



The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, October 9, 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 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Absent:

Commissioner Alena Giardina

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director
Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
Bruce Mills, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Mario Smith, Recreation Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

A motion for approval of minutes from August 7, 2003, was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grants Workshop

Kevin Hawkins, Director stated that on Friday, September 26, 2003, Assemblyman Horton sponsored a Grants Workshop at the Library Lecture Hall, which focused on grant opportunities for parks and recreation facilities. Mr. Horton stated that the State has allocated \$1.7 billion funds for various park projects. From last cycles allocation the City of Inglewood allocated \$1.09 million for parks and recreation projects. As a result, good contact has been made with Deputy Director of External Affairs, Sedrick Mitchell, who is responsible for reviewing grant applications. Through this relationship, Mr. Mitchell has been invited to the City of Inglewood on Wednesday, October 22, 2003, to go on a tour of various park facilities that have pending projects. Hopefully Mr. Mitchell will be able to guide the Department with frames of grant applications to pursue funds. Also, a possible Cultural Arts grant program is still pending in the legislation to be approved, and it is anticipated that it will be about \$128 million. If the program is developed the Department will pursue for cultural arts funding.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated he has noticed some changes in the appearance of Siminski and Ashwood parks.

Mr. Hawkins stated Mr. Gutierrez' concerns and inquiries regarding Siminski and Ashwood Parks are appreciated. Hopefully commissioners have seen improvements with facilities and water fountains at these locations.

Recreation Facilities

Mr. Hawkins received a report that the bathroom gates at Center Park were broken and has not been repaired, so bathrooms remain open. Also, two to three park gates are remaining locked during recess.

As a cost saving measure, the City let the park security contract expire. In order to save funds and apply them in other things, duties have been extended for Traffic Enforcement Officers to provide park security.

Mr. Hawkins stated, there were two consecutive break-ins at Vincent Park. Incidents have been reported to the Police Department, Administration, and Public Works. We would like to upgrade all the facilities with a security system. If it will be acquired, there will be no need of park rangers or potential police patrol.

Budget

Mr. Hawkins stated with the recent budget reorganization, a lot of sections of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department were transferred to

other Departments. Weed and Waste Abatement and Graffiti Abatement were transferred to the Public Works Department; Traffic Enforcement was transferred to Police; and Code Enforcement was transferred to Community Development. Now that Traffic Enforcement is under Police their duties might change, but we are still responsible for securing the parks.

Master Tree Study

Mr. Hawkins stated the Master Tree Study has been presented in the last two Commission meetings and an additional direction of the master tree study is needed. The study was initially budgeted for \$60,000 to \$70,000 for a period of time implementation. During the budget process we were asked to reduce five percent, Parks and Recreation is one of the few Departments that met the mandate. As a result our budget was reduced approximately \$600,000. We met the mandate in a various ways, in Community Beautification Services vacant positions were eliminated; in the Recreation Division part-time hours were eliminated and possibly programs; in Human Services Division the use community development grant funds was agreed; in the Parks Division contract services were reduced. The funds that were implemented for the Master Tree Study are on hold; further notification will be given once there is a clear direction.

Commissioner Smith asked if there were enough funds or any funds from the Master Tree Study to continue to do the repairs the trees roots are causing to sidewalks and peoples plumbing.

Mr. Hawkins stated that for clarification purposes the current policy is when a claim is received a resident is to be provided with root destroyer and in worst-case scenario repairs will continue. With the comprehensive master tree policy trees are not only being profile, but also making sure that they are consistent and appropriate for a particular area. Final budget has not been printed, and additional funds are not being implemented, further clarification is needed.

Commissioner Agee asked if the budget could change in one-way or another.

Mr. Hawkins stated the budget has been passed, but the final is still printing, so expenditures have been passed.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated that he also toured the various parks with Councilman Morales.

Market Street Festival

Mr. Hawkins stated that the Market Street Festival would be held on Saturday, November 1, 2003. It was tentative for a while, but glad that is back on the table because it is a signature event and it helps merchants carry and create items.

Commissioner Agee asked if there were any sponsors.

Mr. Hawkins stated that it is never too late for any sponsors, but Council has allocated funds to have the Festival, and we are still aggressively pursuing sponsors.

Summer Jazz Festival

Mr. Hawkins stated that this year's Jazz Festival was very successful. Finally negotiations are being done for next year's festival. In order to have a bigger and better festival next year the process needs to start now.

Commissioner Agee asked if it would be one day or two-day event.

Mr. Hawkins stated that if it were up to the Department it would be for a week. There will be additional things added to the event and Commissioners will be informed prior to Council.

Bruce Mills, Park Maintenance Supervisor stated that Park Maintenance and Park Construction crew repaired gates at Ashwood and Siminski Parks and wheels were installed. Because there was a lot of cut backs on contract services, Parks Division are forced to do a lot of other things that are usually done by contractors. Staff appreciates those who were able to see what the Parks Division is all about and spoke up to keep the Division in the same Department.

Commissioner Agee stated that he recognizes the work that has been done and appreciates it, and hopes that they well continue to do a good job.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated that he was fortunate to have a day off to tour the parks in District 3 and was impressed. He would also like some information on the Ashwood Park Sound Wall Project, such as when the building is going to take place or if the park is going to be closed.

Mr. Hawkins stated that the Sound Wall Project is a Caltrans project. There have been some legal inquiries regarding this project and how it will affect the residents. If there are some issues please bring them because we want to keep the public informed. We will speak with Public Works Department for a possible report for the next Commission Meeting.

Transportation Mural

Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent welcomes the new Commissioner and states that this Commission has been very supportive in various department projects. Skip provided Commissioners with a press kit of the history of the mural project, the publicity given to the mural and a presentation on the most recent repairs that were done to some of the panels.

Just a brief story, there is a very valuable historic and cultural mural located on Florence Avenue near West Boulevard. The mural is a WPA project that was commissioned by the City in the 1930's. The artist, who designed the mural, turns out to be a very famous Californian artist, so this is historic and culturally significant. The mural is 8 feet tall and 240 feet wide. Back in 1988 there was a committee of citizens that tried to save the mural because it was starting to deteriorate for various reasons, but there were no funds available. Ten years ago a Master Plan was created, and as part of that many artists who came out to talk about cultural community and had many ideas. And of the first things that the artists brought to our attention was the mural. There is a citizens committee in addition to the Commission who are very active in getting the grants. The first grant received was from the Getty and was planned for the restoration. The Getty asked if it was possible to relocate the mural and many months were spent trying to find a site that would fit the mural. Finally came the down to Grevillea, across from Inglewood High School and south of City Hall. The property is now going to be an art park, with the mural as a centerpiece. The teardown consists of taking down 4 by 8 foot mural panels from the wall putting them in crapes and storing them storage. Four of the panels went to the Sculpture Conservation Studio, where all the details of the panels are being worked on. Two panels have been completed. There is more information about the mural on the Inglewood website. Hopefully everyone will continue to be supportive on the project.

Commissioner Agee stated the mural project is fantastic. He asked how are the rest of the panels coming along.

Mrs. Halloran stated that every panel has different problems. The panel that is being worked on at this time has major pieces missing. For the missing pieces there is someone who worked on the Watts Towers and has solved this type of problem, and is consulting on how to reconstruct the panel. You are all welcome to join the committee; Mr. Agee is very active on the committee. There will be a booth at the Inglewood Celebrates the Arts Festival, so the community will be well informed.

New Senior Center

Mrs. Halloran stated that a staff report regarding the new Senior Center went to Council. Council asked for more details and to help decide parking arrangements that will happen in the building. The property where the Senior Center is located will be demolished and the building next to the Center on Queen Street has been demolished. The New Senior Center will cover the vacant area. The New Senior Center will be combined with senior housing. Skip presented two designs for the parking structure to Commission. Plan A2 had five stories with three levels of underground parking, the first level and part of second level of the Senior Center and three levels of housing. Plan A5 had seven stories and the Senior Center will be exactly the same as the first sample, there is two layers of underground

parking, and a layer and a half of parking above the Senior Center, to separate the public parking and resident parking.

Mrs. Halloran stated that a staff report regarding the new Senior Center went to Council and Council asked for more details and to help decide parking

Commissioner Agee stated that he would be voting for Plan A2 because he does not believe that seniors should be parking above the facility.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked if public and residents would be parking together.

Mrs. Halloran stated that there will be sixty units for senior citizens housing and parking will be designated.

Commissioner Smith stated that with Plan A5 there would probably be two separate entrances and A2 is the best one. Commissioner Smith asked if cost wise are the two plans about the same.

Mrs. Halloran stated the costs of the two plans are very close. Decision on this plan does not have to be made at this time and plans will be kept in her office in case anyone is interested in reviewing them. Skip suggested that commissioners should also talk to the Public Works or Redevelopment departments to obtain more information.

Commissioner Smith asked if staff from Public Works and Redevelopment have given their recommendation.

Mrs. Halloran stated they are still meeting.

Commissioner Agee asked if a vote needed to take place.

Mrs. Halloran stated no vote was necessary, but it will be good to have a recommendation from Commission and Council.

Commissioner Gutierrez made a motion to accept Plan A2. Commissioner Agee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Seniors on the Move

Mrs. Halloran passed out flyer for seniors on the Move Program and stated that through the Senior Center a lot of transportation procedures are done. There is going to be a Seniors on the Move Festival on Thursday, October 23, 2003, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Senior Center. Seniors will be taken to the metro green line for a tour and will be education on how to purchase tickets. Discount cards for travel will be provided and free buses pass for the month of November. MTA, Access Services, LA DOT, and other transportation agencies will be in

attendance to educate seniors of different modes of available transportation. Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Commissioner Agee stated that it is something that is going to be great.

Special Events, Activities and Occurrences

Mario Smith, Senior Recreation Supervisor stated that both Rogers and Darby Park are hosting a Halloween and Haunted House on Friday, October 31, 2003, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Darby Park will target the elementary and middle school age groups and Rogers Park will target middle school and high school age groups. It has been a great turn out in previous years.

Inglewood Playhouse

Mr. Smith stated that the African American Theater Ensemble is producing the production of T'Bone and Weasel. Show times are Fridays at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.

Commissioner Smith asked how long the production is going to run.

Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary stated that the production will run until Sunday, November 9, 2003, and additional information is available in the Inglewood Today Magazine.

Inglewood Celebrates the Arts Festival

Mr. Smith stated the plans are underway for the Inglewood Celebrates the Arts Festival that is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2003, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Downtown Inglewood. This event will feature the 29th Annual Classic Car Show.

Holiday Decorating Contest

Mr. Smith stated that applications for the Holiday Decorating Contest will be available beginning Saturday, November 1, 2003. Commissioners are asked to begin selecting the judges that would accompany you on judging night. All entries are due by Wednesday, December 10, 2003. Judging in the individual and group categories will take place on Wednesday, December 17 and Thursday, December 18, 2003. The winners will be recognized at the first Council meeting of the New Year.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Mr. Smith stated that the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2003, at 5:30 p.m. at the South Mall of City Hall. The December Commission meeting is also scheduled for Tuesday, December 4,

2003, so Commission will need to decide if the meeting date or time needs to be change.

Commissioners stated that they would like to meet on Thursday, December 4, 2003, at 4:00 p.m.

Head Start Program

Mr. Smith stated that both Commissioner Gutierrez and Councilman Morales visited the Head Start Program at Rogers Park and seems to be very impressed with the program.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated he was very impressed with the organization and welcoming during the first year when a grant was provided and an opportunity was given to children to start school early.

Mr. Smith stated that it definitely addresses a need in our community and there is a waiting list. The program has been a great asset to the Department.

Mr. Hawkins stated that this Commission is very familiar with the Head Start Program, in fact, this Commission can take responsibility for brining the Head Start Program to Rogers Parks and without these recommendation it would not had been brought to Rogers Park. This year was going to be a pilot program to basically monitor the effectiveness of the program to see if it will be expanded.

Commissioner Agee stated that Mario Smith is doing a fantastic job and hopes that Mario will stay at Rogers Park. If you compare the Head Start Program with the Jazz Festival, they are both super and would like to see the program expand.

Mr. Smith stated that there has not been any impact to our Recreation Pre-School Program; in fact there is more participants than last year.

Commissioner Agee stated that all the controversy there was with the Head Start Program and the Jazz Festival and the two entities turn out to be more than a success and really gives tribute to leadership.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Agee stated that he had a confrontation with the ex-governor. He wanted to know why money that was allocation for Parks and Recreation before the election was taken back. Hopefully, we will be getting some money that was taken.

Commissioner Smith stated the Commission should wait until all commissioners are in attendance before a chairperson is voted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

COMMISSION SUGGESTIONS, REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.