The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, November 3, 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

Absent:

Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Staff:

Rita Gardner, Parks Administration Superintendent Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary James Henry, Recreation Supervisor Michelle Jordan, Acting Care Management and Transportation Manager

Approval of the Minutes

A motion for the approval of the minutes from October 6, 2005, was made by Commissioner Giardina and seconded by Commissioner Ordonez.

Public Comments

None.

Director's Report

Sandra Green stated Ms. Jordan has to leave early to go to Back to School Night so she will be going first.

Michelle Jordan stated thank you so much. First off, I have press kits for each one of you from Skip Halloran for the Transportation Mural.

Kaplan Offers Free Seminars/Workshops

Students are being encouraged to take advantage of two free workshops offered by KAPLAN.

On Saturday, November 5, 2005 KAPLAN will host the SAT Practice Test. Again, both events are **FREE**. Students are asked to register with KAPLAN. Transportation will be provided from Rogers Park to Torrance Civic Library where the events will be held. Students needing transportation should call the Human Services Office at (310) 412-5508.

Michelle Jordan stated my apologies for not being here last time. Unfortunately my family and I were involved in a car accident just 2 days before the Commission meeting. I had actually faxed over a copy of this, but it didn't make it in time. This is just a copy of the Senior Centers' request for donations for families for Thanksgiving. Many times in the past, we've received large donations, but if you are 82 years old you don't want a whole turkey. We have had a lot of problems. Though they are appreciative of what they receive, they just can't use a whole turkey. So, this year on our list we are asking for canned hams, rolls, stuffing and things of that nature. The last thing we ask is if you want to donate a whole turkey, we ask for only turkey parts such as wings, etc. Also coming up we have what we have done in the past, our Angel Heart Ball where you take a heart and donate it to a family, caregiver or senior citizen and they will receive a Christmas basket.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any questions?

Commissioner Agee asked do these folders have to do with the mural?

Michelle Jordan stated yes that is the press kit for the mural.

Commissioner Agee stated I hope everyone will be there on Saturday at Grevillea Park.

Michelle Jordan stated I would have to say on behalf of my staff, we won't be able to attend. We will be attending a caregiver's conference at the Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles.

Commissioner Smith asked any further questions?

I'd like to apologize to the staff for taking this meeting out of order. I was in such a hurry to leave I guess I wanted to do the roll call before the pledge of allegiance. I apologize for that and on behalf of the Board I'm hoping that your family is healthy and well from the accident.

Michelle Jordan stated we are slowly feeling better. It was a little dramatic but we are getting better and I'd like to thank all of you for allowing me to go first. Back to School Night starts at 7:00 p.m., so I appreciate it.

Commissioner Smith stated we will be praying for your family to heal.

Michelle Jordan stated thank you so much.

James Henry stated good evening, I am James Henry, Supervisor at Vincent Park.

Woodcraft Rangers

This year at Darby Park and at the Lockhaven Community Center, we will be entertaining the Woodcraft Rangers. Normally they use the fire station and Rogers Park. They are there on a daily basis and we are looking forward to increasing and enhancing their program for the kids to take advantage of.

Lockhaven Community Center

A variety of programs are starting to begin at the Lockhaven Community Center. The latest is the installation of computers for the computer classes. Everything is really going well and kudos to everyone who had a hand in making it become a reality.

Vincent Park

The last two weekends the Annual Youth Tennis Tournament took place at Vincent Park. It was very well attended.

Holiday Season – Dates to Remember

- December 1 Tree Lighting Ceremony at City Hall
- December 17 Santa's Workshop at Darby Park
- December 21-22 Holiday Decorating Contest

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

The 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will take place on January 14, 2006. It will begin with a memorial service followed by the march. This year Dr. Joseph J. Hunter will be the keynote speaker and Michela Perrera will be the MC. We are currently looking for a grand marshal.

Inglewood Playhouse

A play by the name of Big Baby opens up at the Inglewood Playhouse on Friday, November 4, 2005 at 8:00 p.m.

James Henry stated that wraps it up for the Recreation Division. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Giardina stated it might be a little early, but I'd like to get any information regarding the Juneteenth Celebration. Do we have any plans for that? Is it in the works?

James Henry stated yes ma'am. One of our supervisors, Arrick Turner is very passionate about that. He is looking forward to having entertainment this year and it will be held at Rogers Park.

Commissioner Giardina asked who is that?

James Henry stated Arrick Turner.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like to talk to him about that.

James Henry stated his extension is 5504.

Commissioner Smith asked who is on the organizing committee for this?

James Henry stated I don't think that a committee has been formed yet. They basically need to find out what is required to make this happen. That is what they are working on now.

Commissioner Smith stated I have one question. At the tennis match, were there any complaints about the tennis courts being uneven, cracked or the balls not going right?

James Henry stated no ma'am. We usually have them give us their feedback, but we didn't receive anything like that. This was a youth tournament.

Commissioner Smith stated oh, they were young ones. They don't complain like the adults.

James Henry stated yes, we usually receive the complaints from the adults.

Sandra Green stated because the Holiday Tree Lighting will be the same day as the Commission meeting, we will postpone December's meeting.

Commissioner Smith asked first of all, I'd like to ask if there is anything we need to take care of such as bonds, bills or any other problems we have in this Department that needs our attention before next year?

Sandra Green stated maybe after Rita gives her report.

Commissioner Smith stated yes, because if there is nothing that is really dire, and the Commissioners agree, we can postpone it.

Tree Trimming

Rita Gardner stated we are expecting to complete the holiday trimming by the end of this month. We are working on different areas in each district. We have finished the project on 5th & 10th Avenues; we've trimmed trees on Fir Avenue in District 3. We are always being called upon for Districts 1 & 4. The guys really work hard to maintain a high level of efficiency in the tree section.

Rita Gardner stated I've passed out a copy of the tree trimming schedule that will take you until the end of December. Sometimes we get pulled out because tree roots are causing problems and it has created an issue. We try to assist with this as much as we can.

Park Construction

We've been busy in District 3, particularly at Siminski Park. We had received a complaint from a resident indicating people at the park were using her backyard to store their paraphernalia. Her brick wall had gotten somehow jarred by a vehicle so they were able to store their drugs on that part of her property. She raised the issue with Council and they advised us that we had to take care of it. We tore down a portion of the brick wall, removed the tree stump and also cleared the area in her back yard. This was completed last week and that type of activity will not continue. We had the police authorities there.

Siminski Park

We are concerned about the lights in the park. Somehow there was a major outage that took place in January of this year. It shorted some of the park lights. We contacted Southern California Edison and had them come out. There are 13 lights throughout the park and 10 of them are out, so it is very dark.

Darby Park

Watts Development has asked us to grade an area at Darby Park. We've been adding dirt by the court area to grade, so that when it rains it will not flood them out. That should be finished in two weeks.

Capital Improvement Projects

A few projects will be taking place at Rogers Park and Vincent Park. Work will begin at Rogers Park on Monday, November 7, 2005 on the skate park. The concrete slab will be poured and the manufacturing of the skate park components will begin. We hope to have the skate park up and running by the end of January.

Work will begin at Vincent Park's skate park about the same time as the construction at Rogers Park. The skate park will be located east of the Girls Scout Building. We hope that by next year this will be completed.

The last project we are working on at Vincent Park is the restroom construction project. There is progress at this time. We've received the plan specification approval. We are waiting for the contractor to schedule the installation of both restrooms. We are working very hard to make sure this starts really soon.

Rita Gardner stated what I'd like to do now is tell you about a few projects that we'd like to have your approval on, based on funding from the State of California. The City of Inglewood is entitled to approximately \$817, 274 from the 2002 Resources Bond Act. The allocation comes from a per capita fund. The following is a list of the proposed capital improvement projects to be financed by the bond act:

- 1. Vincent Park Court Renovation and Installation of Lighting which was previously funded by the 2000 Bond Act, but we had to use those funds because we came up short in another project.
- 2. Siminski Park Restroom Project which will entail construction of a restroom. Right now we have portable restroom units and we are having them serviced this week. We'd like to have a permanent restroom facility constructed.
- 3. Ashwood Park restroom fixture upgrade which entails upgrading of plumbing and lighting fixtures in the restroom facility.
- 4. Replacement of nets at various parks. We would like to replace all the nets on the tennis courts at various sites. If you go to Vincent or Darby Park you will see that they are all torn to shreds.
- 5. Circle Park Water feature, we'd like to have the water feature funded by this program.

Commissioner Smith asked are they on a list of priorities?

Rita Gardner stated no, they have no priority level at all.

Commissioner Smith stated I'd like to call for a motion.

Commissioner Giardina stated I make a motion that we approve the proposed capital improvements with the \$817,000 Bond Act funds and I'd like to prioritize just slightly here and make the water feature at Circle Park a priority.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I second.

Commissioner Smith asked all in favor?

Commissioner Giardina and Commissioner Ordonez stated I.

Commissioner Agee stated you didn't give me enough time.

Commissioner Smith asked is there any discussion on this matter?

Commissioner Agee stated yes, I'd like to ask one question. It's been 4 ½ to 5 years that we have been working on the skate park and it's finally coming to a completion.

Commissioner Smith stated we have a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Agee asked didn't you vote on it?

Commissioner Smith stated I thought you wanted to discuss it because you said I didn't give you enough time.

Commissioner Agee stated oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Commissioner Smith asked again, all in favor for this bond act? Is this bond act 2002 or do we have another one?

Rita Gardner stated 2002.

Commissioner Smith asked all in favor of using the 2002 bond act of \$817,000 to make the necessary repairs at Vincent Park, Siminski Park, Ashwood Park and Circle Park?

All the Commissioners stated I.

Commissioner Smith asked all opposed? You have your wish Rita. Is there anything else?

Rita Gardner stated no.

Commissioner Agee stated I just wanted to say it's been $4 \frac{1}{2}$ to 5 years that we began discussion on the Skate Parks and I am very happy for it to come to a conclusion. Hopefully we can get all of these done. If you put them into priority, that is the priority right now because it takes a long time.

Rita Gardner stated just for clarification, the skate parks are already being done. These are new projects.

Commissioner Giardina stated Rita, I would just like to ask you on the tree trimming schedule, the notation at the bottom says that crew five was eliminated due to expenditure reductions, which greatly impacts the special units request. When was that crew eliminated?

Rita Gardner stated that was done in 2003/04. We are trying to bring it back. That was a crew that we used for trimming trees at the park. Right now we don't have a crew that works in the parks. Last year during the winter storms, we had some trees in the park that fell. I believe that one damaged a house right across from our park and it was because the tree was old and saturated and it toppled over. We are requesting a fifth crew be reinstated to assist in trimming trees at the park and not pruning them because we have had a lot of claims caused by raised sidewalks due to overgrown roots. I believe Commissioner Giardina can attest to some of our trees that are growing in the parkway that are very tall. We are trying to appeal to our City Administrator who will then take it to the Mayor and Council.

Commissioner Giardina asked is there anything we can do to help you in terms of showing our support and getting the fifth crew reinstated?

Rita Gardner stated maybe you can make a comment at your Council meeting.

Commissioner Giardina stated ok. I'd like to thank you for your diligent work, because I know your guys are very busy and I'd also like your crews to know they are working exceptionally hard. I just want to express my gratitude and appreciation. Please pass that on to them. Mr. Henry your staff is also extremely diligent and hard working, it is not unnoticed by this body and we appreciate the work.

James Henry stated thank you.

Rita Gardner stated thank you.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I wanted to ask if we can do something about the signs located throughout the city that say the City of Inglewood.

Rita Gardner stated that would be with the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to ask either one of you, if we have an ordinance that covers dogs in the park? Mr. Henry, you know what I'm talking about. Is there any kind of ordinance, because during football practice on Saturday, we had pit bulls in the park area where all the kids were.

Rita Gardner stated I don't know.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like for you to look into that.

James Henry asked did they have a leash?

Commissioner Agee stated they were on a leash, but they bring those dogs and they start fighting. It seems like common sense to me to tell these people that the kids are out there playing football, leave the dogs outside or take them way over to the other side where there is no one. I think you were there and if there isn't an ordinance then maybe we should try and get one.

James Henry stated I will check on that for you because it has become a safety issue.

Commissioner Agee stated there was a lady who was hysterical and the kids were too, so we need to do something about this.

Commissioner Smith stated I agree with Commissioner Agee. If children are out there playing and they get a little rambunctious, when you have those kinds of dogs out there, something really can happen to these children and you don't want that to happen because we are liable. Like he said when the kids are playing a sport the dogs cannot be around them. They should be kept so many feet away or whatever, but not in the area where the kids are playing because it is extremely dangerous.

Commissioner Giardina stated I do believe that the leash law speaks to the fact they really should not even be in the street as well as in the parks, unless they are leashed and if they are not leashed I think the easiest way to resolve this would be to probably call the police or animal control to help them eradicate the problem. Those dogs are very unpredictable. This is something we do not want to take place in our parks. I think that maybe we can possibly do some type of a posting.

Rita Gardner stated we do have park signs and it does say that dogs have to be on leashes. A lot of times people really don't pay attention. With Code Enforcement back in our Department, we are trying to come up with strategies so we can use them as park rangers and they can enforce the ordinances in the park.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like to see Code Enforcement in the entryway of the park to enforce the fact that they have to their dog on a leash and if not, as a result they will be in violation.

Commissioner Smith stated no, Commissioner Agee stated they were on a leash.

Commissioner Agee stated the dogs were on a leash.

Commissioner Smith stated the dogs were on a leash but the thing is that anything can happen at that point.

These young people generally train their dogs to be fighters, so you never know. Just like she said, they are unpredictable and you don't want them around children.

James Henry stated and there's a lot of noise and laughter.

Commissioner Smith stated right and kids sometimes just take off running.

James Henry stated just like you said you don't know what will happen.

Commissioner Smith stated those dogs maul and kill. Just suppose something were to happen to a child, the city would be sued.

Rita Gardner stated that is why Commissioner Agee is suggesting that we take care of that.

Commissioner Giardina stated I think the fact that they come to the park and have them on leashes but they tend to drop the leash. What I've experienced at Circle Park and at most parks in the Morningside area, is they come up there and they'll have a leash on the dog and they drop the leash so the dog has a leash but that's not exactly what the ordinance covers. It means that you harness the dog while it has a leash. I think one would still be in violation of the leash law for just allowing it to run with the leash.

Commissioner Smith stated oh yes.

Commissioner Giardina stated this is not acceptable and they do it constantly. Maybe we can get some help from Code Enforcement to at least speak to them if they are in violation of the laws of Inglewood. Simply let them know that they can not operate in the parks like that with a dog. It's also a matter of the dogs using the bathroom and their owners not picking up and the kids play in that same area. We have some issues with the dogs that we need to look at closer and see if we can monitor that.

Commissioner Smith asked any further questions on this issue?

Commissioner Agee stated I wanted to comment on the work that they are doing at Darby Park. They are doing a good job. It looks a lot better and I'm sure once they put the sod down it'll look great.

Rita Gardner stated we are trying to get the sprinklers back on so we don't lose any of the green area. It is not sod, it is seed.

Commissioner Agee stated one other thing regarding the activities in the park; I understand something has been done there.

Rita Gardner stated I know. Today my culprit right here and I acted like we were out there sweeping. There was some lewd conduct that I believe had taken place and we are going to take steps to prevent that kind of activity from happening again.

Commissioner Agee stated I understand that a couple of arrests were made.

Rita Gardner stated there were a couple of arrests. I don't know what it was today; they were all over the place at Vincent Park creating havoc. We did have a patrol car, rather a patrol wagon. I witnessed one arrest, so they were very effective today.

Commissioner Agee stated you have to do what you have to do.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any further questions or comments?

Rita Gardner stated I have one comment. I don't know if you are aware of it, but I have two guys who are going to retire at the end of this year, Charlie Morgenstern who has been here for more than 30 years and Bruce Mills.

Commissioner Giardina stated wow, both Charlie and Bruce.

Rita Gardner stated we will miss them.

Commissioner Giardina asked when is their retirement?

Rita Gardner stated it will be effective at the end of December, but Bruce will be leaving us on December 16. He's planning to go back to Minnesota to visit his son who has relocated there. Charlie will be here until the end of December.

Commissioner Giardina asked are we planning a retirement?

Rita Gardner stated Sandra Green who is our party coordinator, asked me that today and yes, we are planning something.

Commissioner Giardina asked can you notify the Commissioners?

Rita Gardner replied sure.

Commissioner Smith asked any further questions?

Commissioner Giardina stated I would like to make a motion to ask Code Enforcement to assist us with the dog issue as well as investigate what it is we need to do to tighten up the issues with the dogs in various parks. I'd like to make a motion for Code Enforcement to assist us with the enforcement of the Community Codes regarding dogs in the park.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I second that motion.

Commissioner Smith asked may I make an addendum to that?

Commissioner Giardina stated sure.

Commissioner Smith stated I also wanted to add that staff; you said they were going to check into seeing what kind of codes there are.

Sandra Green stated we can obtain that information through our City Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Giardina stated exactly.

Commissioner Smith asked if there isn't, then what next?

Sandra Green replied I can look into the City Codes and send a copy of it to all of you.

Commissioner Smith stated yes because then we want to have them look into seeing what can be done about making sure there is a distance law.

Commissioner Agee commented that Code Enforcement is under the direction of Mr. Hawkins, so if you want that done you'll have to approach him.

Commissioner Smith stated ok.

Commissioner Giardina stated but I believe a motion by this Board says the fact that we'd like more supervision on that kind of activity and we Commissioners want to bring that to his attention. It appears to be problematic at this time and it's clearly an issue of safety as well.

Commissioner Smith stated ok, it's been moved and seconded to have Code Enforcement try and help us in the park. All in favor?

Commissioner Giardina and Commissioner Ordonez stated I.

Commissioner Smith stated motion carried. Any further questions?

Sandra Green stated because they are a part of our Department, any information you suggest will be given to the Director.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. Are there any further questions or comments?

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like it if you would tell Kevin that this was a discussion tonight and there was a motion made to move forward with this.

New Business

Commissioner Agee stated I see this happening in the parks. Maybe it won't happen in another 20 years, but I agree with the lady that something needs to be done because people bring the dogs in the park and don't clean up behind them. Personally I'd like to see an ordinance passed to bar dogs from the park period. That makes a lot more sense to me.

Commissioner Giardina stated I just have to address that I really appreciate you guys removing the tree at 2514 W. 80th Street. We have a senior home down the street where they have a lot of people who are disabled and in wheel chairs. A tree on the sidewalk was removed and replaced. Black asphalt was put where the sidewalk buckled. Even though the tree is cut down it is buckling and peeking now. I don't want to pile it on to the problems we already have. It is on my list to have my sidewalk repaired.

Rita Gardner stated you are going to have to talk to Andy Montoya in Public Works.

Commissioner Giardina stated ok.

Unfinished Business

None.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd just like to commend your guys; we really appreciate them so much.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Due to the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 1, it was decided that there will not be a meeting for the month of December.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS

- Capital Improvement Projects
- Restroom ConstructionSwimming Valve/Pump Replacement
- > Park Maintenance North/South
- > Tree Trimming

RECREATION

- Memorandum of Understanding
- > Holiday Decorating Contest Winner's Announced
- > MLK Day Celebration
- Programs and Activities

HUMAN SERVICES

- > Contract with California Cultural Heritage Endowment
- > Taxicab Companies
- ➤ New Transportation Vehicles for Senior/Disabled
- Oral History/Mural Restoration Project
- Computer Classes at Lockhaven