

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, April 7, 2005, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

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

Staff:

Rita Gardner, Parks Administrative Superintendent
Trina Tyson, Program Assistant
Arrick Turner, Senior Recreation Supervisor
Stephanie Baltazar, Office Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion for the approval of the minutes from March 3, 2005 was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Giardina.

Public Comments

None.

Commissioner Smith stated before we go on to the Director's Report, we have Eric Escobar from the Public Works Department here to give us a report on our park projects.

Eric Escobar stated good evening. I am here to give you an update as to what Public Works is doing pertaining to five projects at various parks. The playground equipment will be upgraded starting Monday, April 11, 2005 at Rogers Park. Components were delivered last week and we anticipate to have it completed before the end of April. At both Rogers and Vincent Parks, the contract to put down the concrete slab for the Skate Parks is out for bid and due by May 25, 2005. The reconstruction of two existing restrooms at Vincent Park is underway. We are proceeding with two pre-engineered buildings. We are hoping for it to go to the City Council for approval by the end of April.

Finally, at Darby Park the concrete slabs for the basketball court and skate park have been completed. We have been in discussions with the company who's providing us with the components for the Skate Parks. We are now waiting for the components to arrive.

Commissioner Brown stated I noticed you didn't include the Lockhaven Project. Is Public Works doing some work there?

Eric Escobar stated yes we are, but I am not the engineer on that project. I do know the electric work has been completed, the roof is being renovated and the fences are being worked on. We are hoping the project will come to completion mid May or so.

Commissioner Agee asked in regards to the restroom at Vincent Park, will the bid come back to the Commission before it goes to City Council?

Eric Escobar stated the bid is still a draft. We are working with a company that has set rates for the state of California, which allows any municipality to utilize the rates because the project is already in the process.

Rita Gardner stated I'm going to talk about that in the Director's Report.

Commissioner Giardina stated do you have any renditions of what the restroom will look like at Vincent Park?

Eric Escobar stated yes we do and I will get them to Rita so she can pass them around.

Commissioner Giardina asked did I understand you say that they are prefab?

Eric Escobar stated no, pre-engineered.

Commissioner Smith stated I know that there was some remodeling or redesigning that was going to be done as to the doors for the women's restroom, was that taken care of?

Rita Gardner stated yes.

Director's Report

Rita Gardner stated before we go into the Director's Report, Sabrina Barnes is here to talk about an event that is going to take place within the next month.

Sabrina Barnes stated good evening Commissioners. I'm here to speak to you about an activity that is coming up on May 1st at Vincent Park.

As you may recall last year we introduced a fee structure for the amphitheater that would allow us to rent out the facility to the public versus having the City sponsor events there. We are now in our first effort to do that. Albert Torres Production has approached us; if you have heard of them, you may know them from the Salsa Congress that takes place annually at the Casino. They also host music festivals around the world. The concert will take place on May 1st from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. As a part of them receiving their amphitheater permit, it must come before you for your concurrence. They are anticipating anywhere from 1500 to 2000 participants. They are in the process of meeting with the Police Department, getting staff assignments and park and recreation staff to make sure they have the proper staffing required. They will also bring in portable fencing, their own security as well as a contingency of police officers that will be a part of the event. Traffic enforcement will also be a part of the event to make sure any traffic issues are mitigated. They now go to Permits & Licenses to get approval. Once they receive P&L approval, we will then issue an official permit.

Commissioner Giardina asked could you tell me what the fee schedule is when we rent out the amphitheater for an event of this size?

Sabrina Barnes stated fees are as follows:

- \$100 per hour for setup, rehearsal, teardown
- \$200 per hour for each performance/presentation (4hr. minimum)
- Additional time beyond the 4hr minimum is \$100 per hour
- Cleaning fees range from \$250-\$1,000
- Facility Holding Deposit (non-refundable) \$1000
- Damage Deposit (refundable) \$1000

Commissioner Ordonez asked what kind of benefits would this bring to the City?

Sabrina Barnes stated ideally it makes us recognized as a viable entertainment venue. Plus it generates revenue. The \$5000 is for use of the venue alone; they will pay for the cost of staff. This will really make our venue recognized as a viable site for concerts. As you know, we hold the annual Jazz Festival there. The site itself has been sitting void for quite sometime. Unless the City is putting on a function, it is just there. People who just drop in and use it are using it illegally because it isn't just a site for people to just show up at. There are some ordinances that we have that don't allow that much sound or what have you. We are now trying to make it a viable venue so that we can generate some revenue and get more people to come into our City: a lot of people do not even know the amphitheater exists. Vincent Park is known for how beautiful the park is, the playhouse and the swimming complex. I attended high school here, and believe it or not played softball and had never gone up the hill. There is so much more to the park. It was even after a while that I had started working here that I actually saw the entire park. We live in a community and are not aware of the great benefits we have.

Commissioner Agee stated I am glad to hear this. I was at Vincent Park yesterday and it looks beautiful. What I would like to know is as far as police protection, will they provide their own security or will the City provide our own police?

Sabrina Barnes stated it is a joint effort. The amphitheater rental process mandates that they put forth a security plan that they have to bring back to us. Thirteen of our officers will be assigned to this event that will include 10 officers, 2 detectives and 1 watch commander. They do have a contingency working on an 11-hour shift.

Commissioner Agee asked is this Saturday or Sunday?

Sabrina Barnes stated it is Sunday, May 1, 2005.

Commissioner Agee asked an 18-hour shift?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes, this includes the time the promoter will set up and tear down.

Commissioner Agee asked will there be any concession stands?

Sabrina Barnes stated they will have some vendors. As part of the agreement, they have 15 days until the event to tell us who the vendors are.

Commissioner Agee stated Congratulations.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated you probably have it already built into your criteria, but what type of businesses do we want to utilize at the amphitheater? Do you have a selective guide of what's good or not? Are you looking into their background so that we won't have any foreseeable problems?

Sabrina Barnes stated that on a certain level we cannot discriminate. But one of the safeguards we have is the security plan. The Police Department does an extensive background check to see if the organization has had any problems in their past events and it also allows them to see who these people are.

Rita Gardner stated I wanted to ask Sabrina to talk about the Skate Park.

Sabrina Barnes stated if you do not mind, I'd like to give that to my staff person.

Commissioner Giardina asked are you looking for a motion?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes.

Commissioner Giardina made a motion to approve the Albert Torres Production for the Cuban Festival taking place May 1st. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ordonez.

Commissioner Smith stated motion moved, seconded and carried on. Thank you Sabrina.

Rita Gardner stated before we go on, I'd like to introduce one of our Office Assistants, Stephanie Baltazar. She is here to assist us in taking notes for the minutes.

Commissioner Agee stated excuse me, can you spell that name for me?

Stephanie Baltazar asked my last name?

Commissioner Agee stated yes.

Stephanie Baltazar stated B A L T A Z A R.

Rita Gardner stated we've got Arrick Turner who is representing our Recreation Department.

Cesar Chavez Day Celebration

Arrick Turner stated on Saturday, March 19, 2005, the City hosted the Fourth Annual Cesar Chavez Day Unity March, Recognition Ceremony and Celebration. It was apparent that a little rain would not delay or dampen the spirits of those in attendance as over 600 residents and their friends attended this event. The highlight of the celebration began with a commemorative Unity March that began at Hollywood Park. Immediately following the March, a celebration was held at Darby Park from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hispanic radio and television personality Gustavo Vargas also known as Chubido, served as Master of Ceremonies. Maria Elena Chavez the niece of Cesar Chavez served as the keynote speaker for the event. The highlight of the celebration was the presentation by the dynamic winners of the Cesar Chavez Day speech contest. The City also presented the Cesar Chavez Foundation with a commendation. The event included live entertainment, food vendors, exhibitors, arts & crafts, face painting, game booths, interactive games, a soccer tournament and a student art exhibition featured by the students of Inglewood Unified School District. The Cesar Chavez Day Celebration was co-sponsored by the Inglewood Unified School District.

Sports-SCMAF

Inglewood's basketball teams were victorious in the recent Southern California Municipal Athletic Association Tournament held in Gardena. The City's boys' team captured the "Division A" first and second place trophies and a "Division C" trophy. The girls' team ranked fourth in the consolation round. This was a great fete since the girls' league has only been competing for two years.

Health, College and Career Fair

On Saturday, April 23, 2005, the City will host three great events at one location. The event titled "Healthy Life, Healthy Living, " will feature a Health Fair Expo, College and Career Readiness and an Earth Day Celebration. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Rogers Park. It will offer information on healthcare, education and environmental issues.

Commissioner Smith asked do you have an additional Health Fair flyer?

Arrick Turner stated this is just a draft.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm just asking because Commissioner Giardina does not have one.

Skate Park Grand Opening

The Darby Park Skate Park Grand Opening plans are underway. We are expecting the equipment to be in place by the end of the month and anticipate a Grand Opening the first week of May. At the Grand Opening, we are planning on having skateboarding demonstrations, safety information and remarks from the Mayor and District I Councilman. More information will be made available as the plans are developed. The event will be a fun filled day as we celebrate the opening of one of three Skate Parks.

Reminders: Strutters Walking Club and Inglewood Idol

The Darby Park Walking Club Membership Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will consist of health related guest speakers and general club information. Refreshments will be served.

Inglewood Idol will take place on Friday, April 15, 2005 at Rogers Park from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$3. All are welcome.

Commissioner Smith asked what date is that?

Arrick Turner stated April 15th.

Commissioner Agee asked where will the meeting at Darby Park be? Will it be in the gym?

Arrick Turner stated yes, it will be in the gym.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I have a question, what is the age range for Inglewood Idol?

Arrick Turner stated the talents' ages range from 4 to 21.

Commissioner Ordonez asked where do they come from? Are they from our local schools?

Arrick Turner stated they are from all schools, IUSD, Torrance schools, private schools as well as preschools.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Arrick.

Rita Gardner stated Trina Tyson is here representing Human Services. She is no stranger to the Commission and has a wealth of knowledge. At this point she will go ahead and share all the information she has for us.

Trina Tyson stated good evening. You have a few flyers in front of you. The green flyer is a Save the Date flyer that I will talk about regarding the college component for this date.

College, Career, Health Fair and Earth Day Expo

We are working with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board to confirm final business information. Colleges are continuing to RSVP and final calls are being made for final destination. We are in the process of finalizing a pseudo step show with several Greek Organizations. Operation Hope is sending a replacement speaker in place of John Bryant. They promised they'd send someone who will be very motivating.

Trina Tyson stated the yellow flyer is for the Practice SAT exam.

Princeton Review/Practice SAT Exam

The Princeton Review will return to Rogers Park on Saturday, April 9, 2005 to administer the New Practice SAT exam at 9:00 a.m. The strategy session night will be held on April 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. for both students and parents to attend. If there is anyone you know that is interested, please have him or her fill out the bottom of the flyer and return it to Rogers Park.

Trina Tyson stated the third flyer is for the SHAPE Program. This is their new marketing tool. Several people view this as a movie ticket and we anticipate the numbers for the program to grow.

Neighborhood Action Council

The Inglewood Neighborhood Action Council is proposing to apply for a mini grant through the Children's Planning Council to assist in the Inglewood IBA Spring Flower Planting Project in May. The next meetings are scheduled on April 20, 2005 at 12:00 p.m. and April 28, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Rogers Park. We are hoping to get the grant for \$1000 to \$1500 that will assist us in beautifying the City.

School Readiness Conference

The School Readiness Conference will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Carson Community Center. The theme for this conference is "Lead the Way...Finding the Leader in You, People Coming Together in their Community."

Mural Restoration Project

The Mural Restoration Project is expected to culminate with a Dedication Event scheduled for November 5, 2005 which will itself be the beginning of the festivities leading up to the City's Centennial in 2008. On March 16, 2005, the citizens' Historic Site Preservation Committee discussed the outline of the event: 1) A VIP lunch in Community Room A of City Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 2) a public event outdoors at the Mural Site from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 3) Youth performance of a play in the library auditorium from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. An Event Planning Committee and a Fund Raising Committee were formed and met on March 22, 2005 to flush out plans and locate sponsors to underwrite some of the expenses. We hope to have a dignitary/celebrity keynote speaker at the event. Blow-ups of vintage photos such as cars, locomotives, airplanes and other modes of transportation for the 30's and 40's will be put on display. The Inglewood High School Band will be asked to perform music from that era. There will also be food and entertainment. Huell Howser will feature the Mural Project on his "California Gold" television show.

Be Well Program

30 seniors are showing great improvement as a result of the Be Well Project offered at the Senior Center. This is the 2nd class, which has 9 graduates from the first class serving as mentors to the new group. The first hour of the program is for exercises and the second is for intensive nutrition education.

Physicians, pharmacists, social workers, nutritionists, psychologists, gerontologists and nurse are available for the group and individual consultation. On March 8, 2005 there was a mandatory meeting that staff attended. They returned with a wealth of resources and will continue to seek funding for this project.

Commissioner Giardina stated I think all of those programs are wonderful. You guys are doing a tremendous job. I'm very excited about the program for the seniors at risk; hopefully we are able to find some funding.

Commissioner Agee stated good to see you Trina, you are doing a good job as always, thank you very much.

Trina Tyson stated thank you.

Rita Gardner stated I'd like to report on and inform our new Commissioner what our responsibilities are. Parks Division has the responsibility of maintaining the natural beauty of approximately 100 acres of parks and green areas located throughout Inglewood. Street Landscaping promotes the elegance and urbanity of nearly over 26,000 sites of trees by trimming, removing, spraying, planting or root pruning. Trees in Inglewood can be looked upon as a valuable resource used to create a more livable environment. In addition, the Inglewood Beautification Association creates beauty through the involvement of private citizens, organizations, businesses and various volunteers by working together to beautify the City by the planting of and the caring for colorful annual flowers throughout various areas of Inglewood. The Spring Planting Day will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. The spring flowers will be marigolds. If you know anyone interested in getting involved in beautifying the city, please have him or her contact me. We are getting ready to put a flyer on our website and will have it to pass out at our next meeting.

Update: Vincent Park Restrooms

The original scaling on the restrooms for Vincent Park was 1400 square feet and was decreased to 1000 square feet, which will still be within code. This also decreases the cost of the project. Before the draft goes to the City Council, it will be brought to the Commission first.

Commissioner Giardina asked will you have the renditions so we will be able to see exactly what it looks like?

Rita Gardner stated I will get them from Eric Escobar. I don't know if you remember Khanh Chu. He was the engineer who appeared before us several times and as of April 1, he has moved on with his career. He passed the project on to Eric Escobar who has been very accessible and instrumental in getting our project together.

Commissioner Ordonez asked do you have the website address?

Rita Gardner stated it is www.inglewood.org; you link on to departments, then on to Parks, Recreation and Community Services. The Parks Division web site will be completed by May 1st. It will consist of links to Tree Maintenance/Street Landscape, Park Maintenance - North/South, Inglewood Beautification Association and Capital Improvement Projects.

Commissioner Ordonez asked what is the date you need the volunteers for?

Rita Gardner stated the planting will take place on May 21st. We will take volunteers' as late as 7:30 a.m. that morning. A lot of our former volunteers are senior citizens who've aged and cannot get down on their knees like they use to. In the past we had the Boy Scouts come and assist the elderly planters. We are lucky that Trina has helped as well in getting us volunteers. Any kind of help is welcome.

Commissioner Agee stated I am very happy to see there has been corrections made to the restrooms at Vincent Park, it sounds within reason and I want to congratulate you on a job well done.

Rita Gardner stated I beg to differ; it was a group effort with Public Works. We really do appreciate their help. They have been with us holding our hands, as we have held theirs.

Commissioner Brown stated as my colleagues have stated, this has been a program that has been on the table for quite sometime. The project would have continued to lay with costs escalating. I am really happy that you were able to find a firm that can do some tweeking with the project.

Rita Gardner stated thank you.

New Business

Commissioner Giardina asked is there any new information on Circle Park?

Rita Gardner stated we discussed that as late as 3 weeks ago. It was brought to the table during a discussion to seek grant funding for a city makeover grant. We want to find funds to at least start phase 1. There are some renderings and you can check with Public Works for that. They have hired an architect; Dave Denton who has worked on the renditions of Circle Park and they are beautiful.

Commissioner Giardina asked who did the renditions?

Rita Gardner stated David Denton and Katherine Spitz. They are beautiful. It looks like a miniature grove. What they have in mind is, expanding the Circle Park area so that it will decrease the circumference of it.

Commissioner Giardina asked is it supposed to have a track and more trees?

Rita Gardner stated that is correct.

Commissioner Giardina asked are waterfalls incorporated in that?

Rita Gardner stated that is also included. This is a very costly project. We are trying to discuss the kind of funding resources that we can get for this project. Next week there is going to be a meeting regarding park planning between Parks and Recreation and Public Works. What we are going to do is go over our Recovery Action Plan that was revised in 2003. The plan highlights the deficit of our parks. We will try to systematize the kinds of projects we can come up with from that list. Hopefully we can put them into an organized fashion, try to prioritize it and identify some funding sources to approve the projects.

Commissioner Giardina asked do we have an estimated cost for Circle Park?

Rita Gardner stated no, we do not have a cost as of right now.

Commissioner Giardina stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I know how hard the staff and employees are working to get the parks into the shape that they are in, they are beautiful.

Rita Gardner stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I had the opportunity to go to Darby Park on Saturday. There were 8 cars parked on the grass. Some cars were turned toward the basketball court and you can see where the tires were in the grass. I know who is responsible for this. Mr. Danny Tabor is a private citizen. He should not have the right to park on the grass. It is very dangerous to have cars parked on the grass where there are people. Staff should advise them they are not to drive on the grass. The weekend staff did observe this.

Rita Gardner stated I believe he was already advised of this.

Commissioner Smith stated excuse me Commissioner Brown, is there something that we should hear?

Commissioner Brown stated I had to go get permission first.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm sorry Rita, you may continue.

Rita Gardner stated he has already been advised by staff not to drive the cars in the park on the grass. We do have park staff that work on the weekends and did in fact observe that. They did ask him not to drive on the grass anymore.

Commissioner Smith stated well I hope so.

Sabrina Barnes stated Mario Smith met with Mr. Tabor as recent as this morning. He was asked to assist us in an effort to keep the folks off the grass. We also indicated to him that we would not hesitate to contact the Police Department to assist us as well.

Commissioner Agee stated I was in the park at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon and one of Mr. Tabor's drivers was parked on the grass.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you that is new information.

Commissioner Brown stated I have one comment. I had the opportunity to visit Center Park on Tuesday. We have signs posted at the entrance. When speaking to the Director, I'd like to suggest we re-word the signs to read in both English and Spanish no league playing, no football, soccer, or baseball metal cleats. Guys have a way of easing their way onto the grounds. That's where we spend a lot of money resodding the fields. The sign is too small. We need to resize it a little bit and have it read no metal cleats allowed; it destroys the sod.

Commissioner Smith asked is there anyway we can enlarge the sign?

Commissioner Brown stated the sign that is there says no league, but they say I'm not playing league but they yet have on the metal cleats that tears up the sod.

Rita Gardner stated they graffiti the signs so you cannot read it. I have our park staff go out there daily to remove the graffiti so they can get the message. Sabrina and I have talked about the language change and we are working on that.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Rita.

Unfinished Business

None.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Brown stated on March 28, Councilman Franklin had a meeting with all of his Commissioners he has appointed. I had a lengthy report as opposed to the other Commissioners. They had no idea of all the programs the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is involved in.

To highlight it even more our staff didn't talk about an event that was held today, I guess they are too humble. They were out at 8:30 a.m. this morning, at the A.J. Wright Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. A donation was given to the after school program. That shows how people feel so strongly about our department and programs. A donation of \$5,000 was made, to our great quality of staff that works hard on other projects not just basketball, soccer or baseball. They are doing a great job. Even though someone came late, I won't hold it against him. I am proud of them and the public should be aware of this.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Giardina stated I just have one concern and Rita, maybe you can take me back to it. It was brought to my attention that there is a list of Commissioners with our personal information, our address and phone numbers that is made available to the public. Is there anyway that we can eliminate at least our home phone number and address?

Rita Gardner stated it is public record.

Commissioner Giardina stated I spoke to the City Clerk and what we can possibly do is delete the address and phone number. I know it is public record, but I don't believe that home address should be apart of that. If it is absolutely necessary then we can incorporate it.

Rita Gardner asked did she suggest that you could just have your name and title?

Commissioner Giardina stated yes.

Rita Gardner stated in that case I will check with the City Clerk to see if in the future we can change the business cards and not have your personal information included.

Commissioner Giardina stated thank you Rita.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Rita and staff if there are no additional comments to be made, we will adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Vincent Park Restrooms Update
- Skate Parks Update

PARKS DIVISION

- CIP's
- Park Construction
- Tree Maintenance
- Park Maintenance

RECREATION DIVISION

- Recap of Cesar Chavez Day Event
- Inglewood Idol – April 15, 2005
- Health, College, Career and Earth Day – April 23, 2005
- After School Program
- What's Hot this Summer? Gearing up for the Summer Program

HUMAN SERVICES

- Be Well Conference ASA/NCOA Conference
- Mural Update
- 5310 Grant
- College and Career Fair