

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, July 7, 2005, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Henry Brown presiding called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Irlanda Ordonez – District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Absent:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
James Henry, Recreation Supervisor (Vincent Park)
Charles Morgenstern, Park Construction Supervisor
Pat Bitker, Food Services Coordinator

Public Comments

Commissioner Brown stated, please state your name.

Diane Sombrano stated good evening. My name is Diane Sombrano. I live in District 4 and I am a member of the Centinela Valley Historical Society Board of Directors. As you know the Centinela Adobe is the historic site of Inglewood. Hurtado family members built it. It is the first dwelling unit in the entire Centinela Valley. Unfortunately what has happened is Cal Trans has chosen to widen the San Diego Freeway and apparently somewhere within these halls, the communication did not get to the people who had insisted on a geologic survey. Now part of the heritage center has sustained some damage, some cracking and apparently some slipping. I am here to ask you as the Commissioners of the Parks and Recreation Department to authorize whomever to see to it that Cal Trans does whatever necessary to restore the damage that they created. The building itself is very important. The Heritage Center is a new edition, but it holds the archive of this entire city and then in comes Cal Trans and does a little eroding of our mountain site and Cal Trans seems to not care. Hopefully we can have a motion to protect the site because we no longer have any barrier there for the sound.

We used to be able to have a conversation with each other, but now you have to yell at each other in order to hear one another. Hopefully something can be done about the sound that will not take away from the center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion for the approval of the minutes from June 2, 2005, was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Ordonez.

Director's Report

Kevin Hawkins stated good evening Commissioners, good to see you all again. It was also good to see a lot of you over at the grand opening at Lockhaven. Before we get into the Division reports I did want to respond to the public comment. What Ms. Sombrano brings up is a very real situation and she has been extremely involved and dedicated a lot of time and service. The issue of the Adobe is that Cal Trans has built a sound wall along the 405. Public Works, in this particular project, has been our liaison with MTA/Cal Trans on this. What's going on is that there's been an assessment that has been initially done by city staff. Basically with the support of the volunteers and the board their saying there is damaged cause by this. City staff has been out there and confirmed that. What's being done is an architectural assessment, we are getting a professional opinion, we've been working on this with Cal Trans for a while and Public Works has been assisting with this. But the issue is damage, which has been caused and continues to be caused as a result of this. So we're getting an assessment of what the current damage is and what the projected future damage will be as a result of this project, Making sure that we are in a position to recover the cost and to insure whatever work Cal Trans does they mitigate it and correct whatever damage is done to this Historic Site. What I would like to do in response to the public concern is extend and invitation to our liaison from Public Works to have them report out to us.

Commissioner Brown asked where is this location?

Kevin Hawkins stated it is over off of Midfield over at the Adobe. If you haven't been there, we'd love for you to go out and take a tour that is conducted. But again that is a very historical site and it would be a shame to have it damaged any further. We have experienced damage over the years due to earthquakes, flooding, storms, etc. and though those things have happened, this is man made and that's something that cannot be tolerated. So again, the comments are noted and City staff is already engaged in looking at it. We hope to report back on it soon.

Commissioner Agee stated I agree with Ms. Sombrano. I happen to go over there quite regularly and there is damage being done to the building, This Park is too much a part of the City of Inglewood to let it deteriorate the way it is.

It is a fabulous place and I think we really need to keep it up to par and at a proper time maybe we should wait for the report to be brought back to us and I'll make a motion that we send it to the City Council and let the City Council deal with it because they've got the power. I won't make a motion at this time because she said she's going to bring a report back so I'll just wait until then.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I also agree with Ms, Sombrano and Commissioner Agee. I actually took the time to go and visit the Adobe and took the freedom to take some pictures. If you pass them around you can see cracks on the walls, slabs coming down and the area where they inpuited the sound proof so you can't hear the noise from the freeway. Just the floor itself is coming down. From these pictures you can get an idea of what's going on over there.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you. Before you go into your report Kevin, I just want to make a comment on the minutes. They are very thorough. When I received them in the mail, I noticed that we now get everything that is said, written down. I mean if you sneeze I think it's in the minutes. But I just want to compliment the staff on a thorough, thorough job. When I looked at it, it was more than 20 pages.

Kevin Hawkins stated 27 pages.

Commissioner Brown stated 27 to be exact. I just wanted to make sure that doesn't happen this time. Thank you very much.

Kevin Hawkins stated Stephanie will really appreciate that and congrats to Sandra Green and her staff for doing such an excellent job. It's an attempt to be more responsive and thank you on that.

Commissioner Brown stated now we are ready for your Department reports on activities.

Kevin Hawkins stated I know we have a special guest here. I think we should start with her first. We have here in the audience someone who has been instrumental in our Oral History Project with our mural and the youngsters. Empowering some of our youth, making sure that the history of Inglewood isn't forgotten and the future of the youth of Inglewood is certainly bright. When I saw her name on the agenda I got very excited. She's always around for something positive and is always doing 110% if there is such a thing. Again, I think this Commission should recognize her contributions as we certainly do, especially with our youngsters and preserving the history of our community. With that, I give you Ms. Norwood.

Elizabeth Norwood stated thank you very much and good evening Commissioners.

I did go to the website to get everyone's names and spell them correctly on those packets you have. So it seems as though, Ms. Ordonez, your first name does not begin with the letter I?

Commissioner Ordonez stated yes it does.

Elizabeth Norwood stated as Mr. Hawkins said I'm Elizabeth Norwood and for the past several years I have been working with the youth of Inglewood mostly teenagers but middle school students as well. I worked on a youth service project a long time ago. Currently I am working on interesting youngsters in the History of Inglewood. I put together a packet of material so that I could be brief because I have been known to over stay my time. My presentation purpose is to gain support from you, the Commissioners, in generating and obtaining youth participation citywide. I've worked with all youth. I have been working on the mural all the way from the beginning and I'd like to go through this agenda rather rapidly. So that you are aware, what you will notice in your packet is that I have prepared other material for you. We began in 2002 with City Honors High School, which is located on the campus of West Los Angeles College. We recruited young students from there. We wanted to get 5 or 6 and ended up with 11. We trained these young students to do the Oral History Project. The Great Depression era is very important to us because that is when the mural was placed as a result of the WPA project. Those of you old enough to remember, those projects and the fund matching between the Federal and local City government are what resulted in that wonderful mural, the History of Transportation.

Being an educator, when I work with these students, you will see in the 3rd bullet, that I align my presentations to the standards of the California State Department of Education. As you are aware they set the standards of what the students are to learn. We teach the students the practice essays. As I said, we researched the usage of the computer lab over at Rogers and we researched this entire project. We visited the wonderful Centinela Adobe looking at pictures of Inglewood in the past. We also visited the sculpture conservation studio. The director shared with us how they were refurbishing the mural. The students listened to a presentation by Ms. Deidre Hennings a researcher/grant writer who is significant in gaining the funding for the refurbishment. They talked about relocating the mural to where we are, what kind of research has to be done, tests and so forth. We did interviews and videographed these students-- who are 14 years old interviewing the people who lived during that period. That will go into our archives in the library to culminate that we conducted a panel discussion on the mural, making ourselves the experts. You can ask us anything about the mural and we can tell you. As Mr. Hawkins said, we were requested to go further so we wrote a play and presented that play. We want to continue the project, because we know that in 2006 we are going to have the installation of the mural. What we would like to do is have youngsters participate.

We have 2 ideas and you will notice towards the lower half of your page we want to create what we call a living museum. These would be youngsters who will stand in a room on different height pedestals (in costume), portraying roles of individuals who were local people instrumental in keeping the mural alive. Such as Virginia Robinson and many other state figures. Of course we do have one student who is dynamite Franklin Roosevelt. They will be standing in the room and as you come in and ask them about the mural, they can tell you their role in relationship to it. Also, we would like to complete an activity room for elementary school students so they can learn and retain information to generate the spirit. I know that people take pride in their community, as well as youth from all areas of our City. We need to have involvement from every part of our City. As you can see, I've included a couple of things I've done in the past. I also completed for you a letter that I am hoping you will take to the young people in your area. I want you to be aware that if I walked into a crowd of young teens and asked who wanted to be in the Oral History Project they'd probably say *not me*. They need the parents to give them a little encouragement. There is a letter to the parents and anytime I am working with students, parents are welcome to attend. There is a flyer in there for the students. I hope you already have someone in mind who would like to join us. We begin on July 25 at Rogers Park, right after summer school from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. That is my presentation. Thank you very much for your time.

Commissioner Agee stated Ms. Norwood; I don't have to introduce myself, you know who I am since I am on the committee of the Transportation Mural. I am familiar with this program and I am so proud of it. I know some of the work you've done and I support you 100%. I have met your kids and they are just outstanding. I just want to tell you to keep up the good work. If there is anything I can do to support you let me know. We are going to need a lot of help on the mural when we open it and I hope your group will be a part of it. I just want staff and Commission to know that I know you personally.

Elizabeth Norwood stated thank you very much.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I just want to thank you for the work you are doing. It is an amazing and beautiful project. I wanted to ask you a question; it says here that it started in 2002?

Elizabeth Norwood stated yes, in 2002.

Commissioner Ordonez stated ok, that was actually my question, to see how long you've been doing this project for.

Elizabeth Norwood stated we need the support to generate participation of all boys and girls, and all ethnic groups.

We thought that this was a perfect venue to ask you for your support. I have included my card with my phone number and email address. Staff has been very supportive.

Commissioner Brown stated I'd just like to comment. I am impressed you are talking to the young people because that's where our legacy and history is going to live on. I know I'll go out and knock on some doors because there are some young people who have free time at that particular hour. I will also see that those who get a flyer know that there is parent involvement because this is the legacy of our City and as you heard from the other Commissioners, you have our full support. We are there.

Elizabeth Norwood stated I appreciate that very much. Thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee asked Chair, is it necessary for us to take a vote to show our support?

Commissioner Brown stated well, I'd like to put it into motion so it is in the minutes that we unanimously support this project. Can I have a motion?

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that we support Ms. Elizabeth Norwood's program and I hope I can get a second on this.

Commissioner Ordonez state I second.

Commissioner Brown stated it's been moved and properly second, all in favor.

Commissioner Agee, Commissioner Ordonez and Commissioner Brown all stated I.

Commissioner Brown stated no opposes. Thank you Ms. Norwood.

Kevin Hawkins stated it's always good to get some warm and fuzzy feelings around here. I just wanted to let you know that the youth involved in the project were out on 4th of July. I had to sneak out of Vincent Park to buy some sparklers before I went home, so I went to one of the stands and there was a young lady who was helping me and she says I know you. We went back and forth and eventually she said maybe you know me from City Hall, I'm on the Oral History Project. So just to let you know the youth are out there and it's good. That's what we have to look forward to.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I'm sorry; I just have one quick question.

I don't know if it was mentioned and I missed it, but it says right here that it starts on Monday, July 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., I just wanted to know if that is going to be everyday?

Elizabeth Norwood stated I think that I have to bring that to staff. You know we have a budget, so it will just be Mondays for right now. We work and move with the budget we have.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Kevin Hawkins stated Ms. Trina Tyson just stepped out; I'll wait until she steps back in and she'll be able to address your question. We'll start with Pat who is from our Human Services section. Most of you know Pat Bitker, our food specialist guru/manager. She's responsible for all our fine meals in the congregated food program as well as our meals on wheels. So with that I give you Pat Bitker.

Pat Bitker asked is it too soon to ask for a raise? Good evening. I'm going to give you a report on different parts of the Human Services Section.

SHAPE

Seventy-nine thousand (\$79,000) in CDBG has been given to the SHAPE program for Fiscal Year 2005-2006. The program was very successful this year and we plan to increase the number of students taking advantage of the tutoring and mentoring services. S.H.A.P.E. has been operating at Rogers Park and Morningside High School and we hope to offer it at Lockhaven now that the remodeling is complete.

Transportation Mural Project

The mural project is experiencing delays due to an unexpected need for survey work to be done so that the Project Engineer and Landscape Architect can complete the construction documents and prepare a bid to go out for a contractor to complete the project. This will include construction of the new wall, landscaping, lighting and irrigation of Grevillea Art Park, the development of additional parking and the design and construction of interpretive plaques and an information kiosk. Other unexpected issues are the Office of Historic Preservation's requirement for a peer review to settle differing professional opinions on methods of attaching the panels to the wall. As well as the request by the California Cultural and Historical Endowment for reevaluation of removing a large ficus tree, which will be detrimental to the mural. Our new time line for the Rededication Event is March 4, 2006. This event will be the first of many activities leading up to the City's Centennial in 2008.

On June 15, 2005 the citizens' Historic Site Preservation and the Rededication Event Committees held their monthly meeting, assisting in the planning and implementation of the project.

Web Site Upgrades

With one time money from the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging, we have hired a consultant to provide upgrades to the interactive web site for agencies and individuals to find information about social service agencies, programs and services in the South Bay; to communicate with them and refer clients to each other. The upgrades will make input of information easier, improve the search capabilities, provide a calendar, information in Spanish, referrals by email and fax, to name a few. A web design team has been formed and meets on a weekly basis to provide advice and offer suggestions.

Pilot Snack Project

June 24, 2005 was the last day for the pilot snack project, which began for the first time in January 2005. Over 550 healthy snacks were served per day, for a total of 77,206 at 13 after school locations that included Center Park, Darby Park, Rogers Park, Siminski Park, the Veterans' Building, Mobile Recreation, Oak, Payne, Hundall, Bennet-Kew, Freeman and Worthington Elementary Schools and Morningside High School.

Annual Free Lunch Program

On June 27, 2005 our annual free lunch program began at Ashwood Park, Darby Park, Rogers Park, Vincent Park and the Lockhaven Community Center. The Woodworth School site will begin on July 5, 2005.

Osage Senior Housing Project

At the Mayor's request, we are in the process of adding the Osage Senior Housing Project as a stop on the I-Line Route. It adds only 2 minutes to the route.

Care Management Section

The Care Management section has been able to hire one full time Care Manager, one part time Care Manager and one Cal State Dominguez Hills intern. All began work the last week in June. They are in the process of bringing in an Intake Specialist/Case Aide to round out their staffing requirements.

Nutrition Project

The nutrition project has hired three new Home Delivered Meal drivers and kitchen assistants. This ends the 3-month staffing crisis. In spite of being short staffed (sometimes as much as 50% of our employees), we managed to get meals to every single senior, every single day.

Delivery Truck

One of our aging delivery trucks caught fire while being driven off the lot over at the City Garage. The truck was a total loss.

One new truck with a hot/cold unit has arrived just in time. The truck was gifted to us from the Parks Department and the heating and cooling unit was purchased with one-time-only money from Los Angeles County.

Pat Bitker stated a long-term employee, Margaret Straughter who was been the assistant cook at the Central Kitchen for the last 6 years has taken gravely ill. She has been placed on a lung transplant list at UCLA. We ask that you join us by keeping her and her family near, in your hearts.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm not really sure but regarding the tree at Grevillea Park, I offer to take my saw and cut it down. I'm sorry to hear about your truck and for Ms. Straughter.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I'm sorry to hear about Ms. Straughter, my prayers are with her. Thank you for all your good work.

Commissioner Brown stated my prayers go out to your staff person. I'm really interested in the websites, especially any type of website that addresses resources for seniors. I'm really tuned into that because our seniors, in a lot of cases, aren't aware of available resources and with the new technology at hand. It is good to have information in terms of your care giving and staffing, because there are a lot seniors who need care and family members are more than reasonable to ask for care from service versus putting them in a convalescent home. That is a tremendous need and I remember, I think several weeks ago at City Council, there was a special session given to care givers. Anything we can do to promote and be advocates for that type of service(s) is really tremendous. Keep up the good work.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you. Just quickly we appreciate your comments regarding getting our resources and services out to our senior population. Our attempts to expand some of our programs have been successful, such as our computer courses predominantly attended by seniors.

In our Human services section, seniors make up a large part of the focus we are implementing including our website which will expose the community to some of the programs that are available.

The issue regarding the saw Commissioner Agee, we certainly appreciate that. We have a conflict between two state agencies. Referring to the mural, when the plan was initially approved and developed by staff and approved by Commission, it had a curvy, meandering-type of look to it, which was approved by one state agency. Another state agency said no, it needs to have the original curvature available over at Vincent Park. So we've got 2 competing opinions if you will, from the state. What we are faced with now is trying to adhere to both and that's where we are stuck. With one agency saying we need to go back to original curvature and if we do that, it will basically cause for a change in Grevillea Park. In order to install it, we would have to look at removing certain trees so they are asking for an environmental impact. If we are to put the mural as it stands now, the roots of the ficus tree is what will damage it. So the Mural that has been estimated over \$1 million would be faced with long-term damage. So that's where we are at with that.

Finally, as Human Services mentioned, we received some of the one time only funds. Thank you to Charlie and his crew for the donation of the truck. This is something that is really important; it shows the City being innovative and creative. We know that our resources are scarce but that's no excuse for reducing our service standards. So something that is being done is that due to our serving levels, we periodically get one-time-only funds. The joke is that we seem to get them every year. Anyway, we get additional funds and as a result what we are looking at doing now is to take vehicles that are still in relatively good shape but are scheduled to be replaced. We take those and use these grant funds we are getting and convert these vehicles (which are still in good shape) thereby expanding our fleet in terms of our meal program. And that's something we haven't done in years. This approach was initiated from our folks as well as the folks from Fleet Services in Public Works. So again that's just being creative and innovative. I believe we are on our 2nd or 3rd vehicle.

Pat Bitker stated this is the 2nd time. We've received gifts from different places. I believe this was collaboration between Public Works and Parks Departments. It took a lot of hands to make it happen. There is another van that is scheduled to arrive soon.

Kevin Hawkins stated now we'll go with Charlie Morgenstern. Charlie is our Senior Supervisor for Parks Construction. Everyone knows Charlie and the fine job he's done. He keeps the City going in terms of Park Maintenance and Construction, with that I give you Charlie.

Charlie Morgenstern stated thank you for that fine compliment. Good evening everyone. I have kind of a lengthy list for the Parks Division.

Vincent Park Restroom Demolition/Reconstruction

Demolition of the Vincent Park restrooms has been awarded to Vizion's West respectively. The notices to proceed with contract plans and specifications are now in the hands of both contractors'. The new construction contractor will be Rometec, Inc. The public is aware of the 2 restrooms being replaced. Procedures have already begun in eliminating the restrooms. Principal points of contact will be, project manager Rita Gardner, Site Supervisor Charlie Morgenstern and Public Works Capital Improvement Project Goran Milinovic, who will provide the engineering technical experience to the contractors. Construction is set to begin on July 11. First steps in demolition of the restrooms by the soccer field have begun.

Kevin Hawkins stated just quickly, Goran was the Project Engineer for the Lockhaven Project.

Skate Park

The Skate Park project is now in the hands of Public Works. The two remaining sites are Rogers Park and Vincent Park.

Charlie Morgenstern stated I am involved in the irrigation portion of the project. There are going to be some irrigation modifications, which will all be worked out.

July 4th Celebration

Park Maintenance along with the help of Parks North & South Sections and the Tree Trimming Section pulled together to provide all the logistics to make this event happen.

Charlie Morgenstern stated I want to commend all the guys for their hard work. They worked from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., a 16-hour shift, providing everything such as trash pick up, etc. It didn't just stop there though. Their jobs led into July 5th when they had to go back and pick up everything left from the night before. They did a terrific job and everything went well.

Swimming Pool Maintenance

Maintenance has begun on the swimming pool at Vincent Park. The valves are being replaced due to the old valves giving out.

Soccer Field

The Soccer field has been reseeded and is looking well.

Charlie Morgenstern stated the Park Maintenance South Section, which I happen to be Supervisor, overall is doing great. Thanks to the Commission, the new mowers that came have helped us maintain our areas really well. Our aging equipment was just not cutting it anymore. The new equipment has also really cut down in the maintenance time.

In House Training

In house training is being provided to part time employees. They are being trained on how to use and maintain a variety of equipment.

Charlie Morgenstern stated as you all are aware, as the City continues to grow and we are assigned the additional areas. With budget as it is, the present staff has been assigned the extra work and have really stepped in and done a great job with it.

Lockhaven Community Center Renovation

Craig Civitello one of the Park Maintenance workers was heavily involved in the renovation at the Lockhaven Community Center. He was there for the entire project. All other staff did a great job helping out with irrigation, sodding and removal and replanting of trees.

Circle Park

The Circle Park project is now in the works. Park Maintenance is involved in getting experts to come out and look at the project and advise us on how to install a water feature.

Charlie Morgenstern stated the senior citizen center community garden is also in the works. I was approached by Kevin Hawkins to come up with a community garden. As the Commission is aware, on Locust and Queen Streets, there is a vacant lot and I was asked to think of the possibility of putting a garden there. I think it is an excellent idea. I do have ideas and have met with Kevin, Skip and Rita. We want to make this open to seniors to get involved in and grow their own fruit and vegetables. We would also provide raised beds, as well as getting the youth to make their own gardens consisting of the same items. Some things we may be able to put there is a patio area with some tables and chairs and a water fountain. We thought this would be something productive for the seniors to do. They will be able to take their vegetables and use them at home, take them to the senior center or to a farmers market to sell. It would be something creative for the seniors to be a part of.

Tree/Street Landscaping

The tree-trimming schedule is right on target and is almost caught up with stump removals. Thanks to the new stump remover/grinder, there are only 8 stumps left to be removed.

Tree replacement is going well. New trees are always being ordered.

Charlie Morgenstern stated that is all I have for tonight.

Commissioner Agee stated Charlie; I don't know where to start. I'm so impressed. When I came to this Commission there were certain things that I wanted to see happen in Parks & Recreation and most of them are complete. The one's that are not completed are the ones that are getting there. But I want to congratulate you on Lockhaven, fantastic job.

I was there at the opening and I was talking with a gentleman and I told him I was so impressed with this. I'd like to see 6 or 7 of these all around the City and he thought that was a good idea. I think you know who I'm talking about, this circle over here knows. I think that was a good spot to put Lockhaven and I think that can be our second project. Regarding the restrooms at Centinela Park, will maintenance be doing the same thing as is done at Darby Park? Where they go in and spray the chemicals and wash it down every morning. Is that the type of set up you are going to have over there to clean the new restrooms?

Charlie Morgenstern stated yes it is. It'll be just the way you described it; washed down daily and sanitized done in the same procedure.

Commissioner Agee stated that is a good way to do it, because it smells good every morning. We can go ahead and clean it even during the day. I want to congratulate you; you've done a fantastic job and keep up the good work. I know you will and I appreciate it.

Charlie Morgenstern stated I'll pass that along to the staff because they are the ones who are doing the work.

Commissioner Agee stated when I speak to you; I'm speaking to your whole staff, you know I know most of them.

Charles Morgenstern stated oh I know.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Charlie Morgenstern stated you are welcome.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I also want to commend you for your hard work. Especially for keeping the parks clean. It seems like your guys are doing a lot of work and putting in a lot of effort; that's great to know. I wanted to ask you a question, you said that there is a person that is hired to do part time work for maintenance, are these jobs offered to anyone in the city or are these just volunteers doing this on a part time basis?

Charlie Morgenstern stated part time basis is open to anyone. They have to submit an application; we review it and make our choice from there.

Commissioner Ordonez stated ok. So this is not just something where the City is asking for volunteers, this is a job?

Charlie Morgenstern stated yes this is a job. But we are also involved with volunteers. We get volunteers from the Work Fair Program. They have to complete a certain number of hours in order to get benefits. We also have community services, which are people sent over by the courts that have to complete a certain amount of hours in order to pay back their fines. We also get in summer youth who do part timework, which is a certain amount of hours for the summer that they complete by September. So yes, we do have volunteer programs.

Commissioner Ordonez stated my other question is do you know what the size of the lot is for the garden?

Charlie Morgenstern stated I don't have that with me but it's quite a large area. It will provide an adequate amount of space for everyone.

Commissioner Ordonez stated it is a wonderful project.

Charlie Morgenstern stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated I know time is pressing, but I think one of the key words that Kevin brought up is the collaboration that goes on between Public Works and Parks and Recreation. To come up with a project like Lockhaven and complete it sets that standard. My only regret was that the turn out for the grand opening wasn't greater. I was so happy to see my colleagues here at the opening, but sorry to see the other Commissioners weren't present to see what a team effort that you all put into it. It is great to see something done with space that is so limited, and resources pulled together to open a place for the public to utilize it is wonderful. Maybe next time when we have a ribbon cutting, we can do it on a Saturday so we can get more of the community out there. We just can't say enough about you, all the work and entertainment done in the firework show. When we get the chance to beat the drums we tend to speak out, we are very impressed.

Commissioner Agee stated I don't mean to slide by you Kevin, but you were included to. The wheel wouldn't turn without you and I just want to thank you.

Kevin Hawkins stated your welcome. With the Commission out there for the ribbon cutting, there were a lot of remarks for the folks who wear the blue and the green. They were the ones who did all the work. Just really quickly, Charlie had talked about the Community Gardens. Just a little background on it, we are exploring the opportunity of a community garden, in the event the construction of the new senior center is unexpectedly delayed. This same model/concept is also being considered for the new intergenerational center. Before I go on to the Recreation Division, Commissioner Ordonez had a question regarding the hours in Ms. Norwood's program. Ms. Tyson can quickly address that for you.

Trina Tyson stated good evening Commissioners. In regards to your question, this project is always on a short form agreement/contract and because of that we are limited to the amount of hours we have. We are looking to extend the time so that we can go perhaps 2 days a week, or even 3. We are starting with 1 day a week based on the student's schedule. If they are available to do more than one day, then we will definitely do so. Staff will of course report back to you on that.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you.

Trina Tyson stated you are welcome.

Kevin Hawkins stated and lastly but certainly not least, we have Mr. Henry who is supervisor over at Vincent Park who is probably standing in for his colleague from Darby Park.

James Henry stated good evening Commissioners. I am standing in for Mr. Smith who had an emergency and asked me to fill in. In the Recreation Department, I report to Sabrina Barnes.

Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp is the summer youth project that services the City of Inglewood and surrounding areas are currently being held at Darby Park, Rogers Park and Vincent Park. Darby Parks' camp is currently 100% full; Rogers Park is 85% full, while Vincent Park is 75% full. We offer free dance lessons, free tennis lessons and arts and crafts from 7:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is a great program. The instructors are wonderful and are really taking their time when they are dealing with the kids. There are field trips that they attend and will have a wonderful time this summer.

Summer Activities

We are in the beginning stages of opening Morningside High School's swimming pool for recreational swimming.

Mr. Henry stated if you'd be kind enough to look at the package that I handed out earlier, you will see a flyer that is being handed out to the community highlighting the opening of this program. We anticipate a great turn out. In previous years, we had a problem with getting the pool operational; there has always been a health issue. We had a walk through this afternoon and we are making plans and revisions to make sure that we have adequate coverage for the pool in terms of lifeguards and pool maintenance, in order to have a successful program. The program is scheduled to start on the 12th, but because we want to get the chemicals in the water straight, we extended the opening to the 19th. Hours of operation will be 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Actual swimming hours will be 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Summer Performing Arts Workshop

A voice and dance class will be held for ages 5 to 18 on Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. starting July 9, 2005 to August 6, 2005. A fee of \$30 will be charged. The classes will be held at the Inglewood Playhouse.

Sports

Baseball season is currently underway. Opening game will be played on Saturday, July 9, 2005 at Vincent Park. There after, games will be played at various sites including Rogers Park, Darby Park and Vincent Park.

July 4th Celebration

July 4th is always a great time of the year for the City and patrons. We serviced approximately 5,000 people who attended this year's event. We had free swimming at the Vincent Park pool, with an attendance of about 250-300 kids. It was quite a successful day.

Movies in the Park

This summer we are offering Movies in the Park. Not only will it be held at Vincent Park, but at Darby Park as well. On July 16, the movie that will be shown is Shark Tales at Darby Park, also shown at Darby Park on August 13 will be Fat Albert. At Vincent Park on July 23, Racing Stripes will be shown as well as *Are We There Yet?* on July 30. All movies are rated PG. Start time is 8:00 p.m. with gates opening at 7:00 p.m. This event is free for all.

James Henry stated as Parks and Recreation, we are setting the standard for our citizens by offering our services and trying to do the best we can. We are proud to service you.

Commissioner Agee stated I forgot what I wanted to ask you but maybe it wasn't that important. Is the pool open at Vincent Park?

James Henry stated yes sir, 7 days a week.

Commissioner Agee asked do you have a completion date for the restrooms?

James Henry stated I don't have that information, but I can get that for you.

Commissioner Agee asked if it comes back, are the signs all ready?

James Henry stated as far as I know.

Kevin Hawkins stated I'm sorry Commissioner Agee, for what?

Commissioner Agee stated for the restrooms.

Kevin Hawkins stated that was something that was brought not only to the Commission, but also to City Council. It's anticipated that the restrooms closest to the Amphitheater will be completed by the time Jazz Festival comes around. At least that was the mandate given by the Public Works Director to the staff so, we'll see.

Commissioner Agee stated hopefully they'll come through.

Kevin Hawkins stated we will see. A lot of the work being done is contract work with another portion of it, if necessary, being done in-house in terms of a combined effort.

Commissioner Agee stated great. One other thing that has to do with the Skate Park, when did you say that they would pour the foundation?

Charles Morgenstern stated I don't know the exact date; all I know is that Public Works has been out there taking measurements. Being that we are going to modify some of the irrigation I do not have an exact date.

Commissioner Agee asked is that at Rogers Park?

Kevin Hawkins stated that is at both parks.

Commissioner Agee asked are you going to do both at the same time?

James Henry stated Roger Park will be first.

Kevin Hawkins stated Rogers Park will be first, then Vincent Park. The estimated time frame for completion has not been given, but we've been told by the end of the year. So we will monitor that, but according to the contractors from Public Works, we've been told by the end of the year. I find that pretty ambitious, but we will report out, as more information is available.

Commissioner Agee stated one other thing, the basketball courts at Vincent Park are really in need of resurfacing, is that going to be done along with the skate parks?

Kevin Hawkins stated there is a request to have it done. Now will it be done, I'm not sure. But the request is there. Commissioner you and I have had this conversation regarding resurfacing versus actually redoing the entire project, we are coming up on the new budget year. And we will definitely revisit it. We know there is a need, so we'll start there; it is definitely on our wish list. In terms of it being done by the end of the year, I am not sure and I am not prepared to report on that.

Commissioner Agee stated ok. What I wanted to suggest was at Darby Park when the slab was poured, they poured the complete slab at the same time so they were not able to finish the slab like they should have. Now it has bird bathes/spots of water. Every time it rains or the lawn is watered, you see water in different spots. That is because they poured too much cement at the same time. There is a way that they can eliminate those bird bathes. Whenever it happens, I just want you to be conscious of it.

Kevin Hawkins stated with the Commissioners being aware of that, I think that gives us a mandate to be aware. As you know, was reported for the Darby Park project was an issue of economies of scale. We knew that there was the basketball resurfacing being done, so we had the contractor who was out pouring for the basketball courts and also coming out for the actual skate parks. Cost-effective, economy of scale, that's not necessarily going to happen at the other facilities. But it's been brought up and I think definitely everyone will be watching for the next skate parks.

Commissioner Agee stated the skate park at Darby Park is a great success, the kids love it. That's all I have to say. One other thing, I understand your secretary may be leaving. I'd like to put my signature on something so maybe we can keep her here. It is just a suggestion of mine.

James Henry stated I'm not at liberty to discuss that sir, especially on tape. But I'm sure it will be brought up.

Commissioner Agee stated I just want my feelings to be out there.

James Henry stated no problem sir.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I was very happy to see the little pamphlet with all the information with all the activities that are offered. I just have a quick question and I'm sorry if I'm wrong, but is this pamphlet being mailed to the citizens of Inglewood?

James Henry stated no ma'am, but it is available and we do post them at different events.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

James Henry stated you are welcome.

Commissioner Brown asked is there any other comments?

New Business

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Agee stated I'd just like to say that we had a very good meeting tonight and I'd like to thank each of you for coming out. I really appreciate our guests for coming and I hope they come back to see us again. Thank you.

Pearl Roberts asked can I say one thing please? We are at Rogers Park and we are in the ceramics room. Our electric kiln has been down for at least 5 years now and we are wondering if you have any money in your new budget to fix the problem? We had a service man come in and he said there is nothing wrong with the kiln, it's in the wiring. Our kiln puts out 52 watts and the box is only accepting 40 watts. They put in a fuse for 40 watts. If we can get someone over there like an electrician to repair it, it would be great. It's a terrible thing to have a piece of equipment sitting there and you can't use it.

Commissioner Agee stated if I remember correctly maybe a year to a year and a half ago, we had the same problem with this kilm?

Pearl Roberts stated yes, and they never fixed the problem.

Commissioner Agee asked they never fixed it?

Pearl Roberts stated never.

Commissioner Brown stated I'm glad you brought it to our attention and I know with Mr. Hawkins here as well as other staff members, they will take a look at it and resolve the situation. Thank you so very much.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you for coming in.

Commissioner Brown asked are there any closing comments?

Commissioner Ordonez stated I don't have any.

Commissioner Brown stated my closing comment is on exploring swimming on a year round basis. I saw it came up on the television monitor. Not only to look at Morningside High School, but also Inglewood High School's facilities to use on a year round basis. I hope that the school board and Parks and Recreation can find a way to utilize those 2 facilities. If there is no other business to come before this Commission, we stand adjourned. Thank everyone for being here tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS DIVISION

- Capital Improvement Projects
- Park Maintenance North/South
- Park Construction
- Tree Maintenance/Street Landscaping

RECREATION DIVISION

- Movies in the Park
- Market Street Festival and Car Show
- Jazz Festival
- Recreation Programs & Activities

HUMAN SERVICES

- Be Well
- New Shuttle Stop
- Additional Cab Companies
- SHAPE