults but our young people. We miss a major point; our young people from the Inglewood school system are really the driving force behind this MLK celebration. For those who are present, I am hoping you will come because you are going to hear some dynamic speeches from kinder to high school. Something good is taking place in the Inglewood Unified School District and I would like to compliment the board members.

Commissioner Giardina stated to avoid sounding negative I'm just going to say the hypocrisy here is despicable. We are so quick to feed off what is not ours, wondering who we criticize and talk about taking money from one thing that is not ours and giving it to something else, why don't we just elevate ourselves and talk about maybe soliciting Gold's Gym, Magic Johnson, LA Fitness, AARP who care about seniors and possibly lend us some equipment so we can continue to have a venue for people to go to. It is important for us to keep the dream alive and I think every year you do a phenomenal job every year with the MLK ceremony and so I would hope that we would remember the true purpose in his anthem and his mantra of why he walked and fought the way he did and I want to thank everybody for your hard work and we really appreciate it and happy new year.

Commissioner Smith stated before we adjourn the meeting I would like to say happy new year to all of you and the rest of your departments and I hope we have a very prosperous and healthy new year all the way through.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated I have a note handed to me by Diane Sambrano and if you will honor it, it would be appreciated. She states, "Please ask the Commission to adjourn the meeting in honor of the father of Cecil Carpio who died tonight."

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I make a motion to that we close the meeting in his honor.

Commissioner Agee stated I second.

**Commissioner Smith** stated it has been moved and second that we adjourn the meeting of Parks and Recreation of January 7, 2010 in the honor of the father of Cecil Carpio at 7:34 p.m.