

A special meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on January 9, 2014 in the Council Chambers located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor in City Hall. Commissioner Willie Agee presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

#### Roll Call

#### Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee, Chair – Commissioner at Large  
Commissioner Halimah Ginyard – District One  
Commissioner Juanita Withrow – District Two  
Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three  
Commissioner Gene Eldridge – District Four (Arrived after Roll Call)

#### Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Parks, Recreation and Library Services Director  
Stephanie Maldonado, Administrative Aide  
Teresa Estrada, Recreation Superintendent  
Juan Mata, Parks Supervisor  
Wayne Miles, Human Services Grant Administrator  
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor

#### Approval of the Minutes

None

#### Public Comments

Jennifer Brown and family spoke about the importance of the afterschool program.

Henry Brown commented on previous minutes and is stunned to read bad comments between Commissioners when their duties are to make life better for all four (4) districts and hopes that in 2014 you (referring to the Commissioners) will give the Department your undying support.

Commissioner Agee asked if anyone else would like to speak on agenda items only. Diane Sambrano stated she would love to address what is on the agenda but since there is not one on the table I'm being limited to what I cannot see, so how would I know what in fact is on the agenda. Commissioner Agee stated there should be an agenda. Ms. Sambrano stated yes there should be but there isn't and that does not give me the staff reports and receiving it after the opening of your meeting is inappropriate; this is about protocol, it's not to continuously correct those who speak which we seem to have an issue with here in this room and I hope that it does not carry through to all Commissions that meet in this room. She went on to state she believes that the Commission should be looking at the community and not taking sides staff versus community but doing what is right period whether it is for the community at the staffs urging or at the community's concern. Your obligation is to this community not necessarily to the person who appointed but to represent the community; you are there to advise staff what community concerns are and I think we have been doing that a little backwards far too long and that is why you frequently do not have an office of support there are a lot of problems that we should be addressing and not pretending all is rosy and beautiful in our community because sometimes we have situations when the community says this

is a danger something we should avoid and we should be fixing that before it becomes a lawsuit, liability or a death. So I hope in the future you have agendas and staff reports out here, too bad you started insulting me and we had to go the other direction.

## Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated good evening, we will follow the agenda for our special meeting. I hope to get through the meeting. If not Teresa Estrada will step in during my absence. This is not our regular meeting date. I have another meeting I am responsible for which starts in 20 minutes.

Ms. Barnes asked to move the following item on the agenda up and presented a staff report recommending the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend the Mayor and City Council Members approve the attached Amendment Agreement with the South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC) in Demonstration Project (PIDP) (Grant Funds). Commissioner Withrow asked if this is an ongoing program and asked for an example of it. Ms. Barnes stated the base of the program is at Rogers Park for our caregiver and youth program and one (1) staff person. Commissioner Eldridge asked if the staff person is current. Ms. Barnes stated yes, this is a continuation of a grant that we have had for many years so there is a staff person currently providing services. Commissioner Agee called for the motion, Commissioner Eldridge stated so moved. Commissioner Agee stated we have not had the motion yet. Commissioner Eldridge stated the motion is to accept the proposal. Commissioner Agee stated we have to state what we are approving. Commissioner Eldridge asked if he can comment, Commissioner Agee stated it has been discussed and he would like for a Commissioner to make a motion.

Commissioner Agee made a motion to recommend to the Mayor and City Council Members approve the attached Amendment Agreement with the South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC) in Demonstration Project (PIDP) (Grant Funds). Commissioner Ginyard seconded the motion. Commissioner Eldridge stated it is proper to have comments on the motion. Commissioner Agee stated you have already commented. Commissioner Eldridge stated no sir not to this point, the recommendation is coming from staff to make a motion to approve the recommendation is total proper, that was the motion. Commissioner Agee asked for Stephanie Maldonado to call for the vote. Ms. Barnes stated the motion has been made and unless she missed it for the sake of the record can you ask if the Commissioners have a comment. Commissioner Agee stated this is being made a feud; this is the way I have been taught for it to happen I'm the Chair and I am asking for the Secretary to call for the vote. Commissioner Eldridge stated simply because that is the way you were taught does not mean it is according to Robert's Rules of Order and we keep running into the same problem disregarding Robert's Rules of Order. Commissioner Agee called for the approval of the motion and it was approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Ginyard, Withrow, McLemore, Eldridge and Agee

Nays: None

Wayne Miles gave a report on the following items for the Human Services division:

- The *Be Well* Task Force is gearing up for the next intensive program, primarily funded by The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) beginning on February 13, 2014. The program will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays for 16 weeks at Darby Park. It is preceded by 5 weekly Orientations beginning January 10, 2014.

We have found that holding orientations significantly increases participant attendance in the Intensive. This Intensive series includes a two-year evaluation (2012-13 and 2013-14) utilizing a control/comparison group. A separate group of seniors, similar to the Intensive group, receives the pre and post tests, but does not participate in the Intensive, and their outcomes are compared. This is a more robust evaluation design (as opposed to pre-post only), which is required for obtaining "evidence based" status.

- Funds from the Kaiser Permanente South Bay Community Benefit Program support a BE WELL exercise and nutrition program focused on obesity. This program begins Friday, January 10, 2014 and will be held at 9:30 am on Fridays through June 20, 2014.
- The Senior Advisory Committee for the new Senior Center has been meeting monthly for over a year and good progress is being made. The Successor Agency to Redevelopment, the Department responsible for obtaining the architects and builders of the Center, and the Architecture Firm of Gynne Pugh, presented the draft of the Design Standards for consideration of the Committee on November 25, 2013 at an open Community Meeting in Community Room A at Inglewood City Hall. They are working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Design Build Architecture and Construction Firm, which will be ready to go out prior to March, 2014.
- The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), which offers free counseling on Medicare and Medical, has come to the Inglewood Senior Center. Yvonne Douglas is our counselor who takes appointments with seniors at the Center for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month for private consultations. With the changes to the American health care system through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Ms. Douglas helps make sense of it all on an individual basis.
- Plans are underway for the 2014 Summer Food Service Program. The program will operate at twelve sites throughout City.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Funky Fresh Fashion Show and Awards Gala was held on Saturday, January 4, 2014. This exciting event attended by many civic and business leaders and volunteers in the community took place in the University Hall at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). The Funky Fresh Fashion Show and Awards Gala is a fundraiser that supports the Inglewood Police Activities League. The evening featured models, musical performances by Tedero Jones and Sabrina Barnes, dinner, an awards presentation honoring civic and business leaders and community volunteers and raffles for the guests. Mayor James T. Butts, U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Inglewood Chief of Police Mark Fronterotta were amongst the attendees.

Commissioner Eldridge stated those who missed out missed out on dynamite show, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Director. Ms. Barnes gave the accolades and credit to Mr. Miles and Trina Tyson as they are the ones who were responsible for putting on the show. Commissioner Eldridge stated he enjoyed Ms. Barnes' performance and would like to see more publicity earlier on and would also like to contribute to the youth program. Commissioner Agee stated the event was "off the wall".

Sabrina Barnes gave a brief update on the expansion of Center Park.

Juan Mata gave a brief update on the following:

Vincent Park Lighting Project (CONFIRMED DATES)

- Pre-bid conference: January 21, 2014 at 9:00 am at Vincent Park
- Bid Date: February 5, 2014
- Council approval: February 25, 2014
- Start of the Project: March 17, 2014
- Completion: August 29, 2014

Tentative schedule for Darby Park

- Preliminary design completion: February 6, 2014
- Bid Date: February 26 or March 5, 2014
- Award: April 8, 2014
- Start: April 28, 2014
- Completion: August 15, 2014

Commissioner Withrow asked if the lighting at Vincent Park will light up usable parts of the field or will it be like the lights that are at North Park that where the light that was put in doesn't light up the tennis court. Ms. Barnes stated specific to North Park like other small neighborhood parks we limit the activity that goes on late in the evening that requires lights however the lights at Vincent Park will improve and upgrade the ball diamonds and tennis courts. The tennis courts will be addressed first; ball diamonds will be done in phase II. She also informed the Commission that a request has been submitted to Edison to address several lights that are out at Vincent Park and mentioned Rita Gardner retired.

Arrick Turner gave a report on the following recreational items:

- Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration taking place Saturday, January 18, 2014. This year's memorial of Dr. King's legacy represents Inglewood's 31<sup>st</sup> annual commemoration of the life and accomplishments of the renowned civil rights leader. All events will take place at Crozier Middle School. Inglewood's King Day celebration will begin with an arousing commemorative service beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Crozier Middle School Auditorium. Under the banner "Walking in These Shoe," the King Day event will feature performances by local choirs and community groups. KJLH radio personality Kevin Nash will serve as the master of ceremonies for the event. Tuskegee Airmen, Buffalo Soldiers, and Montford Point Marines will serve as special guests. Musical selections will include performances by ECM's Total Praise, Connection, and Roqkstar. The finale of this gala event will feature inspirational award-winning speeches from winners of the Dr. MLK Day speech contest. Immediately following the commemorative ceremony, the day's celebration will continue on the grounds of Crozier Middle School with a spectacular family festival. The festival begins at 11:00 a.m. and will include a variety of entertainment, interactive games, commercial vendors and food trucks.
- The California Youth Karate Club will offer "free" Chinese Kenpo Karate classes at Darby Park for youth ages 9-17. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. The next session will be from January 14 through April 24. Registration is open and taken at Darby Park.

Commissioner Withrow asked if this is the first time the karate classes are being done. Mr. Turner stated this is the first time this style will be at Darby Park and is new to the city but we do have a different style of karate at the Lockhaven Community Center and Rogers Park. Commissioner Ginyard asked how the class is being advertised. Mr. Turner stated the flyers are at all of the parks and libraries and South Bay will be contacting the school district.

Ms. Barnes updated the Commissioners on the artificial turf installation at Vincent Park stating specifications are being revisited to ensure the standards and specification are still relevant and consistent with the Mayor and Council's vision for the site. We are tentatively scheduled to come back to the Commission with a full presentation at the next meeting. Commissioner Withrow asked are the fields available for use right now. Ms. Barnes stated the field is being used in its dirt form. Commissioner Withrow asked if the department is working with AYSO the biggest grass root organization in the South Bay. Ms. Barnes stated we are not at this time but have in the past. .

#### Public Comments

Marlene Damine, resident who lives near, utilizes and helps maintain the cleanliness of Circle Park stated her concerns about fountain. She loves it but it is never operational. She asked what can be done to get the fountain going. She also stated the dog station has never been emptied and is overflowing. Sabrina Barnes stated the Park Maintenance Supervisor and I both hear your comments. Regarding the fountain there are some electrical issues that we are trying to rectify. Ms. Damine asked if a professional has made that conclusion. Juan Mata stated a professional electrician has come out to inspect the fountain and has concluded the fountain has some wires that need to be rerouted. Commissioner Agee stated he agrees with what the resident was saying but thinks it was a mistake to put in a fountain and that he fought against it and will be bringing something back to the Commission that he thinks will be good for the park and fountain because he is afraid a child can drown in that water and he'd prefer to see plants. Ms. Damine stated she loves and would much rather see the fountain up and running. Commissioner Withrow thanked Ms. Damine for taking care of the park and asked her to please be patient while the fountain gets repaired.

Stewart Bailey stated the fountain is an issue he knows very well and reality is that the city needs the budget to fix it and once the city gets through its budget problems they will get to it.

Diane Sambrano thanked Commissioner Eldridge for being familiar with Robert's Rules and recommended the other Commissioners pick up a copy because according to the rules a motion must be made, followed by a discussion and then a vote stating each Commissioner should have the opportunity to discuss after a motion as been made; disallowing that is absolutely inappropriate and a violation and she hopes each and every one of the Commissioners exercise that for their selves and the community. She thanked the staff for their hard work and for staying (to work for the city) while having to forgo their lifetime benefits because they are the staff who doesn't often get the praise but are first to go and have to deal with situations like this. She also thanked the Commissioners for accepting the challenge as a Commissioner as she knows is it significant.

#### Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Withrow thanked the department for the wonderful Tree Lighting event and knows everyone is working triple duty while the city is going through issues and hopes grant money

can help improve what we have and hopes for support when she brings events before the Commission (much like her District 1 Community event at North Park). She thanked Ms. Damine again for her work at Circle Park.

Commissioner Eldridge stated receiving the agenda package at 12oclock on the day of the meeting is unworkable for him and requested to have it a couple of days in advance. He asked if the minutes were approved. Commissioner Agee stated yes you were late getting here. Commissioner Eldridge stated ok I still have a comment on the minutes stating all he asked was that if they were approved as circulated. Commissioner Eldridge went on to say anytime a member of this Commission is apologizing to the citizens of this city should never be ruled out of order (referring to what occurred at November's meeting) unless they are doing something or saying something derogatory. The community is the only reason that we (Commissioners) are here, the citizens of this city run this.

Commissioner Ginyard wished everyone a happy new year and said to her fellow Commissioners that they are here for the community and they don't have to get along but they do have to conduct ourselves in an acceptable fashion for the community adding arguing and bickering is something that we shouldn't do and hopes to move forward with no bickering at our next meeting.

Commissioner Agee stated he didn't remember the exact date for Darby Park but that the Line Dancing group had a Christmas program and there were about 60 people in attendance and his concern was that they were in the lobby area and it was too crowded. He also stated according to the woman in charge of the group she spoke to the Superintendent who wanted her to take one of the rooms and wants to know why the gym that had 8-10 young men and two employees playing basketball and using foul language be used for this event. Teresa Estrada stated although she was confused because it's a gentleman who runs the class she would look into it. Commissioner Agee stated it is a lady who runs it, Jean Duberry. Ms. Estrada stated Ms. Duberry is a participant and will follow up with her. Commissioner Agee stated it has been in the gym for years what happened this year. Ms. Estrada stated you said she requested it through the Superintendent which would be me and I never spoke with her however in past years the instructor has gone through me to request the facility. She asked Mr. Turner if he knew what happened. Mr. Turner stated he was assigned Supervisor to Darby Park two years ago explaining prior to his assignment the gym floor was redone and upon that time unless one has rubber sole shoes on, staff does not allow those types of activities in the gym. He also stated last year they had the banquet in the lobby with the same amount of people maybe even more and everything was ok. Mr. Turner did mention what Ms. Duberry may have been referring to was moving to the preschool room where it would be quieter for them. Commissioner Agee stated he didn't understand that. He went on to mention the flag be raised during catastrophes stating Rogers Park had the flag at half staff 2 weeks after the catastrophe while Darby Park's flag was still at half staff two weeks ago stressing the importance of the rules pertaining to the flags that have not been followed in the city stating this is not the first time. Commissioner Withrow asked if staff is trying to save money by taking care of the newly recoated gym floors requiring gym shoes only in there as the reason to why the dance gathering was in the lobby. Mr. Turner stated that is exactly the reason and if there is going to be a special event in the gym we let them know that everyone is required to have a rubber shoe. He also stated he would speak to the instructor from the dance class next week. Commissioner Agee stated he doesn't know what the problem is and senior citizens are packed in a room while there is an open

gym with delinquent kids playing in there talking loud and using the n word all over the place, which should not be going on even if it does cost the city money these are senior citizens and as far as he's concerned they should be treated better reiterating he doesn't care if the floor is new and hopes the rest of the Commissioners will support him on that. Commissioner Ginyard stated she spoke to staff at Darby Park requesting for the flag to be lowered for Mandela and was told the holiday was the reason to why it wasn't put back asking was that accurate. Mr. Turner stated he was not sure if that was accurate but that is not acceptable whether he is there or not and stated when Mandela happened he did it himself. Commissioner Agee stated this is not the first time it has happened it happens every time a catastrophe occurs in this country, they are lowered but most of the time I have to go around and ask them to raise the flag and is why he is complaining about it.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.