

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at the City of Inglewood Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Chairperson Ralph Franklin presiding called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairperson Ralph Franklin Commissioner Frank Wilson Commissioner Willie Agee Commissioner Norma Smith Commissioner Leticia Victorino

Also Present:

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department:

Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary Sabrina Barnes, Recreation Superintendent Kevin Hawkins, Director Eric Escobar, Project Engineer, Public Works Department

Public:

Elaine Atlow, Executive Training Research Foundation Michael Bimbo, 9606 7th Avenue, former employer of the Head Start Program Nikki Morrison, 10240 2nd Avenue, Inglewood Parent Preschool Program Simon Bengal, 6034 Acacia Street Los Angeles, Executive Training Research Foundation Dolly Morrison, Preschool Parent

AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES

MINUTES

Motion for approval of minutes made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elaine Atlow, Executive Director of the Training Research Foundation (TRF) presented a draft proposal in response to the modification of the initial agreement received by the City. Ms. Atlow stated it is unfortunate that a proposed partnership with the training Research Foundation, non-profit agency and the City of Inglewood Parks, Recreation and Community Services had taken dramatic posture when the overall intent was to bring a comprehensive child development program to children and families that reside in the City of Inglewood.

It was most alarming at the meeting held on Friday, February 28, 2003 with Parks, Recreation and Community Services Administrative staff, childcare staff, parents and senior representation, that parents in the existing childcare program at Rogers Park felt they could adequately afford to pay for childcare. She stated that it is so tragic because every child regardless of the families' social economic status will benefit from a Head Start experience where comprehensive services are offered. The new draft contract will reflect the revised modifications.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Smith said people in the Community of District Two (2) are working parents, the main concern is that they have a program finally that caters to all the children in the district as to where head start only caters to the poor. Commissioner Smith stated the people in this Community were afraid that the present program would be disregarded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Hawkins stated that the Public Works Department has been working on a project for the Lockhaven Community Center. The project provides for the construction of a Computer Lab for a new computer program at this center. The renovation will include three bathrooms (bring them up to ADA standards) new tile walls, sinks and toilets, new doors and hardware, upgrading the water service, re-carpet the offices. The computer lab will have a new air conditioning system, new drapes, security windows, and security doors that exit towards the roof.

Commissioner Agee wanted to know the cost of this project.

Mr. Escobar stated the project cost would be approximately \$65,000.

Commissioner Franklin questioned the location of the program. He wanted to know why it was not being offered at Darby Park.

Director Hawkins reported that there is a Computer Program already on the north side of town. The Department felt this program would provide computer classes in the south side of town.

Commissioner Franklin asked about the restriction that the public will have when the Computer Lab will be up and running. The computer lab will be located upstairs. The public will be able to utilize the upstairs area with no problem.

Commissioner Agee said that it should not be a problem to conduct a computer class at Lockhaven, and that it could limit other activities at Lockhaven but other parks could offer the same type of activities. It's a good idea.

Commissioner Franklin said no one is disagreeing with the Computer Program, as a founder and current president of the Lockhaven Community Center the community did not receive any information asking how the community would feel about this type of transition. He stated there is a concern that the intent could be prohibited. He recommends before this project is pursued there should community input.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the change would severely limit some activities. Commissioner Franklin said it should not stop or limit the activities.

Commissioner Franklin asked if the Department had thought about using the Inglewood Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving center?

Sabrina Barnes stated no we have not.

Director Hawkins said the Department would incorporate these concerns.

Commissioner Franklin said there are block clubs and block club leaders that could be addressing these concerns.

Commissioner Wilson asked what is the intent of having these programs at the Lockhaven Community Center.

Director Hawkins said that the intent is to provide the same programs at each recreational facility.

Commissioner Agee asked what type of renovations would take place.

Sabrina Barnes stated park bond issues include the restroom renovations at Ashwood Park, construction of the Art Park, basketball court renovations at Darby and Siminski Park, playground equipment replacement, Skate Park construction, Senior Center Relocation and resurfacing and lighting the basketball court at Vincent Park as well as the swimming pool re-plastering.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the list of Capital Improvement projects had been prioritized.

Sabrina Barnes said that City Council placed the Ashowwod Park Renovations higher on the list and the swimming pool re-plastering at Vincent Park was placed lower on the list.

Commissioner Agee asked what kind of material would be used for the Skate Parks?

Sabrina Barnes said there are still discussions regarding the Skate Parks; there will be a meeting next week.

There was a motion for approval of the proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Proposition 12 Per Capita Park Bond Fund made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Motion passed.

Director Hawkins said the changes that were proposed were prepared for the City Council.

Commissioner Franklin asked if it was the draft of the proposed contract or the proposal that was given to the Department by the Training and Research Foundation?

Director Hawkins said all.

Commissioner Franklin said the actual contract is twelve (12) pages and an additional two (2) paged document submitted by Ms. Atlow.

Director Hawkins explained the Training and Research Contract have many things that need to be clarified. The intent of the program is to expand services and not to allow budget constraints to deter us from entering into an agreement.

Commissioner Franklin asked if there was a map available for the public, as to what rooms are being referenced particularly with restroom as well as to the classrooms in question.

Director Hawkins said the Department is in the process of having the maps processed. It is recommended and suggested by the seniors that the Head Start Program be located at that location. The Department believes that the program will enhance school readiness programs. The Preschool Program will remain intact.

Commissioner Agee made a motion that the draft submitted by the staff be accepted, Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Wilson said based on all that was expressed, there should be absolutely no loss suffered by the existing program.

Commissioner Wilson asked when was the staff aware of the changes.

Director Hawkins replied several hours before the meeting.

Commissioner Agee asked to take a vote for the Training and Research Foundation Agreement.

Commissioner Franklin said the agreement was approved as submitted for Council.

Director Hawkins said on behalf of the staff the Department appreciates the decision of the Commission. He stated that he was looking forward to this successful partnership.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Franklin mentioned there will be a Baldwin Hills Park Conservancy Meeting, March 7, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles. Also the YMCA board of Directors is having a fundraiser looking for everyone's support.

Commissioner Franklin stated the facilities at Center Park are not being locked; they're sometimes open until 11:00 p.m. Complimented on the significant improvements on the walk through at Vincent Park, swimming pool should be re-surfaced soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

COMMISSION SUGGESTIONS, REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner Smith said she appreciates Sabrina Barnes and Director Hawkins in providing information to the Commission but would like the information prior for review.

Commissioner Franklin said anytime there are proposals or improvements they should go to the staff. The department staff has done an outstanding job with the tree-trimming program.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion for Adjournment was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Victorino.

The next Commission Meeting will be held April 3, 2003 at the 9th Floor Council Chambers.