

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, October 21, 2004, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Norma Smith - Chairperson
Commissioner Jamie Gutierrez – District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Absent

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director, Parks Recreation and Community Services
Rita Gardner, Parks Administrative Superintendent
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
Teresa Estrada, Program Assistant
Michelle Jordan, Program Assistant
Ramon Mata, Lead Park Maintenance Worker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 2, 2004

A motion for approval of the minutes from September 2, 2004 was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

Public Comments

None.

Communications

None.

Directors Report

Teresa Estrada, Program Assistant stated the City hosted the Annual “Inglewood Celebrates the Arts” Market Street Festival on Saturday, October 2, 2004, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Over 3,000 resident and visitors participated in this exciting event. The event included 60 arts and crafts and commercial vendors, 9 food booths, strolling performers, entertainment on 3 stages, “hands-on” art workshops, interactive games and an art exhibition. The Department also sponsored the 30th Annual Classic Car Show, which featured 68 pre 1970 classic cars. The event was very successful and everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves.

Halloween Carnivals

Teresa Estrada stated the City will host Carnivals at Rogers and Darby Parks on Friday, October 29, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Activities will include carnival games, costume contest and a haunted house. We encourage everyone to come out and join the fun.

Commissioner Agee stated the Market Street Festival was very nice and I enjoyed it. I did not know Inglewood had such talent. I personally liked the blues band.

Teresa Estrada asked which band.

Commissioner Agee stated the band Jimmy Gough played in.

Teresa Estrada stated this was the first year that they have participated in our event.

Commissioner Agee stated they were a hit.

Human Services

Michelle Jordan, Program Assistant stated the Human Services Division has received and applied for the following grants.

- **Be Well Project:** A grant of \$43,379 was received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration on Aging for

the Be Well Project, a nutrition and light exercise program at the Inglewood Senior Center. Because of the dramatic health improvement in the pilot project we conducted last spring, we were one of only 14 national demonstration grants awarded.

- **Pilot Snack Program for After-School Programs:** We are preparing and application to the State Department of Education for the pilot snack program, which will enable us to serve nutritious snacks to youth 18 and younger who attend after-school programs at our parks and program sites. Eligible applicants for this pilot are current sponsors of the free Summer Lunch Program. We expect to receive approximately \$100,000 this school year to serve healthy snacks to over 1,000 youth. The estimated date for implementation is Monday, November 15, 2004.
- **Mural Restoration Project:** We have submitted an application to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment for \$160,000 to assist in the restoration and interpretation of the Helen Lundeberg "History of Transportation" Mural Project. Over half of the 60 mural panels have been restored and are waiting attachment to a new wall in Grevillea Art Park. On Sunday, October 17, 2004, a celebration took place at the Inglewood Main Library. High school students presented a play, followed by a reception to view the Mural Exhibit, which will remain throughout October.
- **SHAPE (Student Heightening Academic Performance through Education) Project:** The City awarded \$78,828 in CDBG funds to continue SHAPE at Rogers Park and expand it to Morningside High School and Lockhaven Community Center. UCLA students will be hired as Tutors and Peer Advisors, who will work with over 100 students, four days per week, to improve grades and test scores, attitudes towards learning and school attendance. SHAPE began on Monday, October 4, 2004. There are currently 30 students enrolled. We were informed from the school district that students are not able to start at the Morningside and Lockhaven site until they are fingerprinted and should be clearing on October 25, 2004.

Michelle Jordan stated next month Thomas Uwal will report on transportation issues. The day after Westside King Cab contract for 2004-2005 was approved, they suddenly went bankrupt and closed down. This left about 300 seniors holding cab coupon book with no company to provide the service. We

quickly moved to put Yellow Cab on contract, and they have been providing the services.

Commissioner Agee stated the Westside King Cab issue is absurd because I know what is happening with the whole deal, and it is not right.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated it was mentioned that an after school snack program will begin on Monday, November 15, 2004, in selected areas and some schools in Inglewood, so what sites are going to be served?

Michelle Jordan stated Warren Lane, Crozier and Monroe will be served.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated junior high schools are the ones who will be targeted.

Commissioner Brown asked if Lockhaven was mentioned for a possible tutorial program with student workers when will that program begin.

Michelle Jordan stated hopefully everything will be cleared by Monday, October 25, 2004, and actually the Lockhaven site will start at Morningside High School because of logistics.

Grants

Rita Gardner, Parks Administrative Superintendent stated I would like to get Commissioners approval because on June 10, 2003, Mayor and Council Members asked Parks and Recreation staff to seek funding for installation of artificial turf at the Vincent Park Soccer Stadium, we were also asked to consider using artificial turf, so we have conducted several surveys to see what are the advantages and disadvantages.

Rita Gardner stated we would like to submit a grant application for a Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Grant under the State of California 2002 Resources Bond Act through the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Office of Grants and Local Services. The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by preserving the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. The intent of the Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program is to provide financial

assistance to local Agencies and Community-Based Organizations to foster the Development of new youth soccer, baseball, softball, and basketball recreation opportunities in the state. The deadline to submit a grant application is Friday, November 5, 2004. The matching requirement will be based on the commitment for matching funds. With this in mind, staff would like the Parks and Recreation Commissioners to consider earmarking the Roberti Z'Berg-Harris funds from the 2002 Resources bond Act as matching funds. The 200 Resources Bond Act provides funds, available through the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, for local assistance through a Per Capita Grant Program and the Roberti Z'Berg-Harris Grant Program. Grants are allocated to cities, counties, and regional parks and open space districts on a population-based formula. Under the Roberti Z'Berg-Harris Grant Program, the City of Inglewood is entitled to \$311.674.

Commissioner Smith asked were funds already earmarked for something else.

Rita Gardner stated no, we have not presented to Commission the various Capital Improvement Projects that are earmarked with this funding.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked is the artificial turf cost effective and recommended because it will save the City money in the future.

Rita Gardner stated that is correct, it is suppose to be cost effective, and what we are looking at is \$1.4 million, we have 166,000 square feet of surface area that we would have to install artificial turf. The cost is \$8.50 per square foot, and \$1.4 million includes material and labor.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked what is the warranty.

Rita Gardner stated 15 years.

Commissioner Agee stated I have issues with the money that we spend on that soccer field. Are you sure this is really going to solve the problem?

Rita Gardner stated we figure that every year we are averaging about \$116,000 on that field, so in the long run it supposed to be more cost effective, and staff time will be about \$41,000 per year, which includes mowing 3 times a week, the maintenance of the area, because the fields are used 7 days a

week, even though it is mostly geared for the youth, it is still being utilized by adult individuals that live in the City of Inglewood.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked do the same rules and regulations still apply for that field.

Rita Gardner stated yes, we will still have regulation signs at the soccer stadium, and it will also be multi-purpose. The reason why we are asking for artificial turf is to expand our programming, utilize the fields for sports activities, and special events. We would like to partner with several of our groups that already utilize the parks and try to capture a lot of support groups.

Commissioner Brown stated I am concern, I like artificial turf, but would it be able to be converted into a football stadium.

Rita Gardner stated absolutely.

Commissioner Brown stated so we can get more out of it, than what we are doing at the present time.

Kevin Hawkins, Director stated we need to increase the usage in the soccer field. When we consider utilizing natural turf, we looked at studies and pros and cons. Artificial turf has been improved and will increase the usage. We are trying to meet all the needs of activities in the community, and at this time we are not meeting that due to the lack of open space. We are looking into different design elements for the soccer stadium to truly make it a stadium, but the first thing that needs to be done is to secure the funding, to make it a multi-purpose field.

Commissioner Smith asked what is the estimated cost.

Rita Gardner stated \$1.4 million, for 166,000 square times \$8.50.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated Rita Gardner mentioned \$311,000 in grants.

Rita Gardner stated there is \$311,674 from the Roberti Z'Berg-Harris Prop 40 funds that have not been earmarked for any Capital Improvement projects.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked when are they going to be allocated to cover the \$1.4 million cost.

Rita Gardner stated if I get the approval from Commissioners I would present a proposal to Mayor and Council suggesting to utilize that matching funding source for this particular grant fund.

Commissioner Brown asked if the \$311,674 funds are used, does the City have to come up with \$1.3 million.

Rita Gardner stated no, it is a grant that we are asking the state to fund for this project.

Commissioner Brown stated is the \$311,674 regional.

Rita Gardner stated it is state funding source.

Commissioner Smith asked what is the cost to maintain the field.

Rita Gardner stated \$41,000 that includes mowing 3 times a week and 7 days of maintaining the area after the groups have utilized the fields, and \$116,000 for reseeding.

Commissioner Agee asked this will be a multipurpose field.

Rita Gardner stated absolutely.

Kevin Hawkins stated that will emphasize football, soccer and any other special event that we can host there.

Rita Gardner stated we can even hold a softball league there. We went to visit the field at West Los Angeles College and we looked how it can be used as a multipurpose field because the lines are permanently painted, but they have various lines per court. For example if you are going to use it as a football field there would be white lines that will go across the field, for soccer the lines would be yellow, and baseball the lines can be blue to differentiate and still utilize the field for multipurpose activities.

Commissioner Agee stated I am concerned about maintenance.

Rita Gardner stated we wouldn't have to maintain it as much as natural turf.

Commissioner Agee stated it seems like we pay more attention to soccer fields rather than baseball diamonds or tennis courts.

Rita Gardner stated that is why we are trying to alleviate that concern and we are trying to expand the use of that soccer field to multipurpose activities.

Commissioner Agee stated that I can appreciate this if it is the case than I can support it. If there is going to be a difference in the treatment as far as baseball, soccer, football, and softball than I can not support it.

Kevin Hawkins stated all fields are treated equally, once Commissioners become aware that we treat each piece of grass the same, what we do is make sure we get the resources for the needs. I don't want Commissioners to feel that we are showing preference to a certain activity.

Commissioner Brown stated by renovating the fields with artificial turf the fields will be a multipurpose so we can all benefit from and save money in the future.

Kevin Hawkins stated we are trying to do the right thing and maximize our resources. We have different needs in this community and we will meet those needs without abandoning the traditional sports that have been established. We will make sure that the needs are met.

Commissioner Smith stated this is one step at a time, first we do the soccer fields and if Commissioner Agee or other Commissioners find anything wrong with the other fields, they will be taken care as needed.

Kevin Hawkins stated as always, and more over by doing this with the multipurpose field, it will alleviate the stress on the demand on the other fields. I believe this will benefit us all around, so we ask again for Commissioners support.

Commissioner Smith called for a motion.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to authorize staff to seek state funds for the multipurpose field at Vincent Park and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. Motion passed.

Rita Gardner stated the turf flattens when people play on it, so a piece of equipment will be purchased to lift up the turf and pick-up all the dirt.

Commissioner Brown asked how is monitoring going to be handled. One of the key things with artificial turf is cleats, because not everybody understands what cleats should be used for artificial turf are the proper cleats for artificial turf.

Rita Gardner stated we have an athletic field policy that addresses these issues, and we are trying to enforce plastic cleats instead of metal.

Parks Division

Ramon Mata, Lead Park Maintenance Worker stated we are glad that next month parks crew will be receiving new mowers and the tree crew will be receiving two new chippers. Staff has been working with smaller equipment and has been falling behind schedule.

Ramon Mata stated the Skate Park and the basketball courts renovation at Darby Park is almost complete.

Rita Gardner stated we are working in conjunction with the Public Works Department with various street projects to identify some of the trees that may be removed. Public Works has a contract for street and sidewalk improvement projects. We have received allocations from Mayor and Council Members to complete the Tree Master Plan, which will call for the removal of deceased and problematic trees. A lot of calls are received on a daily basis regarding tree roots damaging the sidewalk and plumbing, broken tree branches, and other types of claims. For every claim received, staff has to go out to investigate the problem. A Tree Master Plan that was approved by Commission calls for removing problematic trees, such as ficus trees, those are problematic trees because roots grow out of control and interferes with residents' sewers, so we are trying to alleviate those types of problems by replacing the trees. The Tree Master Plan calls for replacing the ficus trees throughout the City, and we are in the process of doing that and it will be completed in several phases.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated students are looking forward to the Skate Park being completed.

Commissioner Agee asked if the fence around the Skate Park can be removed and the grass mowed.

Ramon Mata stated it is the contractor's responsibility to remove the fence and we will maintain the grass.

New Business

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Smith stated this year's Jazz Festival was great; I couldn't get back stage to explore all the construction. I would like to suggest that for the next event the Parks and Recreation Department obtain passes, so the Commissioners have total access to all areas of the event. Secondly, I asked information of whatever was going to be discussed at the following meeting to be sent to Commissioners, so votes would be done intelligently. The minutes are not complete sentences, but fragments and it is hard to understand. I wish that from now on we have complete sentences, so when I read them in the following months, I will know what was discussed.

Rita Gardner stated we already received feedback from our Jazz Festival, and we are already planning for next year's event. We already included the concerns from the Commissioners not having access to facilities.

Commissioner Smith stated the reason I mention this is because I was there before the event started, and I wanted to see how the set up was done as a group, and I was not able to get behind the stage.

Rita Gardner stated the only thing that I can say is that it is out of our hands, it is in the hands of the promoter, the only access that staff were allowed was the parks, because they were in full uniform, but everyone else had a band, and the South Bay Entertainment Group did not have enough bands for staff.

Commissioner Smith stated I would like to request that staff speaks with the South Bay Entertainment Group and make sure that all Commissioners and Council members have access to those bands or whatever they are going to pass out next year, so we will be able to explore and see what we have done. We can't give a report or make suggestions, if we don't know what is being done.

Rita Gardner stated I believe the only thing that needs to be done is to make sure Commissioners and Council members are listed on the VIP list, and that is something that was addressed at the closing meeting.

Commissioner Brown stated we are almost in November and I am hoping that we sent a save a date flyer regarding the Holiday Decorating Contest, because last year we were behind and we found out later that District 4 had a few homes with a merit consideration.

Teresa Estrada stated flyers have been sent to Administration for approval, so flyers can be mailed on November 1, 2004, to the City of Inglewood residents. Letters are being prepared for Commissioners, so judging teams can be put together. Entry forms are due by Wednesday, December 8, 2004, and judging will be taking place on December 15 and 16, 2004. Winners will be recognized on the first Council Meeting of 2005.

Teresa Estrada stated the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2004, at 5:30 p.m., City Hall Courtyard.

Rita Gardner stated that might interfere with our Commission Meeting, so you might want to consider rescheduling.

Commissioner Smith stated if it is ok with Commissioners the December Commission Meeting can be held on Thursday, December 9, 2004.

Commissioner Agee stated during the Jazz Festival I had access to the whole park and did not have any restrictions. I went to the promoter and asked for a band, so I don't have any complaints and I am looking forward to next year's festival.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.