



The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, June 3, 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 6:07 p.m.

## **Roll Call**

### **Present:**

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

### **Staff:**

Kevin Hawkins, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director  
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary  
Pat Bitker, Program Specialist  
Charlie Morgenstern, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Arrick Turner, Senior Recreation Supervisor

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 6, 2004**

A motion for approval of the minutes from May 6, 2004 was made by Commissioner Giardina and seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

## **Public Comments**

None.

## **Communications**

None.

## **Directors Report**

**Kevin Hawkins, Director** stated preparations for the fiscal year 2004/2005 budget are underway. Over the months there have been discussions about resource allocation and the Department has been faced with challenges. Departmental activities are detailed in the Monthly Management Report from which mostly positive feedback is received. Outside community groups are competing for funds, and we are taking a more proactive approach to pursue these funds. In the next meeting I will be asking for Commissioners to consider preparing and adopting a resolution basically supporting the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department activities in order to pursue funding, and recommending that policy to Mayor and Council Members. We are not saying that the outside programs are not worthwhile, but what we are saying is that we need them because we are serving some of the same interests. I will be preparing a draft resolution for Commissioners consideration and requesting that you provide me with some feedback and input of what you would like to see. I would like for this Commission to consider it, revise it, pass it and adopt it then forward it to Council for their consideration as part of the budget process.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** asked when would Commissioners receive the draft.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated if all goes well a draft would be given to Commissioners within the next two weeks. By the following meeting Commissioners will be asked to provide feedback.

**Commissioner Brown** commented that he spoke with Mr. Hawkins regarding several new programs that will be applying for City funds. Commissioner Brown stated he believes the funds need to stay with the City because the private agencies are duplicating services provided by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Commissioner Brown also stated that the Commission needs to take a stand and let the Mayor and Council

Members know even though the status of some programs are worthy, they need to apply for other grants.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated the Department has initiated some programming at Siminski Park and is looking to use Community Development Block Grant Funds to continue the programs next fiscal year. The Department is also pursuing the purchase of a Mobile Recreation Van to upgrade the existing van and expand services to cover the entire City. Mr. Hawkins also stated there are things that can be done to expand the services provided by the Department and that is going to be the approach and direction taken. An article appearing in the Los Angeles Times about the increase in gang violence indicated the most successful form of intervention is early education outreach. The Department feels good about the efforts undertaken thus far.

## **Community Services**

### Home Delivered Meals

**Pat Bitker, Program Specialist** stated the Senior Center serves about 600 meals a day, with about half being Home Delivered Meals to seniors who are unable to get out. For the past two years the Senior Center has partnered with local florists who are generous enough to donate flowers. This year all the local florist contributed hundreds of flowers to the Nutrition Project, so that on Mother's Day every Home delivered Meals mother received flowers. Flowers were sent accompanied by a card signed by the Home Delivered Meals staff and supporting sponsors. It is unfortunate that for women who live alone these are the only flowers they may receive on Mother's Day.

### Summer Food Program

**Patricia Bitker** stated six sites were selected this year for the Summer Food Program. A free lunch will be served to youth under the age of 18. This is a good program for youth.

### FAME Taxi Voucher Coupons

One of the programs that seniors rely heavily upon is the FAME/Taxi Coupons discount program, which may be discontinued. The Senior Center receives Two hundred coupons and 100 tokens monthly for distribution to seniors and handicap persons in need of transportation. The coupons are designed to

transport persons whose needs don't fit into the regular transportation schedule. Seniors are signing a petition that will be presented to the MTA Board of Directors and Yvonne Burkes' Office. Without the program there is going to be an enormous difference in our ability to serve seniors.

**Commissioner Agee** asked for the name of the transportation program.

**Pat Bitker** stated it is the FAME Coupon Program.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated that 2 or 3 years ago there was talk about reducing the FAME subsidy. Mayor Dorn intervened and assisted in having the coupon allotment increased. The current allocation is limited to current levels, and if it is eliminated and/or reduced, it would lead to major transportation hardships. Whatever pressure or advocacy can be asserted will definitely make an impact. Again, if the FAME Coupons were pulled we would have to find additional resources or alternate means of transportation.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** asked where could funding be allocated.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated all the transportation funds are at risk. We can look at alternate funding such as Prop A or general funds. It is very important to maintain what we have; we cannot afford to lose those programs.

**Commissioner Smith** asked if the are vouchers strictly for medical purposes.

**Pat Bitker** stated the vouchers are for seniors and disabled persons and can be used for emergency situations. The Senior Center only receives 250 coupons a month, which should be used only as a last resort. Access Services is a statewide transportation for seniors, however, services need to be scheduled 24 hours in advance. Thomas Uwal, Transportation Manager strives to accommodate transportation needs for seniors and disabled people.

**Commissioner Smith** asked staff to look through various programs to see what can be substituted or allocated toward the FAME Coupon Program.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated at this time the plan is to hold on to the monthly allotment of 250 FAME Coupons. In the event the number of coupons is reduced the Department will be forced to change some scheduling.

**Commissioner Smith** asked if FAME provided a reason for cutting the program.

**Pat Bitker** responded at the time she was not able to answer that specifically, but there were overall cuts made by MTA affecting transportation services.

**Commissioner Smith** asked if there's a contact person at FAME who handles this program.

**Pat Bitker** stated that information will be obtained from Thomas Uwal and made available to Commissioners.

**Commissioner Agee** asked if the FAME Program is funded through the City.

**Pat Bitker** stated funding is through MTA and state programs, but MTA is the principal sponsor of the program.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** asked what could be done by the Commissioners to help maintain the FAME Program.

**Pat Bitker** stated seniors were asked to do sign a petition that will be submitted to MTA and Yvonne Burke's Office. Ms. Bitker stated she would ask Thomas Uwal, Transportation Manager, to prepare a report on the most constructive things to do.

**Commissioner Agee** asked if that report might be prepared by next week.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated Commissioners would be kept informed as more information becomes available.

### Tree Maintenance

**Charlie Morgenstern, Park Maintenance Supervisor** stated he had a response to Commissioner Smith's inquiry regarding 64<sup>th</sup> Place. The Tree Maintenance Section is currently working with a contractor on sidewalk repairs on 64<sup>th</sup> Place from Eucalyptus to Inglewood Avenue. The size of the tree canopy is being reduced to accommodate the contractor's root pruning. The delays in the regular schedule are caused due to accommodating the contractor's schedule. Roots are uplifting the sidewalks and the City has hired a contractor to root prune them and reduce the size of the canopy. As soon as

that project is completed they will be back on regular schedule. Broken equipment is a major factor that puts the tree-trimming schedule behind. Hopefully 3 chipper trucks will be replaced in the fiscal year 2004/2005. Some old equipment has become a safety hazard, especially chippers. Trees at the Vincent Park area are currently being trimmed.

### Park Maintenance

Park Maintenance is divided into the North and South maintenance sections and consists of about 45 acres. Each section must maintain parks, parkways, street medians, traffic islands, service roads, parking lots, green areas and facilities located throughout the City of Inglewood. The Park maintenance Section also has equipment problems with the larger mowers, which are very old and used to mow approximately 150 acres weekly. The plan is to get a new engine for one of the mowers and replace the other with a new unit. The biggest issue faced by the Section is manpower. Three Park Service Worker positions were vacant but have been filled by part-time staff, which leaves the section with the same number of staff. The Section's areas of responsibility are growing, but the number of staff is not. The Section is currently stretched to the limit.

**Commissioner Agee** stated he agrees the mowers are in bad condition and should be replaced. Commissioner Agee stated it seems like there should be money available to purchase equipment since the new shopping center is bringing more revenue to the City. This concern will be presented at the City Council Meeting.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated she would like to commend the entire crew on how nice everything looks. The Commissioner further stated that the entire Commission supports the work performed by staff and the Commission wanted to let staff know how much they appreciate the work that is done.

### Per Capita Improvement Projects

**Charlie Morgenstern** stated the following projects are under the Per Capita grant and will be presented to Mayor and City Council for approval: Vincent Park-Skate Park Construction Project, Siminski Park Restroom Renovation Project, Veteran's Memorial Building Lighting Upgrade, Rogers Park Restroom Renovation. Some of the Roberti Z'berg Harris grant funds will be used for the Queen Park Restroom Renovation, North Park Renovation, Rogers Park

Storage and Concession Stand Renovation, and Vincent Park Volleyball Court Construction. These are the list of Capital Improvement Projects.

**Commissioner Agee** stated Darby Park was not mentioned.

#### Watt Development Project

**Charlie Morgenstern** stated construction at Darby Park would commence soon for the basketball court and Skate Park. Watt Development is installing fencing along Darby Park to start constructing the housing project behind the park.

**Commissioner Agee** asked if Watt Development going to move the existing trees at Darby Park.

**Charlie Morgenstern** stated the existing trees would remain in their original place.

**Commissioner Agee** stated it was his understanding that Watt Development would build an 8-foot wall.

**Charlie Morgenstern** stated the Developer would be building a wall on the property line.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated the anticipated date for completion of the Darby Park Project is Saturday, October 10, 2004.

#### Park Maintenance

**Kevin Hawkins** stated the most frustrating thing is that staff is willing to do more with less, but when you do not have the equipment it gets more frustrating. Everybody is wearing 3 to 4 different hats and doing more, but when you don't have the resources or the equipment it gets more exasperating. The Department's equipment needs are not new and have existed for years. The Department will be getting new equipment with the next budget, but is not willing to endanger crews by making them use hazardous equipment. The Park Maintenance Section has two positions that will be filled after proceeding through the normal hiring process. I just want to let Commissioners know that they do make a difference by calling the Mayor and

Council Members or the City Administrator. When Commissioners take their concerns to the Council, they listen and that is how change is accomplished.

## **Recreation**

### Siminski Park

**Arrick Turner, Senior Recreation Supervisor** stated the Department is currently offering recreation programs at Siminski Park, Wednesday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Activities include board games, carroms, basketball, and arts and crafts. Currently the park is averaging about 15 to 20 youth a day, but with additional publicity and word of mouth the numbers will increase.

### Memorial Day Splash

**Mr. Turner** stated on Monday the Department offered free swimming at the Vincent Park Swimming Complex. The newly renovated swimming pools were a hit. Over 200 children visited the pool. We are looking forward to the summer season.

The Department will offer four sessions of swimming lessons. Each session will run for two consecutive weeks for a total of eight lessons. The minimum age requirement for weekly classes is 6 years old to adult. Registration will take place from Monday, June 7, 2004 to Friday, June 18, 2004. The cost is \$10 for Inglewood residents and \$14 for non-residents per session. General swimming will be offered Monday through Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning Monday, June 28, 2004. The cost is \$1.00 per person.

### Summer Day Camps

**Mr. Turner** stated registration for Summer Day Camp began on Friday, May 7, 2004, at Rogers, Darby and Vincent Parks, and Lockhaven Community Center. Registration is ongoing until the camps reach maximum capacity. The first session will run from Monday, June 28, 2004 to Friday, July 23, 2004; the second session will run from Monday, July 26, 2004 to Friday, August 20, 2004.

### Boxing Show

**Mr. Turner** stated the Inglewood Youth Amateur Boxing Show would be held on Saturday, June 5, 2004, at Rogers Park at 1:00 p.m. The annual event will feature youth ages 8 to 18 years of age and include 20 amateur bouts. Admission is \$1 for all attendees above 4 years of age.

### Facilities

**Mr. Turner** stated on Monday, May 10, 2004, the basketball court resurfacing and skate park construction projects began at Darby Park. The projects are scheduled for completion on Sunday, October 10, 2004. Once the concrete slab has been laid, the equipment will be installed.

### Summer Arts Camps

**Mr. Turner** stated the Cultural Section would offer three exciting arts experiences for children and youth, ages 5 to 18 years. The Summer Arts Camp, which will include voice and dance, arts, and acting, will take place at the Veteran's Memorial Building. Registration begins on Monday, June 7, 2004. The cost is \$30 per person.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** stated he would contact Arrick Turner to set-up a meeting.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked how long is the acting program.

**Arrick Turner** stated Voice and Dance would be held from Saturday, July 10, 2004 to Saturday, August 7, 2004 between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Art Drawing and Composition will be held from Saturday, July 10, 2004 to Saturday, August 7, 2004. Acting for Youth will be held from Thursday, July 8, 2004 to Thursday, August 5, 2004 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Kevin Hawkins** asked Pat Bitker if the Volunteer Recognition was going to be held on Saturday, June 5, 2004, at the Inglewood Senior Center.

**Pat Bitker** stated yes, it is going to be held between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will be recognized and thanked. Seventy-five to 100 volunteers are expected. The theme will be "Internationalism" so they are having Tai Sautee appetizers, Greek Spanikipitia appetizers, Russian Borsches Soup, Jamaican Black bean soup French Quishe, Italian Chicken Parmesan, American Red Velvet Cake, and exotic fruit salad. All Commissioners are welcome.

**Kevin Hawkins** stated we like to show our appreciation and our Department uses more volunteers than any other Department and it is well worth-it.

### Vincent Park

**Kevin Hawkins** stated there was a break-in at Vincent Park two weeks ago. This is the second or third break-in in the past 12 months. As a result, the Department engaged the services of the Inglewood Police Department and Public Works to do something about park security. This information has been presented to keep Commissioners' informed and apprise of the intent to do something about the problem. Once a plan of action is put together, the Department will be asking for the Commissioners' support.

How many of the Commissioners actually use or access our website? If Commissioners have an opportunity, please take a look at the website, I am always interested in getting feedback and improving the site.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** stated I check the website once every 2 weeks, but I have to go through Yahoo to get to the website, what is the website address?

**Kevin Hawkins** stated [www.cityofinglewood.org](http://www.cityofinglewood.org), we would like to hear from Commissioners, so we will know in what areas we can improve.

### New Business

None.

### Unfinished Business

**Commissioner Giardina** stated there was supposed to be an update regarding the renovation of Circle Park.

**Kevin Hawkins** apologized for Circle Park not being on the agenda and stated the Department is getting additional estimates from Public Works and will place the matter on the next agenda. That project is being considered in next year's capital improvement project. I do not want Commissioners to think that nothing is happening.

**Commissioner Brown** stated he would like to leave on the Commissioners' mind the possibility of naming the new Senior Center after Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

### **Commission Suggestions, Requests and Questions**

**Commissioner Agee** stated last week I visited one of our parks and there were adult soccer players. I asked to see the permit and was sent from one side of the field to the other and nobody spoke English. It is not the first time that this has happened, but I understand that a permit is needed to play on the field. They directed me to Eloy Morales Sr. and my understanding is that when there are more than 4 people playing a permit is required. I got fed up and called the Police who had to explain that I was a Commissioner because they thought I was a joke. They did not have a permit and are destroying the fields and it does not seem like we are doing anything about it. I think if you figure out how much money we have spent in soccer fields in the last 7 to 8 years it will be a lot of money. We are just now getting a Skate Park for the kids that don't have anything to do, but play out in the street. I will be in the park on Sunday and if they do not have a permit, the police will be notified to escort them off the field.

**Commissioner Smith** asked is this at Darby Park.

**Commissioner Agee** stated yes.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** stated the Summer Food Program is great because some youth rely on it when they are out on vacation.

**Commissioner Gutierrez** stated with the early outreach there was an incident last week that occurred and it discourages staff from going to the park. Another voice is needed for the early outreach program to sit down and talk. Last week I was talking to youth and telling them to be careful because there is a lot going on, especially with the long days. If another voice is needed for any reason, please let me know.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I would like to commend staff for the gesture of sending a flower to the ladies on Mothers' Day. That was a wonderful touch and encourages us to go out there and work harder and be better people. I am very proud to be a Commissioner and a resident of Inglewood.

**Commissioner Brown** stated beautification of our Community is very important and the Commissioners have a duty to remind the Council of the needs of the City. Council always talks about beautification, but when it comes to the allocation of dollars the money seems to go astray. We need to keep their ears open that is what their platforms were about.

**Commissioner Brown** stated he had an opportunity to meet with the City Administrator and Kevin Hawkins with regards to several ideas including a fundraising idea for money to be earmarked for senior transportation, and an intergenerational job fair to serve youth and seniors.

**Commissioner Brown** stated he had an opportunity to see the Black History Celebration on cable and it was good to see the audience participation, knowing that staff went above and beyond the call of duty to provide a wonderful activity. Commissioner Brown also stated that he is very proud of staff who are still doing their jobs as if the Department had 200 employees. As Commissioners have said, I am also very proud of staff. One of the problems is that staff are still doing the same job as when they had 200 people and sometimes you have to do less, so people will understand what a tremendous job is needed and that more staff is needed.

**Commissioner Smith** stated from this point on she would like the Administrative Secretary to provide a list of what is going to occur in the following Commission Meeting, so Commissioners would have an opportunity to make educated decisions.

**Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary** asked if that would apply to presentations.

**Commissioner Smith** stated whatever is going to happen in the next meeting.

**Commissioner Agee** stated I would like to congratulate Mr. Hawkins about the swimming pool at Vincent Park. Last year youth came out of the pool with their feet cut, and this year that is not going to happen, and I would like to thank you. That is the type of leadership we need in the City and you are doing a good job.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.