

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, September 2, 2004, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I Commissioner Norma Smith – Chairperson Commissioner Jamie Gutierrez – District III Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large

<u>Absent</u>

Commissioner Henry Brown - District IV

Staff:

Rita Gardner, Parks Administration Superintendent Gabby Contreras, Senior Typist Clerk Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent Mario Smith, Senior Recreation Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - AUGUST 5, 2004

A motion for approval of the minutes from August 5, 2004 was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

Commissioner Giardina stated the August 5, 2004, Commission Minutes, should be amended beginning at page 5, paragraph 6, line 4, to read "striking up" instead of "striking down".

Communications

None.

Director's Report

Rita Gardner, Parks Administration Superintendent stated three representatives will be making presentations. Khanh Chu, Project Engineer, and Teresa Kneedler, Assistant Engineer, from the Public Works Department will be discussing Capital Improvement Projects, and Brian Moore from Spohn Ranch will be making a Skate Park presentation.

Brian Moore provided Commissioners and staff with a color catalog that describes the company's background and experience. The Skate Park designs for Darby, Rogers and Vincent Parks were presented to the Commission.

Mr. Moore stated Spohn Ranch is a skate park manufacture located in the City of Industry. Spohn Ranch designs and manufactures skate park equipment and can set-up a skate park for special events. The skate parks designed for the City of Inglewood will be made of a 4-inch deep peg plate, with a 5/8-inch polyethylene underlayment with Skatelite pro-surfing, 1/4 inch steel transition plates to provide smooth transitions from surface to component, and a hot dipped galvanized coating will be applied after fabrication to prevent corrosion and rust. This is the same material Spohn Ranch uses for their event ramps.

Mr. Moore stated he met with the Senior Recreation Supervisors at Rogers, Darby and Vincent Parks regarding the skate parks. The Supervisors showed him the areas where youth are skating and damaging the concrete. Pictures were taken of the problem areas.

Commissioner Agee asked if there will be railing on the edges once they get off the skate ramp.

Brian Moore stated yes.

Teresa Kneedler stated that at Vincent Park the grass area will be replaced with river rocks.

Khanh Chu stated the grassy area will be replaced with loose material, so youth will not be able to skate there.

Commissioner Agee asked would it hurt if children fall on the river rocks.

Khanh Chu stated no, children will not be allowed to play in that area.

Commissioner Agee asked where is this area in reference to the basketball courts at Vincent Park.

Rita Gardner stated it is near the park office, south of the parking lot.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked since this is a dangerous sport, are there rules and regulations, and is the City going to be responsible in the event of an injury.

Rita Gardner stated Sabrina Barnes, Recreation Superintendent, is working on that.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated this is a great project.

Brian Moore stated other cities with skate parks have rules posted indicating that participants have to wear appropriate protective gear. According to California law a helmet needs to be worn and some cities due to liability reasons require full body pads.

Sabrina Barnes stated there are some rules that are state mandated and others that cities implement on their own. Once these rules and regulations are completed, they will be presented to the Commission for recommendations. By the time the Skate Park is completed the rules and regulations will be in place. Rules and regulations will also be presented to Mayor and Council Members for approval.

Rita Gardner stated we plan to do this prior to the opening of the first Skate Park at Darby Park. The projected time is early 2005. Everything will be intact before we allow anyone to use the Skate Park.

Commissioner Giardina stated my only concern is that participants wear the proper safety gear. We are certain that we want a skate park because it is very popular.

Brian Moore stated yes they are very popular across the country.

Commissioner Agee stated when we first started discussing the idea of a Skate Park we went through all of this. I am sure that staff will have all the information, but I suggest that it is safer in the park than out on the streets.

Brian Moore stated since there are no Skate Parks in the area youth are skating in shopping centers and crossing paths with traffic. A Skate Park will provide a secure environment.

Commissioner Agee stated I have been waiting a long time for this project.

Commissioner Giardina stated I would like to commend Brian Moore because the Skate Parks are user-friendly.

Brian Moore stated the Skate Parks are modules, so the course can be reconfigured and changed to create a new track-pass.

Rita Gardner stated in addition to the Skate Park report, Teresa Kneedler will be providing additional updates on other Capital Improvement Projects.

Teresa Kneedler stated there are two tennis courts at Vincent Park that are in poor condition. Improvement of Vincent Park basketball courts will include reconstruction of the asphalt concrete pavement and installation of a solar lighting system. The lighting system will employ use of low to no-maintenance solar lights. Should the solar lighting system be successful at the courts, the City hopes to employ such lighting systems throughout City parks to save money on electricity, materials, and maintenance.

Commissioner Agee asked if the lighting system would be in all 3 parks.

Teresa Kneedler stated this is an experimental system and it will only be installed at Vincent Park.

Rita Gardner stated resurfacing of Darby Park's basketball courts would be completed by October 2005. Resurfacing at Rogers and Ashwood Parks has been completed. Most of the parks are slowly being renovated.

Commissioner Smith asked if the tennis courts are going to be renovated.

Rita Gardner stated the tennis courts are not slated for improvement during fiscal year 2004/2005. We are going to seek additional funding. The only thing that will be updated at the tennis courts is the re-wiring of the conduit line. Funds will be provided by Los Angeles County Prop A Excess Funds.

Commissioner Giardina stated it was mentioned that during the improvements at Vincent Park the pounding affected the water. Commissioner Giardina wanted to know if it possible to do some leveling, trenching, or use of gravel before resurfacing to lock the drainage and avoid cracking of the surface. Commissioner Giardina stated she believes that implementing a drain is something minor to do during the improvement stage at Vincent Park.

Teresa Kneedler stated I believe that is what I have designed.

Commissioner Smith asked how old are the basketball courts.

Rita Gardner stated the basketball courts have not been resurfaced in 20 years.

Commissioner Smith asked if they are uneven, is something getting underneath.

Rita Gardner stated the cracking makes the surface uneven, but I do not believe that there is any sinking.

Teresa Kneedler stated that there are no soil problems.

Commissioner Agee asked if the basketball courts at Vincent Park are the only area that will be improved. It was my understanding that the concrete was going to be removed and new resurfacing installed like at Darby Park.

Rita Gardner stated that is what is happening.

Commissioner Smith stated that someone said resurfacing.

Teresa Kneedler stated no it will be improvement.

Commissioner Smith asked will the surface of the basketball court be removed and replaced with a new one.

Teresa Kneedler stated yes.

Rita Gardner stated the old surface would be taken out and replaced with a new one.

Commissioner Smith stated we were under the impression that they were patching it, and that is why I asked how old were the basketball courts.

Commissioner Agee stated in some new courts they put steel support, plus they treat the surface of concrete, so the weather will not penetrate.

Teresa Kneedler stated the courts would remain with asphalt.

Rita Gardner stated we were also concerned with liability issues because concrete is very hard when someone falls.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated that is why the surface was changed at Ashwood Park. I have played basketball at Vincent Park and it is cracking and dangerous when playing a full court game. It is good that it will be resurfaced. Teresa Kneedler mentioned that the new lighting system is solar censored, meaning when people play the lights automatically turn on.

Teresa Kneedler stated the lights would automatically turn on at dusk.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked how long would the lights remain on.

Teresa Kneedler stated the lights would remain on for approximately 6 hours.

Rita Gardner stated the lights would remain on until 11:00 p.m. They are censored and will be on a timer.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked if anyone would be able to play between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. in the morning.

Teresa Kneedler stated no, but there are lights that can stay on for a longer period of time, but it is not recommendable.

Rita Gardner stated the lights at Center Park stay on all night because they are security lights.

Commissioner Giardina asked how long before the project starts.

Khanh Chu stated if the Commissioners approve the project the bidding process could start and hopefully commence construction within 3 to 4 months.

Commissioner Smith asked how long will it take before completion.

Teresa Kneedler stated about 45 days.

Rita Gardner stated we will not have a City Council Meeting until Tuesday, September 21, 2004. Khanh Chu will be presenting a staff report to Mayor and Council Members in October 2004.

Commissioner Smith stated she would like to know exactly what the courts are going to be made of.

Rita Gardner stated the courts will be made of asphalt concrete.

Commissioner Giardina asked for clarification on whether the court was going to resemble the one at Darby Park, in terms of construction and material.

Rita Gardner stated it will be different because it will not be concrete, it will be a combination of asphalt concrete similar to that at Vincent Park.

Commissioner Giardina stated this material is more flexible, and will allow more give, as opposed to hard concrete.

Teresa Kneedler stated the material will be like a road.

Commissioner Smith asked if the Department was still taking bids for the Skate Park project.

Khanh Chu stated after today we will prepare a staff report to present to the Mayor and Council Members.

A motion for approval of the Skate Park project was made by Commissioner Giardina and seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

Rita Gardner stated the City of Inglewood is entitled to \$506,000 from the 2002 Resources Bond Act – Per Capita Allocation and \$311,674 from the Robert-Z'Berg-Harris Block Grant Allocation. The Per Capita grant program is intended to maintain a high quality of life for California's growing population by providing a continuing investment in parks and recreation facilities. The Robert-Z'Berg-Harris grant program is intended to meet the urgent need for safe, open and accessible local park and recreation facilities for increased recreational opportunities that provide positive alternatives to social problems.

Commissioner Agee stated the restrooms at the various parks do not have any doors on the stalls. I think some of the grant money can be used to install doors at the various restroom sites.

Commissioner Giardina asked if the new restrooms at Vincent Park were going to have doors.

Rita Gardner stated no, for safety issues.

Commissioner Agee recommended that doors be installed, at least for the ladies restroom.

Recreation

Inglewood Celebrates the Arts

Mr. Smith stated the Inglewood Celebrates the Arts Market Street Festival will be held on October 2, 2003, from 11:00 a.m. until dusk. The event will have art, food, live entertainment, various vendors and the 30th Annual Car Show. Come join us in the fun filled day. The event is something that really makes the City shine.

Pre-School

Mr. Smith stated Pre-School classes will begin on Monday, September 13, 2004. There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2004 and a child visit day on Wednesday, September 8, 2004.

After-School Program

Mr. Smith stated registrations for the After-School Program will be held from Wednesday, September 8 to Friday, September 10, 2004. The program will commence on Monday, September 13, 2004 and operate from Monday through Friday, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is a \$2 registration fee and a \$30 monthly fee.

<u>Sports</u>

Mr. Smith stated Flag Football registrations will be held from Monday, September 13 to Saturday, September 25, 2004. The cost is \$30 for Inglewood residents and \$34 for non-residents.

Summer Jazz Festival

Mr. Smith stated the Summer Jazz Festival will be held on Saturday, September 4, and Sunday, September 5, 2004, at Vincent Park. We hope to have a great venue this year.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked when will the Inglewood Celebrates the Arts be held.

Inglewood Celebrates the Arts Festival

Mario Smith stated the Inglewood Celebrates the Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2004, from 11:00 a.m. to dusk, between Florence Avenue and Nutwood Street.

Commissioner Smith asked if we can get a calendar of all upcoming events.

Mario Smith stated yes.

Rita Gardner asked Commissioner Smith if the calendars should be included in the minutes.

Commissioner Smith stated yes.

Commissioner Smith asked how many After-School programs are available.

Mario Smith stated we have eight programs. Vincent Park oversees St. John and Daniel Freeman Elementary. Rogers Park oversees Hudnall, Highland, Oak and Payne Elementary; and Darby Park oversees Worthington and Bennett Kew Elementary.

Commissioner Agee asked what time the games begin on Saturdays at Darby Park.

Mario Smith stated between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Giardina asked what is the capacity for the after-school sites.

Mario Smith stated it varies per site, but the range it is from 25 to 30 students.

Human Services

Budget

A project to increase client contributions for home delivered meals by sending out notices and tracking the amounts by computer has been delayed due to lack of personnel to input the data. The increased rate of contribution from site participants continues.

Transportation Mural

Half of the panels for the Helen Lundeberg "History of Transportation" Mural have been restored. Work will commence soon on the Grevillea Art Park and construction of a new wall for the mural. The Commission was invited to cosponsor a program at the Inglewood Main Library on Sunday, October 17, 2004, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The "Generations" Theater Group will perform their play in the Lecture Hall followed by a reception/program in the display area. An expanded exhibit will be featured in the Library during the month of October.

Commissioner Agee stated as one of the committee members of the Transportation Mural Project he would like to commend Rita Gardner and Skip Halloran for doing an outstanding job on the project.

Skip Halloran asked if the Commissioners would like to be listed as cosponsors for the Transportation Mural Project.

Commissioner Agee stated he would be glad to do it.

New Senior Center

Skip Halloran stated the City has heard from the architects almost every week and the design of the new center is progressing.

Grant to Fund "Be Well"

Skip Halloran stated the Human Services Division is working on a proposal for \$50,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the very successful "Be Well" pilot program, which was operated, by Food and Nutrition Management Services (FNMS) at the Senior Center during the spring of 2004. FNMS is funded by the Area Agency on Aging for Project ENHANCE (Effective Nutritional Health Assessments and Networks of Care for the Elderly), which provided nutrition counseling to seniors at high nutritional risk throughout Los Angeles County. FNMS also piloted "Be Well," which incorporated nutritional, medical, laboratory, pharmacy and psychological elements for seniors with high nutritional risk scores. The proposal to Health and Human Services will include collaboration with FNMS, Area Agency on Aging, Kaiser Permanente, and others to put in place a funding mechanism by meals of Medi-Cal reimbursements to sustain the program.

SHAPE (Students Heightening Academic Performance through Education

Skip Halloran stated the City awarded \$78,828 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to continue and expand the SHAPE tutoring and mentoring program, operated by the African Student Union at UCLA. SHAPE has operated at Rogers Park for several years. The CDBG funds will allow the program to continue and build on the evaluation designed by Woodcraft Rangers, and after-school program recently funded by the State Department of

Education 21st Century grant to be implemented at Woodworth Elementary, and Crozier and Monroe Middle Schools.

New Business

Commissioner Agee recommended that doors be installed on the ladies restroom stalls at Vincent Park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Giardina to revise the Vincent Park restroom renovation plans to incorporate installation of doors to ladies restroom stalls. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Diane Zambrano, 4th District Resident stated she would like to thank the Commissioners for the motion that was passed. Ms. Zambrano also stated that the August 2004 Commission Minutes regarding Center Park were not very understandable. Ms. Zambrano also stated that last week a child broke his arm at Center Park and staff supervising that site did not appear to be very well trained.

<u>Unfinished Business</u>

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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