

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, August 7, 2003, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Acting Chairperson, Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioner Norma Smith – District II Commissioner Jaime Gutierrez – District III Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director
Rita Gardner, Deputy Director
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
James Henry, Park Recreation Supervisor
Mike McLaughlan, Park Maintenance Superintendent
Sikizi Allen, Senior Center Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - AUGUST 7, 2003

A motion for approval of the minutes from July 10, 2003, was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Imelda Mendoza, a resident of District 4, stated the Noon Aide working at Center Park does not have enough authority to ask people to leave the park during the hours the children go out for recreational activity. Ms Mendoza would like to see City Staff in charge of Center Park during those hours.

Commissioner Smith suggested that Ms. Mendoza speak to Willie Crittenden at the District Office in regards to the Noon Aide position. Ms. Mendoza should also consider asking Mr. Crittenden about assigning a school district police officer to Center Park.

Commissioner Agee stated while walking in Center Park with a friend, someone called the police on him. Commissioner Agee said Center Park is a public park and everyone should be allowed to walk in the park whenever the park is open.

Joel Valesco, District IV Resident, stated he was glad to see some progress being made towards Center Park but it is also good not to let the negotiations die until the problem is solved. The negotiations should keep on going until a compatible agreement is reached. If Center Park had a trained staff person monitoring the facility then a police officer would not have to be called when adults enter the park during school hours.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Re-sodding Soccer Stadium at Vincent Park

Eric Escobar, Engineer stated the soccer fields were just hydro seeded two (2) years ago. Due to the constant use by the soccer players the lawn has deteriorated and soil was compacted. Estimated cost of \$116, 000 is recommended to re-sod the fields this is in comparison to the \$800,000 for artificial turf. The maintenance will take four (4) to six (6) months. Mike McLaughlan conducted surveys in neighboring cities and the results showed they are happy with the re-sodding of their soccer fields and the longevity of their use. Request the Commissions approval to recommend the re-sodding of the soccer stadium to City Council.

Kevin Hawkins said this has been an ongoing project since 1996. Two baseball fields were converted into soccer fields. When the department first invested the funds the field use policy wasn't in place. The department will be using grant funds at no cost to the City to re-sod the fields.

James Henry stated a field usage policy is being developed, where the fields can be utilized strictly by youth of 5 to 18 years of age and will try to eliminate team and league play which tends to destroy the fields.

Rita Gardner read the policy that was developed for field use. A copy will be given to the commissioners.

Commissioner Agee asked how would the fields be monitored.

Rita Gardner stated there will be frequent spot checks.

Commissioner Agee asked if the inches on the cleats could be shortened to eliminate some of the field damage.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated the investment into the soccer fields should be well maintained and the rules and regulation signs should be posted in visible areas.

Mr. Hawkins stated the department would make sure the signs are posted in the proper locations.

Commissioner Agee made a motion to accept the re-sodding of the soccer fields. Commissioner Gutierrez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Sikizi Allen gave an update on the Senior Center renovation. A meeting was held with staff, seniors and contractors to discuss the type of parking that would be provided for the new Senior Center. The discussion was open for underground and roof top parking. The group reviewed the three (3) designs and decided upon the underground parking. Ms. Allen also stated this would be a two year project due to funding for a commercial kitchen in a temporary site.

Mr. Hawkins stated there has been several locations identified as temporary sites for the commercial kitchen for example: Kaiser Permentente, YMCA, Veterans Memorial Building, The Forum and Hollywood Park. A location should be found within the next month.

Commissioner Agee, stated this is really good news and he is happy about the progress.

South Bay Summer Jazz Festival

Rita Gardner stated the Jazz Festival will be held August 30, 2003 at the Edward Vincent, Jr. Park Amphitheater.

Commissioner Agee asked if the Commissioners would be receiving free tickets?

Mrs. Gardner stated yes they would.

A motion was made by Commissioner Agee for the removal of three trees for sound perfection at the Summer Jazz Festival and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Gutierrez stated how glad he was to be a commissioner and he is looking forward to the next meeting.

Rita Gardner, asked Commissioner Gutierrez to call the main office to schedule a time to take a tour of all the park facilities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Street Tree Master Plan

Commissioner Smith requested the Tree Master Plan be tabled until the September meeting to give Commissioner Gutierrez time to review it.

A motion to table the Tree Master Plan until the September meeting was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. Motion passed.

COMMISSION SUGGSTIONS, REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

Transportation Mural

Commissioner Smith stated that she was able to witness the removal of some of the Transportation Mural Panels.

Commissioner Agee stated how glad he was about the progress their making on the mural and he would like to congratulate Staff.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Motion for Adjournment was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Motion passed.

The next Commission Meeting will be held September 4, 2003, at the 9th floor Council.