The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, August 4, 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 6:01 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:

Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary Stephanie Baltazar, Office Assistant Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent Teresa Estrada, Program Assistant Bruce Mills, Park Maintenance Supervisor

Public Comments

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion for the approval of the minutes from July 7, 2005, was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Giardina.

Director's Report

Sandra Green stated Bruce, we can start with you.

Bruce Mills stated good evening. I am Bruce Mills, Park Maintenance Supervisor. I will begin with reporting on the ongoing capital improvement projects.

Skate Park Construction

The skate park construction is scheduled to begin at Rogers Park and Vincent Park in October of this year.

Vincent Park Restroom Construction/Demolition

Construction and demolition is currently being done on the restrooms at Vincent Park. The demolition of the two restrooms is being handled by Vizion's West, Inc. and is scheduled to begin on August 8, 2005 and completed within two weeks. The pre-engineered restroom kits are being constructed by Rometc, Inc. Groundbreaking and installation will begin as soon as the demolition is completed.

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool valve/replacement project will be completed in October 2005.

New Capital Improvement Projects

Funding is being provided from the State of California 2002 Resources Bond Act for FY 2005/2006 which will provide for the following:

- Ashwood Park Restrooms Upgrading of plumbing and lighting fixtures.
- Siminski Park Improvements Carpeting, window treatments and other interior renovations.
- Vincent Park Resurfacing of the basketball court resurfacing and installation of lighting.
- Windscreen Replacements Replacement of window screens at various parks (the green material that goes around the windows).
- Siminski Park Restroom Construction Construction of an outdoor restroom facility (porta-potties are currently being used).
- Circle Park Fountain Installation of a fountain.
- North Park Resurfacing of three tennis courts.

Commissioner Smith stated before you go on, I have a question regarding the Circle Park project. What did you say was being done with that?

Bruce Mills stated Circle Park provides for the installation of a fountain.

Commissioner Smith asked is that it?

Bruce Mills stated yes.

Commissioner Smith stated one other thing. If I'm not mistaken, for the bathrooms over at Ed Vincent Park, wasn't that supposed to be brought back to us since you are doing a prefab thing? Or maybe I am mistaken.

Commissioner Giardina stated no, you are not mistaken.

Commissioner Smith stated I think Commissioner Giardina requested that, but I will speak with Kevin on that. You may continue.

Parks Construction

The Parks Construction Crew has been working on replacing the irrigation cages located throughout the various parks. They are also in the midst of replacing park benches at Siminski Park in preparation for the District 3 Community event.

Tree Maintenance/Street Landscaping

The tree maintenance section is working according to the Monthly Tree Trimming Schedule. They are also spraying in various areas that have weeds.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I have a question regarding the tree trimming schedule. You mentioned they are working in various areas, do you know which areas they are working on at the moment?

Bruce Mills stated I don't have the tree trimming schedule with me because the Supervisor has been on vacation. We have 1 crew in each district. They have been trying to clean up the parks in preparation of all the upcoming events.

Commissioner Ordonez stated so what you are talking about is just the parks or the streets as well.

Bruce Mills stated they are trimming the trees as well. They have 4 crews and they try and keep 1 crew in each district.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I have seen some trees in different areas of District 3 (my area) that have not been trimmed and are overgrowing on top of wires or are hanging low into the street.

Bruce Mills stated what they do is follow a Tree Maintenance Schedule/Master Plan. A lot of the trees growing in the wires can be taken care of by contractors of Edison. If there are problems with the lighting they do send someone out.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Giardina stated a couple of questions; can you give me the projected start date for the installation of the fountain at Circle Park?

Bruce Mills stated no, I can't. At this point we are still working on a bunch of different things. The construction worker was in a car accident the other day. So I believe that we are working on an agenda or a schedule to get someone out there to take a look at it. I know we've discussed this with a number of people, so it's just a matter of getting it done.

Commissioner Giardina stated thank you very much.

Commissioner Brown stated you mentioned the construction at the facility at Vincent Park. Will it be ready in time for the upcoming Jazz Festival? What is the time table with for the construction?

Bruce Mills stated they will not be ready.

Commissioner Brown asked do we have another plan in action?

Bruce Mills stated we just received a call from Vizion's West and demolition will begin on Tuesday, August 9. The area will be cleaned up for the Jazz Festival and everything will be installed after the festival.

Commissioner Smith stated I think what he was trying to ask is, are we going to have the portable bathrooms in replacement of the old restrooms?

Bruce Mills stated we have had portable bathrooms in the past and we may have to reuse those bathrooms. The restrooms by the soccer field are in serious condition and will be the first to be demolished. I was told by Vizion's West that the demolition of both restrooms would be complete by the 15th of this month.

Commissioner Smith asked are provisions being made for more portable restrooms to be brought in? Will we have more than we had last year?

Teresa Estrada stated yes. We are providing Porta-potties to be delivered to the upper location of the park.

Sandra Green stated Teresa, you can go ahead with your report.

Teresa Estrada stated good evening. I am Teresa Estrada, Program Assistant for citywide cultural activities and special events.

Square Dance Classes

We are proud to announce the return of the Square Dance Classes to Darby Park. The former instructor was no longer able to conduct classes because he lives in Orange County. A new instructor was recruited and is very excited. All the formers students have been notified.

Kiln

The kiln at Rogers Park has been down. When the kiln is lit, it heats up and blows out causing the entire circuit to blow out.

We are looking to purchase a new kiln. Public Works has been invited to take a look at the existing panel before any accommodations are made.

Morningside High School Swimming Pool

The Morningside High School swimming pool is up and running. There are about 25-30 people a day who take advantage of the pool.

Movies in the Park

We have received excellent feedback on Movies in the Park. A lot of residents are taking advantage of it. It is nice to see families come together and watch a movie on the big screen. Our final performance will be delivered on August 13 and the movie that will be shown is Fat Albert. There were about 375 who attended last week's movie at Vincent Park. Now that a lot of publicity is being done, people are coming back to watch the next movie.

Summer Performing Arts Camp

On Saturday, August 6 a final performance from our Summer Performing Arts Camp will be held. The performance will take place at the Vincent Park Amphitheater. This year they will perform a musical entitled *Ease on Down the Road* from The Wiz.

Inglewood Celebrates the Arts/Market Street Festival

Final plans are being made in preparation of the Inglewood Celebrates the Arts/Market Street Festival taking place on Saturday, August 27 on Market Street. It will include three stages, performers, vendors and the 31st Annual Classic Car Show. It will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come out and join us.

Jazz Festival

The 3rd Annual South Bay Jazz Festival will be held at Vincent Park on Saturday, September 3.

Teresa Estrada stated that is all that I have. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Ordonez asked do you have any information regarding the festival that is coming up on August 13 at Siminski Park?

Teresa Estrada stated I have not seen a flyer for it. I do know the actual festival will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. I will speak with Sabrina to see when those flyers will be available.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee asked since this is our last week before the Jazz Festival, are we going to get tickets this year?

Teresa Estrada stated I'm not sure. I have to check on that and will relay the information back to Sandra.

Sandra Green stated I don't know anything about that.

Commissioner Giardina stated Kevin gave us tickets last year.

Sandra Green stated he is on vacation right now. He didn't mention if he had tickets for you, but I will make sure I ask him when he comes back.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any further questions?

Commissioner Brown stated at the last meeting we had Elizabeth Norwood here, would that come under your jurisdiction?

Teresa Estrada stated that program is Skip's.

Commissioner Brown stated ok.

Skip Halloran stated good evening. Someone has set something up and I'm sure you can all see what it is. I believe that most of you are familiar with this project. For the last couple of years we have been working on a very exciting restoration project of our very valuable mural in Inglewood. We're heading down to the wire now. We're planning on having a groundbreaking on November 5, 2005 and a grand re-opening on March 6, 2006. I did want one of our conservators Andrea Morse to do a short presentation on it. She will also answer any of your questions about the actual restoration.

Andrea Morse a conservator from the Sculpture Conservation Studio gave a presentation on the restoration of the Helen Lundberg "History of Transportation" Mural.

Commissioner Brown stated you showed a lot of graffiti. What kind of treatment will you be able to place on the mural to protect it?

Andrea Morse stated that is a very good question. We work very closely with the Historic Site Preservation where we received one of our grants. We have a series of protocol that we go through. One of the things that is being put on the mural is a graffiti coat. Another easy solution is we are moving the mural to a more prominent place, Grevillea Park.

It will have lighting, good landscaping and I think overall it will be in a more prominent place which will definitely help deter the graffiti. The other part is the graffiti coating. We have been testing different types of anti-graffiti coating. It will not change the color of the stones, but actually brighten them up a little bit. Basically we will just use a pressure washer to remove the graffiti and put on an anti-graffiti coating. We are also consolidating the backs to make sure no water condensation gets to damage the rebar.

Commissioner Brown stated Skip keeps me posted as far as the minute, what is the cost of this project?

Skip Halloran stated it's over a million dollars.

Commissioner Brown stated ok.

Skip Halloran stated we have all the money.

Andrea Morse stated Skip and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department have been fabulous about getting us grants and working with us. The community has also been so supportive of it. We really appreciate it.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Agee, do you have any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated no. Since I am on the committee I know the details pretty well, so I'll pass.

Commissioner Ordonez asked how many panels are there?

Andrea Morse stated 60 panels.

Commissioner Ordonez asked what exactly is going to happen to the panels that were completely destroyed?

Andrea Morse stated we are tracing a drawing of it onto a 3 foot by 7 foot board and having a whole new panel recreated with the same stone material.

Commissioner Ordonez asked how big or heavy are the panels?

Andrea Morse stated they are 500 pounds. We have a very large gantry that fits into our studio that enables us to move the panels.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Andrea Morse stated you are all invited to come to our studio to look at the panels.

Commissioner Ordonez asked where is it located?

Andrea Morse stated it is in West Los Angeles on the corner of Motor and National where the 405 freeway meets the 10 freeway.

Commissioner Giardina stated I know what an extensive project this is and I'm wondering because the mural has the kind of historical value it does, with graffiti sealing and the different issues, maybe we should consider using a Lucite covering to cover the mural or case it in to possibly prevent the kind of damage that has already been done to it? I'm just wondering if we should consider something like at the Getty where they put their most valuable artifacts in the lucite and consider that as a final seal to the mural in terms of preserving it from water and so forth. It's such a tremendous amount of work that is being done to it.

Andrea Morse stated it was created as public artwork and we want to keep it as public artwork. It allows the public to go up to it and look at the detail work and see just how amazing it is. We have been through a lot of meetings and have talked about preventing every single problem that has already happened to it. One of the problems is the area of where it was put in and how it has changed. There is a street in front of it. Now it will be in a park. We are making sure we have a good consolidating sealer on the back of it so that the water will not get in. We do have anti-graffiti coating. All of the committee members decided we want the community to be able to be up close to it. We didn't want to have to put up a barrier. The problem with a barrier is it would get scratched or graffitied and ultimately would cause more problems than be helpful.

Commissioner Smith asked one other question, in the original plan for that, wasn't there a little small flower bed or a distance between the wall and the grass that was going to be put in?

Skip Halloran stated no.

Commissioner Giardina stated thank you very much.

Skip Halloran stated I will begin with the Be Well Program.

Be Well Program

The Be Well program is an exercise and nutrition-based program for seniors. We deliberately select seniors who have multiple diseases or high risk nutritional scores who have given up on themselves, and tried so many things that have depressed and discouraged them. They go through this program and you wouldn't believe that they are the same people who for years and years have not had a normal blood pressure, or have had diabetes that is totally out of control. It's really an exciting program.

We started in the spring 2004 with a grant from the Area Agency on Aging who's interested in seeing what we can really do with these people who have given up. It was so successful that we applied for a federal grant which is kind of like the national demonstration program because it saves a lot of money. These are the people who are going to emergency rooms and being hospitalized a lot of the times. All of these things are expensive not to mention the suffering that these people go through. There is a great interest in this as something that can make a difference nationally. We have two grants we are working on right now. One with the Area Agency on Aging and the other with Kaiser where we are asking them to pick up the costs of the blood work which is valued at \$15,000. The Kaiser grant has already been submitted, while the federal grant is due September 6.

We received our initial funding from the Area Agency on Aging which is really interested in funding our program for a 2nd year. One of the goals of the Federal Grant was to seek out other interested managed healthcare organizations or HMO's as a program participant to pick up some of the costs associated with the program because in the long run they will be saving a lot in terms of healthcare costs.

Commissioner Agee asked what is the name of that program?

Skip Halloran stated, the Be Well program.

I-Line

A new I-Line shuttle stop is being added to the route at the Osage Senior Villas. MTA will be contacted to get the distance between stops. Public Works will be painting the curb and putting up a sign. A flyer will also be prepared.

Cab Companies

The City has invited cab companies to come into Inglewood. A letter went out inviting cab companies to apply by August 12, 2005. They expect Public Hearings to be held in October or November 2005. The cab companies that get licensed will be required to serve seniors under a separate contract. Since the contract with Yellow Cab expires September 30, 2005, we are preparing a sixmonth contract extension. When the other companies come in, contracts will be prepared with all of them.

S.H.A.P.E.

We are working on an agreement with the UCLA African Student Union to continue their program for the 2005-2006 year at Rogers Park, Lockhaven Community Center, and Inglewood and Morningside High Schools. The purpose of S.H.A.P.E. is to empower youth to complete high school and pursue higher education.

UCLA students provide peer advising, tutoring, workshops, field trips and parent and teacher involvement. This action results in improved grades and test scores, positive attitudes towards school and learning, and improved school attendance. Approximately 90% of graduating seniors who have completed the program have gone on to higher education.

Commissioner Brown stated although you didn't mention it in you report I did want to ask you about Ms. Norwood's program.

Skip Halloran stated it's up and running. I believe she received some recommendations from some of you. We are really happy that some of the students came from you.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm really excited about the Be Well program. I'll be stopping by to see it soon.

Skip Halloran stated if you'd like to go over and see it, we start with a 4 month intense period and a 6 month maintenance period. Every Wednesday morning they come back to do their exercise and give each other support.

Commissioner Agee stated one of the things I know is that we are getting a lot of grants because of all of your hard work. I want you to know I appreciate what you have done. The City of Inglewood has lots of money out there, if you know how to go about getting it.

Commissioner Ordonez asked on the Be Well program, how many seniors participate in it?

Skip Halloran stated between 25 and 30.

Commissioner Ordonez asked it's a 6 month program?

Skip Halloran stated yes and it is over at the Senior Center. It would be hard to accommodate anymore seniors because of such extensive work. They have consultations with physicians, pharmacists and psychologists. There are a lot of nutrition education classes as well as exercise classes. We have a budget that can only accommodate so many people. We interview the people to make sure we get people who are committed and in need of the program. There are a lot of people that we have to turn away because they are fine and can take part in exercise classes such as yoga and tai chi which are offered at the center.

Commissioner Ordonez stated that is great. Regarding the S.H.A.P.E. program, how many students participate?

Skip Halloran stated this year they finished with 196 students. We projected only 100.

Commissioner Ordonez stated that is great.

Commissioner Smith asked, Commissioner Giardina do you have any questions?

Commissioner Giardina stated, no, she asked my question.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Skip, that was very informative. Is there anything else further to report?

Skip Halloran stated no.

Commissioner Agee stated excuse me, I'd like to ask one more question. Would it help if I made a motion for the Commission's to support the Be Well program?

Skip Halloran stated that is a good idea. We can put in our grant that we received an endorsement.

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that we accept the Be Well Program.

Commissioner Smith stated I have a motion on the floor to give our support for the Be Well program, can I have a second?

Commissioner Giardina stated I second.

Commissioner Smith asked all in favor?

All Commissioners are in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Commissioner Brown stated I just want to commend the staff on the Voice of Experience newsletter, it is very informative.

New Business

Commissioner Agee stated regarding outside basketball courts at Darby Park. The outside basketball courts should have lights for afternoon and night programs.

One other thing, the speakers at the swimming pool at Vincent Park have gone out. I think it would be a good idea to have the speakers on so when the lifeguards need to warn the kids, the kids will be able to hear them a lot better. I was also thinking we can have some music playing, maybe some modern music, not rap.

Sandra Green stated the Director met with staff and it was decided there would not be any music played so that the staff can pay more attention to the kids in the pool.

Commissioner Agee stated my intentions are not for that type of music. It was just an idea.

<u>Unfinished Business</u>

None.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS DIVISION

- Park Maintenance North/South
- Street Landscaping/Tree Maintenance
 - > Tree Trimming Schedule
 - Replacement of Problematic/Diseased/Dying Trees
 - ➤ GIS Inclusion to the Tree Master Plan
- Update of machinery and Equipment
 - Vincent Park Restroom Construction/Demolition
 - Vincent Park Swimming Pool Valve Replacement
 - Skate Park Construction
- Park Construction

RECREATION DIVISION

- Recap of Summer Activities
- Sports
 - Football Registration
- Fall Program/Activity Start Dates
 - Pre-school
 - > After school Program
 - Boys and Girls Club
- Veteran's Memorial Building

HUMAN SERICES

- Senior Center Programs and Activities
- Be Well
- Summer Lunch and After School Snacks
- Family Support