

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, February 5, 2004, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

#### Roll Call

### **Present:**

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I Commissioner Norma Smith – District II Commissioner Jaime Gutierrez – District III Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large

# Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary James Henry, Senior Recreation Supervisor Trina Tyson, Program Assistant Charlie Morgenstern, Park Construction Supervisor

# **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 8, 2004**

A motion for approval of the minutes from January 8, 2004 was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Giardina. Motion passed.

## **Public Comments**

Michael Benbow of 9606 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue stated he wanted to encourage the Commissioners to be more aggressive in doing their jobs. The next three years are going to be very critical with the Governor making budget cuts. Mr. Benbow emphasized that Commissioners need to look ahead because the Parks and Recreation Department has a lot of needs which can be met depending on how well the Commission supports the Director. The citizens need a lot more meeting rooms and venues to work in. This is just a friendly message to the Commission.

#### **Communications**

None.

### **Directors Report**

### Director's Message

**Kevin Hawkins, Director** stated the Department has gone from over 200 full time equivalent positions to 112 full time equivalent positions. It has been a very rough year due to the budget challenges; however, the Commission has played an outstanding role and offered good ideas, suggestions, and ongoing support and encouragement to the Department. We look forward to another outstanding year.

This past Tuesday a five-year agreement was approved by City Council for the Jazz Concert at Edward Vincent Park.

The Department has recently submitted its annual report to the City Administrator. The Commissioners will receive a copy once approved.

Commissioner Brown is attending an MLK follow up meeting and will join the meeting thereafter.

# Vincent Park Swimming Pool

Eric Escobar, Associate Engineer of the Public Works Department stated the Vincent Park Swimming Pool project was awarded last September and the estimated completion date of the project per specifications is within one or two weeks.

## **Darby Park Basketball Courts**

**Mr. Escobar** asked for the Commissions' support for the award of the contract to Southland Construction for the reconstruction of the basketball courts and the paving of a concrete slab for the future site of the Skate Park. The lowest bid received was \$185,000.

**Commissioner Smith** asked Mr. Escobar if he had the bids from each company.

**Mr. Escobar** stated yes and indicated he would provide the bids prior to the next meeting.

**Commissioner Smith** asked if the Commission could get copies of the bids.

Mr. Escobar stated yes.

**Commissioner Smith** stated the reason for requesting the reports is to allow the Commissioners to read the reports prior to the next meeting and be prepared to ask questions.

**Commissioner Agee** stated that he learned from experience that cheap isn't always the best. He asked if the renovation of the courts will include new goal posts.

**Mr. Escobar** stated the project will include installation of new rims, backboards and goal posts.

**Commissioner Agee** asked how many inches of concrete would be installed.

Mr. Escobar stated about 6 inches.

**Commissioner Agee** asked if the contractor will be removing all the existing concrete.

**Mr. Escobar** stated yes.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** asked if the contractor will perform all necessary repairs at no cost to the City after completion of the project.

**Mr. Escobar** stated the City has asked for a (1) one-year warranty.

**Commissioner Agee** asked if steel reinforcement will be in the concrete.

**Mr. Escobar** stated there will be steel reinforcement in the concrete. Two projects were combined to allow the City to get a better price. The contractors will only charge one move in and move out price. The per-unit cost is \$6 per square foot.

**Commissioner Smith** asked Director Hawkins if he had seen all the bids turned in for the project.

**Director Hawkins** stated he had not seen all the bids but was familiar with Southland (the company awarded the bid).

**Commissioner Smith c**alled for a motion to approve the bid submitted by Southland.

A motion for approval of the bid to Southland was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. Motion passed.

**Director Hawkins** stated the Department has had three retirements; Ben Stephens, Senior Recreation Supervisor at Darby Park, Mike Mclaughlan, Parks Superintendent, and John Carter, Parks Maintenance Worker. Ben and Mike received proclamations from the Mayor and Council and the Department made an attempt to award John Carter a proclamation at the Commission Meeting but he is probably enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

**Director Hawkins** stated the Pre-School will be making get well cards for injured motorcycle Officer Cesar Herrera as a sign of our appreciation for our friends at Inglewood Police Department.

**James Henry, Senior Recreation Supervisor** stated the Bay Area Municipal Athletic Association (BAMAA) Tournament will be held February 27, 28 and 29 in Gardena at Rawley Park and Rush Memorial Center. The tournament is for youth ages 8 to 14.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** asked what time the tournament is being held.

**Commissioner Smith** stated the record should reflect that Commissioner Brown is in attendance.

**Commissioner Brown** asked what age group the tournament is for.

**Mr.** Henry provided the information to both Commissioners.

**Mr. Henry** stated several activities have been scheduled for Black History Month. There will be plays, opportunities to create one of a kind black art and a doll-making workshop. A flyer with a schedule of events was distributed to the Commissioners.

**Trina Tyson, Program Assistant** stated the Mural Project is on track. The panels are being restored at the Sculpture Conservation Studio. On January 15, seven (7) members of the Historic Site Preservation Citizens Committee toured the studio. On January 11, 2004 the Los Angeles Times featured a story about the mural restoration project in the Calendar Section with color photos and a (2) two page spread.

**Director Hawkins** stated we are all excited about the mural project. At the Planning Committee meeting on February 5, 2004 persons attending the meeting had an opportunity to view before and after pictures. Director Hawkins commented it is a great learning experience finding out about the history of Inglewood.

**Ms. Tyson stated** the Student Heighting Academic Performance through Education (S.H.A.P.E.) Program is going well. The program will be starting a math academy on Friday February 27, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for grades 6 to 12.

**Ms. Tyson** stated the Health and College Resource Fairs are scheduled for April 24, 2004 at Rogers Park from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**Commissioner Brown** asked if Vocational Schools are being used in the College Resource Lab.

**Ms. Tyson** stated yes.

**Commissioner Brown** stated he serves on a committee and he can connect us with several other schools.

**Ms. Tyson** stated that would be wonderful.

Charlie Morgenstern, Parks Construction Supervisor stated the Inglewood Beautification Planting (IBA) went well and there were plenty volunteers on hand to assist with the planting.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** stated the students at his school loved the IBA Project. Students went to school the following week and bragged to other students about how they participated in the planting project and how much they enjoyed it. The Commissioner stated that he has made his rounds throughout all the parks and staff is doing an excellent job on park maintenance and upkeep.

**Commissioner Agee** stated he heard a few people have retired in the Parks Department and he hopes staff will do their best in getting good replacements. The Commissioner asked if the hiring replacements will be in the near future.

**Director Hawkins** stated through attrition we hope to fill the vacant positions.

**Commissioner Agee** asked the Director if he thought there would be a change in the upkeep of the parks due to some of the retirements.

**Director Hawkins** stated the Department's resources have been cut since the beginning of the fiscal year and we are doing the best we can with what we have.

# **New Business**

None

## **Unfinished Business**

**Commissioner Agee** stated he was happy because of the progress with the Skate Park.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** stated he was very happy that the soundwall at Ashwood Park was being installed.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated once the Department starts receiving grant funds to keep in mind the proposed renovation of the fountain and expansion of Circle Park. The Commissioner commended staff for their hard work during budget constraints.

**Commissioner Agee** asked if a relocation site had been located for the Senior Center during construction of the new facility.

**Director Hawkins** stated a study had been done to locate several potential sites and field visits have been conducted with staff from the Redevelopment Department to make sure operations are continued. The Department has narrowed the selection down to three sites which include the Veterans Building, Hollywood Park, and a Market Street Site.

**Commissioner Smith** asked how far are we into receiving funds for the restrooms at Vincent Park.

**Director Hawkins** stated the restrooms were rebided and the proposals received (according to one account) came in close, but were short of the available funds. Director Hawkins stated he would make sure a report is provided at the next commission meeting.

**Commissioner Agee** stated the restrooms should be put on the backburner until revenue picks up in the City.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated the style the Department is attempting to replicate will reduce the value of the property if we go down on cost.

Commissioner Brown asked if this was the best price for our money.

**Commissioner Agee** stated I base my opinion on experience as a contractor and I don't think this is the best price.

**Director Hawkins** stated this issue has been debated and discussed not only with staff but with this body and the Department would be more than happy to bring in a staff person from Public Works to provide a report at the next commission meeting.

A motion to close the meeting in honor of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services retirees was made by Commissioner Giardina and seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion passed.

A motion for adjourning the meeting was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion passed

Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.