

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, May 5, 2005, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Cindy Giardina presiding called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I
Commissioner Irlanda Ordonez – District III

Absent:

Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director
Sabrina Barnes, Recreation Superintendent
Bruce Mills, Park Maintenance Supervisor
Thomas Uwal, Transportation Supervisor
Stephanie Baltazar, Senior Office Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made for the approval of the minutes from April 7, 2005 by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Ordonez.

Public Comments

None.

Director's Report

Kevin Hawkins stated good evening Commissioners, it's good to see you all again. I'm sorry I missed the last meeting, but I heard it was very positive as always. We'd like to cover monthly activities from our Department. We bring our respective representatives from each of our sections to go over our departmental activities. At this point we do not have anyone here from our Human Services Division so we'll obviously go with him or her last. I think at our last Commission Meeting we had our new assistant here, Stephanie Baltazar who has been extremely helpful and we are glad to see her here tonight.

It actually works out well since she assists in doing the minutes for us.

Commissioner Giardina stated perfect.

Kevin Hawkins stated with that, Bruce is looking down and so is Sabrina so I'll start with Bruce Mills. As you know, Bruce is our Supervisor from Park Maintenance. Bruce takes care of Vincent Park as well as other areas. He is best known for his activities over at Vincent Park, especially the pool. Whenever you need something, Bruce and his guys are always there to support us in any of our activities and he's looking so good tonight I just had to go with him first. With that I give you Bruce Mills.

Bruce Mills stated good evening, I am the Park Maintenance Supervisor. Our Park Maintenance consists of North and South Sections. They are responsible for the following parks: North Section - North Park, Rogers Park, Vincent Park and the Adobe, which is our historical art park. South Section - Ash Park, Center Park, Darby Park, Circle Park, Siminski Park as well as center medians, and planters throughout the City.

Vincent Park

A battery operated John Deere Gator Electric Cart will be utilized at Vincent Park on a daily basis and put on the back of a trailer for special events (July 4th Celebration and South Bay Jazz Festival). This cart can carry mowers, blowers, edgers and other lightweight equipment; we are hoping to get more carts in. It's electric so we will be able to cut the cost of gas, which also helps the environment.

Soccer Field A has been reseeded and is proceeding well. With all the rain, we were afraid of losing the seeds but it is really starting to spread well. We will continue to keep a close eye on it. The opening of the field depends on the weather and depth of the roots.

Center Park

The irrigation system has been reprogrammed and will be operating on a regular basis. Due to a power outage, the system had to be reset. The athletic field should begin to look green soon.

Street/Tree Landscaping

A tree-trimming schedule from Mark Martinez has been handed out. It also can be viewed on the Department website.

The stumper has arrived and is in use at Vincent Park. The stumps of trees that went down are being removed. Due to the lack of a stumper, more than 100 stumps have been accumulated in the last 6 months. Stumps that represent a safety hazard will be removed first. The stumps from the curb replacement at Redondo will be the second set of stumps to be removed. It'll be a few days before they will finish up with removing the stumps due to clean up and having to make sure that they don't break any water mains. We do not want the machine to wear out right away.

Inglewood Beautification Association

The IBA Flower Planting scheduled for May 21, 2005 has been rescheduled for June 11, 2005.

Open House

The Police and Fire Departments Open House has been scheduled for May 21, 2005 (The Park Maintenance Section assists with the set up).

Capital Improvement Projects

The Rogers Park playground equipment has been installed and we've met with the inspector from the state who was really impressed. The new modern components consist of: tree houses, ladders, slides and climbers, exercising bars, tic-tac-toe panels, bridges, swings and rubber matting.

Bruce Mills stated the kids are having a good time. I sat out today watching the ones from the day care, wanting to go out there really bad. Once they finally broke loose, they were having a ball.

Skate Park

The Darby Park Skate Park will have its grand opening on May 6, 2005. The concrete slab and modular components have been installed. It is moving right along.

Commissioner Agee asked is that at Centinela and Rogers Park?

Bruce Mills stated that is just the concrete slab and modules put in at Darby Park.

Commissioner Agee asked does the new grinder grind up the whole tree?

Bruce Mills stated having been in the Tree Division, we go as deep as we can safely. The machine has an adjuster so we can go pretty deep.

What we try and do is get the top part off and get in as deep as we can so it will be easier to replant another tree.

Commissioner Agee stated is that the very first one that the City has owned?

Bruce Mills stated no, we've had stumpers for years now. In fact the one we have has been here as long as I have, for over 20 some years. The machines do take a beating because you don't know what's in the ground and they jump up and down. It sure is a lot easier than having to dig up the trees like in the olden days.

Commissioner Agee asked is there anything new on the swimming pool at Vincent Park as far as repairing and what is supposed to be done?

Kevin Hawkins asked are you referring to the valve replacement project?

Commissioner Agee stated yes.

Kevin Hawkins stated I believe we've initiated the valve project.

Bruce Mills stated we have initiated it; a couple of people in Public Works have it.

Kevin Hawkins stated it hasn't been completed.

Commissioner Agee asked is the pool ready?

Kevin Hawkins stated the pool is ready. The valve project is something we wanted to do. When you talk about the pool at the park that is Bruce's baby. It is something he initiated and hasn't been completed. Will the pool be operational, functional and safe? Yes. This is a maintenance item we want to get on. But in terms of having an impact on safety or quality of this program, it has nothing to do with it. It's something we want to happen. But again if it is not done during the off period when there are no swimming activities going on, we will not start the process because it will hamper our ability to provide the open swim season. If we do not get it done within that time frame, it will be put off until the next cycle. That is where we are right now. We are ready to rock and roll on the swimming program.

Bruce Mills stated we are monitoring it on a 24-7 schedule. It is like anything else, you can have the newest thing in the world and it can still breakdown. I foresee that someday, when this is 25 years old it's going to be just one of those things you just have to replace.

Commissioner Agee stated I knew it was your baby, that's why I asked you.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I just have one question regarding the schedule you have here for tree trimming. You have them listed District 1,2,3,4, is this in the order as they go? Do they actually start from District 1 and so on?

Bruce Mills stated Mr. Martinez has four crews. He's assigned each crew to a district and makes a schedule for them that they try and maintain. They can get pulled off for the day, but each crew will work in that particular area. Now what streets I couldn't tell you, but that is the way it has worked for 30 years now.

Commissioner Ordonez stated the reason why I asked is because I've seen them trimming trees in one area and then they do not come back for a long time.

Kevin Hawkins stated I'm glad you brought that up, that was a good observation. As Bruce pointed out, what we try and do, and it's not just in our shop it is usually with all the other operational units, is try to correspond it to Councilpersons and Districts. We currently have 4 crews, 1 crew for each Councilperson. At one time we had a 5th crew as we talked about many times with this Commission. Due to budget cuts and reductions we lost that extra crew about 2 years ago. They were a crew similar to us having an At Large Commissioner who is to provide a kind of rapid response when you get calls from Commissioners, Councilpersons, my office or Administration to deal with special requests and not pull your resources away from the other districts. Since we no longer have that crew, what you'll see is that the crews assigned to their particular area and while doing their work they may get a special request from Councilman Price or Councilman Morales who wants a tree dealt with at that moment. As a result, we have to pull their crew off of what they are doing. Also, keep in mind that all of our guys are multi-tasking. They don't just do park maintenance and trees. When the City has special events, this division sets up and brings in tables and chairs. We do not contract that out, that's all us. These are the kinds of things that happen. They do their best; we have over 35,000 trees in the City – that's a lot of trees. They also assist Public Works with tree removals. When we have sidewalk repairs, what we try and do is kill 2 birds with 1 stone. We go to areas that have a lot of liability in the City, in addition to pulling up and correcting sidewalk deficiencies, we will go in and ask, *does this tree need to be removed and replaced?* The replacement tree is consistent with the tree master plan and has a shorter root system. Bare with us, it is not that we forgot about it. In addition, going back to Commissioner Agee's observation about the grinder and stump, we've had so many requests and our equipment has aged. Now that we finally have something that is up to date, we can start addressing some of those things and remove the stumps. Did I answer your question Commissioner?

Commissioner Ordonez stated yes thank you.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd just like to make a comment, I am grateful the stump finally arrived.

I know we were all anxiously awaiting it, while it was postponed. The stumper makes it a lot easier for everyone. Thank you again for all your hard work and your report tonight.

Bruce Mills stated we love hard work.

Kevin Hawkins stated just a couple of quick points. Bruce alluded to a person from the state that came to look at Rogers Park playground equipment. He was really impressed with the equipment. He was also really impressed with the quality of our paperwork; which is a good thing because that leads to a quicker reimbursement that was something we were concerned about. He had just come from a non-profit and was complaining about the quality of their paperwork. When he got to our City and saw that our paperwork was in order he was impressed. He's actually going to work with us on some other things. I hope to be reporting some good news. Administrative Services worked with Parks & Recreation to get that done. Second thing, I don't know if we mentioned it but there is progress on the Lockhaven Project. Sabrina, are you going to talk about that?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

Kevin Hawkins stated ok then, I'll leave that to you and we will go ahead with Sabrina Barnes our Recreation and Cultural Superintendent.

Sabrina Barnes stated good evening everyone. I'd like to share with you the happenings of the Recreation Division regarding facilities, programs and activities. I'd like to report back on a couple of events that we had including our Annual Health Fair that was actually 3 great events in one.

Health, College and Career Fair

Just to give you some history, this was our 17th year hosting the Health Fair. It started over at the Senior Center many, many years ago just targeting seniors with the attendance high being 175 people. We are proud to say that this year we had just over a thousand people that attended the event. It included a health and wellness piece with various health screenings for individuals to take advantage of screenings such as mammography, cholesterol, etc. What we found over the years was that there are a lot of people in and outside of our community where the Health Fair was their only health care access they've have. So we've realized that we are providing a very essential service to the community. The College and Career piece had individuals there from whom the community could learn about creating a college environment in their homes, assist their children with making decisions and on which school they should attend and how to prepare for college. We also partnered with Public Works and had our Earth Day Celebration.

They were able to address some environmental issues such as recycling, storm water and drain run offs and various issues that impact our quality of life. Overall we are very pleased with the outcome of the event. It went very well and received a lot of thankful responses. The planning team, which consisted of our divisions as well as Public Works, did an outstanding job in making the event happen. A lot of detail goes into an event; it doesn't just happen or pop up. You have to worry about the smallest thing from how am I going to get these 5 mobile units, these empty booths, 500 tables and chairs all in a space and make it work. Staff did an awesome job in doing just that!

Cuban Music Festival

At the last meeting I reported on the Cuban Festival. It was a wonderful, wonderful activity. I'm proud to report that there were no incidents. As I also shared with you last time, it was the first time we were going to be making the venue available for rental to a non-City sponsored activity. The organization that came in was the Albert Torres Productions. They are a well-oiled engine and the event was seamless. They came in did their set up in a limited amount of hours and got out. It was wonderful because it allows for partnership and collaboration. I know from speaking with Kevin, that Mr. Harkey is going to be talking to Albert Torres Productions and perhaps they'll do a Jazz/Cuban Salsa Music Festival or something that allows us to expand and diversify our offerings at the amphitheater. It was so successful and I am hoping they will come back. As a matter of fact, we want to invite them back at least two more times. One thing I enjoyed about this event was it was family-oriented. There were children there and a diverse group of different ethnicities and it really faired well. I shared with one of my staff, that as you walked into Vincent Park it just kind of put a smile on your face and I'm at home. I didn't have to drive a million miles to get there. It felt and looked good; the grounds were immaculate. People were dancing and having a good time while they were at play and that's what we do, help people have fun.

Darby Park Skate Park Grand Opening

On Friday, May 6, 2005 we are so excited to announce the Grand Opening of the Darby Park Skate Park. The kids have been anxious to get on the ramps. As a matter of fact I'm sure Commissioner Agee will tell you that he had to camp out because the kids have already been on the ramps enjoying them. We put up a temporary fence to try and hold off the kids until we can open the park to the public. The public event will take place at 3:30 p.m. The event will include skateboard demonstrations. Spohn Ranch will be on hand to demonstrate various uses of the equipment. There will be giveaways. We have secured donations of helmets, skateboards and safety equipment that include kneepads and all other safety gear. We also have an agency coming out that will do safety education. If you sit in on that in addition to getting a raffle ticket to win a skateboard or helmet, you will get a free helmet.

There will be arts and crafts and a booth where you can get information regarding various programs we have in our Department. Again that's tomorrow between 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. In the morning we will have a little promotion going on.

We are excited that KTLA will be doing morning coverage to say hey, community look at what Inglewood's doing. There is some awesome stuff here, come out to the Grand Opening.

Memorial Day

On Monday, the 57th Annual Memorial Day Celebration will take place here at City Hall starting at 11:00 a.m. We will pay tribute to our servicemen and women. The event will last approximately an hour to an hour and a half. This year we have been asked by Inglewood Park Cemetery to join in and assist in their celebration of 100 years of service to the community. They will be celebrating with a picnic immediately following our event from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. They will have a hot dog lunch, beverages and desert. There will be entertainment that we are hoping to put together, as well as crafts and other things for the family. The entire community is invited to attend.

Kevin Hawkins asked is that on May 30th?

Sabrina Barnes stated, yes May 30th.

Pre-School Spring Tea

The Department recently held its Annual Pre-School Spring Tea. The event provided an opportunity for the Department to recognize the pre-school parent volunteers. In addition to a continental breakfast and a puppet show for the kids, the parents received valuable information about parenting and preparing their pre-schoolers for kindergarten.

Voice, Dance and Acting Workshops

Children ages 5 to 18 are invited to participate in a series of voice, dance and acting workshops. The cost is \$30 per session, which will include five classes and provides instruction in voice, dance and or acting. Voice and Dance classes will be held on Saturdays, July 9 through August 6, 2005 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Acting classes will be held on Thursday's, beginning July 7, through August 4, 2005 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Both workshops will be held at the Inglewood Playhouse.

Swimming Lessons

The Edward Vincent Jr. Park Swimming Pool will open on Monday, June 27 through September 5, 2005. Swimming lessons will be conducted weekly, Tuesday through Friday at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. Classes are offered in two four-week sessions for a total of eight lessons. Swim classes are offered to individuals 7 years of age and older. Advance registration is required.

The registration period is from Monday, June 6, 2005, through Friday, June 17, 2005. Sign ups will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Edward Vincent Jr. Park office located at 700 Warren Lane. The cost per session is \$10.00 for Inglewood residents, \$14.00 for non-residents.

Proof of residency required – utility bill (gas, water, or phone), driver's license, or school records accepted. All classes are taught by certified American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors.

General swim hours are from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Admission is \$1.

Sports

We are excited for the success of the Jr. High Basketball and track & field. When Inglewood News comes out, there will be an emphasis on Summer Activities available for youth and adults.

Inglewood Playhouse debuts “Sunshine for a Midnight Weary”

On Thursday, June 2, 2005 through September 5, 2005, the NAACP nominated play, Sunshine for a Midnight Weary will be showcased at the Inglewood Playhouse. Written by November Dawn, this riveting choreoplay enjoyed a debut in 2003, which garnered Director/Choreographer Angela Matemotja an NAACP Theatre Award Nomination. Sunshine for a Midnight Weary combines chaotic soul searching with the grace and simplicity of a sunshine ballet. Especially tailored from its coed format for EMBODI's all-female company, robust characters grope through their past and present, grasping for one last attempt at a life in the light. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. and admission is \$12.

Lockhaven Center

There is a small chink in the remodeling of the Lockhaven Center. Termites were found. The project will be delayed about 2 weeks. We are working hard to get the programs back to their home.

Commissioner Agee asked is there anything on the walking club?

Sabrina Barnes stated the walking club has started. The club meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. They have a health and fitness routine, guest speakers and a tracking system.

Commissioner Agee stated when I look back to 4 or 5 years ago and compare then to now, we've done a fantastic job with half of the amount of people. I'm very proud of that and that is why I became a Commissioner.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you for your support.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you for the wonderful work that is done on all the events like the Health Fair, it was such a great event. Did we get any report back with comments or suggestions from our guests?

Sabrina Barnes stated we receive a lot of positive feedback.

Commissioner Ordonez stated the ages for the aquatics is 7 and up, are there any classes for younger children under 7?

Sabrina Barnes stated we haven't had classes in quite a while for the younger age group due to a shortage of lifeguards. I will definitely make a note of your request.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee asked did you say free skateboards?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes, but we have a limited amount of giveaways. I would say about 50 or 60 items.

Commissioner Agee stated I met with the young fellows over at Center Park.

Sabrina Barnes stated some of the kids do not have skateboards or equipment, we will welcome any donations.

Commissioner Giardina stated thank you Sabrina.

Kevin Hawkins stated as we are coming up on summertime this is the time that our youth look forward to as well as our seniors, and Commissioner Agee is right, on us being able to provide more with less and making a difference. With that, I give you Thomas from our Human Services Section.

Thomas Uwal stated, good evening. I apologize for being late; I actually thought I was going to be early thinking the meeting started at 7:00 p.m. Inglewood Senior Center offers several transportation opportunities to residents of Inglewood Lennox and Hawthorne. Our services include: Wheelchair

accessible vans, Taxi Coupons, I-line shuttle and discount Bus Passes. We also refer our clients to other modes of transportation.

VANS

The Inglewood Senior Center's Van Service is part of our transportation program, which is available within the areas of Inglewood, Hawthorne and Lennox for a one-way fare of fifty cents or a monthly pass of \$5.

Passes can be used for all medical, personal and regularly scheduled activities. Para-Transit transportation passes may be purchased the first and last weeks of each month by mail or in person from our office. Our vans are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TAXI COUPON BOOKS

Clients are required to be assessed by the Inglewood Senior Center's Transportation Assessor prior to being able to participate in the Center's Transportation Services. The client must provide a demonstrated need to the Assessor in order to receive Taxi Coupon Books.

In order to qualify for Taxi Coupon Books, a client must be either:

- A) 60 years or older with demonstrated need.
- B) 18 years or older with proof of disability.

I-LINE

The "I-Line Shuttle Trolley", which is free of charge, is another one of the Inglewood Senior Center's Transportation Programs. It operates starting at the Senior Center with scheduled stops only within the Inglewood area, from 10 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday. Any one of any age that is residing or visiting Inglewood may use the "I-Line Shuttle Trolley" for free by boarding the trolley at any of the clearly marked stops around the downtown area. In the event that the I-line shuttle trolley breaks down, a back up van will be available to transport passengers.

MTA BUS PASSES

Discount bus passes are available for \$6.00 per month. Each Bus Pass enables you to ride **FREE** anyplace the buses travel in Los Angeles County during that month.

OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

We have “ACCESS” applications for anyone who needs cost-effective means of transportation. “Access” offers 24-hour service in all of Los Angeles County metropolitan area. Their vehicles are wheelchair accessible vans and taxis.

The “FAME” Transportation Taxi Program is for immediate use only for those clients with out any other transportation alternatives. FAME coupons are available for eligible clients from “Transportation Assessor” at the Inglewood Senior Center.

Seniors from the Inglewood, Hawthorne and Lennox centers will have representation on the “Transportation Review Committee.”

Commissioner Giardina stated great report.

Kevin Hawkins stated Thomas is doing some good things that include collaboration. During my tenure I have stressed that collaboration should begin here at home, internally, as we provide a transportation component to the city’s special events, or our “parkies” setting up for MLK and Cesar Chavez celebrations. Before we can consider providing quality services to the community, we have to provide quality support and collaborations both intra and interdepartmentally. I am proud of the collaborative activities we are doing. Just a follow up on the Commissions request for ID cards, the City Administrator has directed us to coordinate that request along with the Police Commission representatives, since they’ve also requested the same. They will be a little different than the ones we have and I will keep you all posted.

New Business

Commissioner Agee asked can we have parking permits, so we can park in the structure, or do we have to continue to pay the meters?

Kevin Hawkins stated I’m not sure what was approved, but I will look into it. At one point, placards were issued to all Commissioners, but that function is under Public Works. In any event, permit or no permit, parking is prohibited in the red and handicap zones. Besides, everyone knows your car Commissioner.

Commissioner Agee stated I know that. On another topic, I am impressed with the Skate Park. These kids that are out there are reaching out for someone and Jimmy is doing a good job of keeping them under control. They really listen to him.

Kevin Hawkins stated Jimmy is really great, innovative and creative. Truth be told, we have a lot of Jimmy’s out there.

Commissioner Ordonez stated there is the track over there by the offices of the Inglewood Unified School District, is there anyway the gates can be opened early for people who go out there and walk?

Kevin Hawkins stated a lot of people tend to jump the fence to get in. It is not a part of our Parks Department. You have to contact the school district or go directly to the School Board Meetings for that.

Unfinished Business

Commissioner Agee stated on Tuesday the City Council passed the proposal for the restroom project at Vincent Park. I supported it. It had a fabulous price and I'm happy we got it done. Congratulations to staff for doing a good job and saving money.

Commissioner Giardina stated I have always been an advocate for Vincent Park, but it came to my attention that the restrooms have been scaled down. That was not explained to the Commission. I'd ask for us to revisit the loss of 400 square feet regardless of the price. I was never aware of the scale down I was under the impression we were going forward with what was initially proposed.

Kevin Hawkins stated we did talk about the scale down at the last meeting. Eric Escobar, from Public works was here and did report on that. This Commission did support this project when it was not popular. The project started out to be a \$400,000 to \$600,000 project. Due to delays and the increase in construction costs and materials due to housing market boom, the price did escalate to \$800,000. We did try and sell that to the Council but they directed us back and told us to make it work at a lower price. This is a state of the art pre-engineered restroom. We were instructed that doors were wanted on the stalls of the women's restroom. Normally restrooms come without doors on the stalls in the South Bay area, but we were able to acquire doors because of perceived safety issues.

Commissioner Giardina stated the restrooms look prefabricated.

Kevin Hawkins stated no, they are not prefabricated they are pre-engineered. The difference is a pre-engineered facility is where they come in and take our specifications and design it accordingly, while a prefabricated facility is something that is already built.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Agee stated keep up the good work.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you all.

Commissioner Giardina stated I want to close tonight by saying thank you, for going above and beyond the call of duty in all you do, it is greatly appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS DIVISION

- Capital Improvement Projects
- Tree Maintenance
- Park Maintenance
- IBA Planting

RECREATION DIVISION

- Skate Park Grand Opening
- Lockhaven Center Re-opening
- Memorial Day Celebration
- Playhouse – “Sunshine for a Midnight Weary”
- SCMAF Championship
- Track Meet
- Baseball
- Tennis Tournament
- Aquatics (General Swim and Lessons)
- Annual Animal Clinic

HUMAN SERVICES

- Mural Project Update
- Summer Programs at Rogers Park
- SHAPE
- Senior Center Volunteer Recognition