

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, February 2, 2006, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Henry Brown presiding called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

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-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Stephanie Baltazar, Senior Office Assistant
Teresa Estrada, Cultural Supervisor
Mark Martinez, Tree Trimming Supervisor
Trina Tyson, Program Assistant

Guest:

Teresa Kneedler, Acting Assistant Engineer

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion for the approval of the minutes from January 5, 2006 was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Ordonez.

Director's Report

Sandra Green-Hilliard stated Trina you can go first.

Commissioner Brown states, since you came late.

Trina Tyson stated good evening Commissioners. I am Trina Tyson, Program Assistant, primarily working with the youth programs, based and housed at Rogers Park and reporting for the Human Services Division.

SHAPE

Our SHAPE program, which is our after school homework program through UCLA is doing very well. We're at two sites, Morningside High School and Rogers Park. Between the two sites we have 47 students that we are currently serving. Our target goal was 50 students because we wanted to keep the number at something manageable, so we can track the student's progress for the year.

The TIMES newspaper is running a special article on high school dropouts and the dropout rate in California. Skip and I are actually tracking that and we are going to keep reference of this series that the TIMES is writing, so that we can do some comparative data to see how we measure the City to the State and the County of Los Angeles. Programs like SHAPE help us work on our dropout rate here in Inglewood.

College Career Fair

The College Career Fair will take place on April 22, 2006. We are focusing on local colleges this year, as well as local careers and vocational schools that are real to our youth and that they are able to get to. We are drafting letters and are ready to send them out. We are looking forward to this; we do solicit any recommendations that you all may have to be in attendance at the College Career Fair.

Family Support Program

Through the South Bay Center for Counseling, we have a grant that allows us to provide case management services to Inglewood families and communities. Our component is to refer them to our recreation programs, sports programs and after school programs. We have been getting a lot of homeless clients. We have collaborated with the CDBG department who has provided funds to the St. Margaret's Center to give housing assistance. In January we were able to support a member of our staff who had been homeless for 5 months. Through that collaboration we were able to solidify housing for her.

Skip just wanted me to let you know that this is a program that we do have. If you know of any clients that are in need of services, we do have a small amount of funds to provide emergency and basic support.

Cab Companies

On January 18, 2006 representatives from the Yellow Cab Co. met with the seniors at the Senior Center. The seniors expressed many concerns regarding the service provided by Yellow Cab. There were approximately 50 seniors who attended. Yellow Cab had the opportunity to explain how their company works and gave the seniors important tips on reporting their concerns. Overall the meeting was very positive because the seniors walked away with a sense of satisfaction. On February 1 and 2, 2006, transportation representatives from the newly licensed companies Yellow Cab Companies and United Independent Taxi met to discuss contracts to provide a discount program for the seniors and disabled like we have done in the past. Contracts with the 3 licensed companies are expected to be completed by April 1, 2006. Public education on how the new program will operate is top priority.

Mural Project Update

Bid opening for the contractor to build a new wall, and construct the Grevillea Art Park is March 1, 2006. Applications to the Per Capita Grant Program (Park Bond 2000) and Robert Z'Berg – Harris Open Space and Recreation Program (Park Bond 2002) will be submitted to the State Department of Parks and Recreation by mid-February. This caps the major fund raising efforts. The Citizen's Historic Site Preservation Committee has launched a fundraising campaign. Any foundations or businesses that contribute at least \$15,000 will have their names engraved on the permanent re-dedication plaque at the mural site. These funds will be used for enhancements to the project and future programming, including the Re-dedication Event, which is now scheduled for late September, 2006.

Trina Tyson stated that is all I have for you folks today.

Commissioner Brown asked are there any comments?

Commissioner Agee stated yes, I have one. Do you happen to know the drop out rate of high school students here in the City of Inglewood?

Trina Tyson stated I do not know that off hand, but we do have those statistics in our office.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm very happy to see that the mural is on its way and doing well, I'm looking forward to September.

Trina Tyson asked would you like me to forward that drop out information to you?

Commissioner Agee stated yes would you, I appreciate it. Thank you.

Commissioner Ordonez asked can you do the same for me please?

Trina Tyson stated by all means.

Commissioner Ordonez asked on the cab contracts, do you know what the rates are going to be for the seniors? Have they discussed that at all?

Trina Tyson stated I don't know, Kevin would you care to assist me.

Kevin Hawkins asked general rates?

Commissioner Ordonez stated yes, because they are trying to get a contract, so will the seniors get a special discount rate?

Kevin Hawkins stated they are still going to be participating at least for the senior portion of the cab coupon discount programs. Basically the seniors are provided with cab coupons in order to subsidize their transportation. Those rates are not going to change. What we are talking about now is just getting a new cab carrier on to provide the services. At one time the city had two cab providers, one being Westside King Cab Company and the other being Yellow Cab. Due to reasons that we are not quite sure of, Westside King Cab dropped out of the service provision, leaving us with only one cab provider. We believe that competition is good for the market place. So we actually sought to open up the process (and Council members agreed with us), we went through this process in order to bring another cab company on to provide the city with options. We now we are in the process of bringing on a new cab company once they go through various background checks and what not, then we'll be bringing that to the Council, for the senior portion of it. Again it is tied into the senior rates which won't change again because a lot of that is subsidized. I can't think of what the allocation is right now.

Commissioner Brown stated my concern is like everyone else's, the SHAPE program. It is a great program that is so needed since everyone is concerned about quality of education. If we can possibly show some measuring tools, this can probably be a project that can be measured throughout the county.

Secondly, how do I get information about College and Career Day because there are some colleges that I know that would like to participate.

Last thing is Family Support, how is the city addressing the homeless situation that is in and around the city?

Kevin Hawkins stated I heard the last portion in terms of the homeless. I'm sorry, can you repeat that?

Commissioner Brown asked is the City addressing that through the Parks and Recreation Department or is this just a situation that came before your department?

Kevin Hawkins stated that is a very good question, it's really a socio-economic issue; it's really not just limited to this department. We're faced with it because of the homeless situation that exists in our parks.

All the Human Services activities that we deal with are usually part of the helping hand aspect. In terms of anything that we have done specifically, what we try to do is work in collaboration with other departments and other organizations such as St. Margaret's Center. Also, we've tried to brainstorm and strategize with Housing, the Administrative Office, as well as other divisions in the Police Department in terms of addressing this issue. As an example, in Los Angeles the main focus right now, and it has been documented, that many of the homeless have some sort of mental health problems. Once they are released from a facility, they are literally dumped onto skid row. As you know with Los Angeles trying to revitalize that area, they are basically trying to move the homeless out of there. And now what is happening is that a lot of that transient population is moving to other cities. Now what we are trying to do in our part to deal with the issue was to provide adequate health care services as well as job opportunities which ties into other issues. Specifically does this department deal with it, not directly, but indirectly we are definitely interested in it and if those services and the need is referred to us, we try and make sure we do our best to assist them.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you, Kevin.

Kevin Hawkins stated we have Teresa Kneedler here, since we have her here we don't want her to be bored. What I understand and I believe Trina alluded to is that we are in the midst of preparing a staff report that allocates certain dollars later this month. Basically the last state bond issue was the Bond 2002 Act. At this point once that allocation has been submitted there is nothing on the books right now to provide municipalities for anything that's specifically ear-marked for Parks and Recreation. The governor is now looking at a major bond issue to address some of these needs. Right now, the last pot of money on the books is from the Bond 2002 Act. We came before this body to discuss various improvements such as Siminski Park, Circle Park, and Vincent Park basketball courts. This body has made it perfectly clear what your priorities are, in turn we have complied with your requests. What I believe Ms. Kneedler is here today to do is to go over a couple of those projects that you have approved and authorized and really kind of bring you up to speed, since the allocation for these projects are actually going to go to Council later this month. We just wanted to refresh your memory on a couple of these projects.

Teresa Kneedler gave a presentation on the renovation of the Vincent Park basketball courts. Whether we go with concrete or asphalt courts.

Commissioner Agee stated I recommend number three; in the long run it is the cheapest way to go.

Teresa Kneedler stated that it is only \$5,000 less.

Commissioner Agee stated asphalt in the summer time, not a good idea. The cheapest and the best way to go is the concrete in my opinion.

Teresa Kneedler stated I agree. I am hoping that the cost of the materials will stay as they are.

Commissioner Agee stated well then let's do it next week.

Kevin Hawkins asked are you looking for a motion?

Teresa Kneedler stated I'm not familiar with the procedure.

Commissioner Brown asked can I get a motion from the Commissioners?

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that we accept number three, concrete basketball courts just like Darby Park.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I second.

Commissioner Brown stated it's been properly moved and seconded that we accept number three. You can proceed and present your proposal to Council. Thank you so very much and we don't bite.

Commissioner Agee stated we didn't vote on it.

Commissioner Brown asked all in favor?

All the Commissioners stated I.

Kevin Hawkins stated I know Commissioner Brown has another meeting to go to, but just really quick. Going back to the Yellow Cab, we currently have \$100,000 budgeted for the cab contract that is to be split between two, possibly three providers. In terms of the coupons, the allocation is we charge the seniors \$5, but they basically get \$30 worth of cab coupons, that is the subsidy.

Commissioner Ordonez stated can I ask another question regarding that? You mentioned something about education in relation to this program, what kind of things are you going to do to educate the seniors?

Kevin Hawkins asked are you asking in regards to the cab companies?

Commissioner Ordonez stated yes, the cabs.

Kevin Hawkins stated the reason why we are getting so much attention is because to be quite honest there were complaints about the cab providers. So we basically called in the current provider to discuss the areas we need to focus on and their responsibility to meet our needs.

The first thing that we did was to meet with the principals of the cab companies to say that your guys need to do a better job and then you need to report out to the seniors. First being more responsible in terms of the telephone calls, second making sure that there is bilingual information available, third coming to the senior center and giving presentations as to the inner-workings of the cab company; how does it work, what happens when you call in, etc., four always having someone on stand by to be available to staff to provide up to the minute traffic information that may delay service. For example, if there is a fire somewhere in another city and it will cause delays in our cab service or what not, it's kind of a trickle down effect, it may impact our services. We don't know those things, so we'd like up to the minute information. So those are some of the things we are going to make sure that the seniors are aware of. We recently had a meeting over at the senior center, it was very well attended and the seniors were very happy. The next step that we are trying to do is set up a tour of the actual cab facilities and have the seniors attend so they can see the inner-workings of the cab company.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Teresa Estrada stated good evening. My name is Teresa Estrada, Cultural Program Supervisor for the Recreation Division. I'm sorry if I cough, I've been sick this week.

KING DAY 2006

On Saturday, January 14, 2006, the City hosted its 23rd Annual King Day Celebration. The event – rain and all – was a great success. Event highlights included performances by the Morningside High Dance Ensemble, LaTijera Unity Choir, Evangelical Jurisdictional Youth Choir, and Inglewood High School Choir. The keynote speaker, Dr. John Joseph Hunter, was well received and both the Grand Marshal, Marc Brown, and Mistress of Ceremony, Michaela Pereira, were crowd pleasers. However, the show stoppers were the youth who presented their award winning MLK Day speeches. The speech contest winners received standing ovations as they honored Dr. King with words of wisdom beyond their years. The program also included a very touching tribute to Rosa Parks.

Teresa Estrada stated the March participation was down slightly this year, as you know as we exited the Tabernacle we got a little bit of rain, but overall the event was a great success.

IPAL MOU

On January 24, 2006, the Mayor and Council Members approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Inglewood Police Activities League (IPAL) for use of space at Edward Vincent Park and operation of IPAL programs and activities at our parks and recreation centers.

The City will provide office space at the Veteran's Memorial Building - "Teddy Roosevelt" room (downstairs) - for use as a headquarters/center for IPAL administrative and program operations. Programming will be conducted Monday through Friday, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Its anticipated programming will begin no later than March 1, 2006.

Sports: Basketball Tournament

On February 4 & 5, 2006, the City will host a basketball tournament featuring the City's All- American, Prep and Boys League Participants. The tournament, which is a pre-requisite to the Bay Area and Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) tournaments that will be held in March & April 2006, will get underway at Darby and Rogers Parks, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Cultural Awareness Celebrations

The City of Inglewood has planned an array of activities during the month of February to promote and celebrate its rich cultural diversity and the arts. These events are designed for the entire family – they will be educational, inspirational and motivational.

Nationally known performers will join local dancers, singers, choirs, musicians, poets and other talents at Inglewood's 5th Annual talent showcase called "Gifts." This cultural celebration will feature song, dance, art, spoken word and much more. The event is free to the public and will take place at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Edward Vincent Park on Saturday, February 18, 2006. Vincent Park is located at 330 Centinela Avenue (at the corner of Centinela Avenue and Warren Lane). The program gets underway at 11:00 a.m., with continuous performances, demonstrations and lectures until 5:00 p.m.

On Sunday, February 19, 2006, "Expressions: Remembering the Dream," an art exhibit featuring some of Inglewood's top artists will take place at Inglewood City Hall Community Room A, One Manchester Boulevard, from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. Participating artists will include Michael Massenburg, Katherine Wilson, Micheal Chucks, Louise McGee, Mamie Hansberry, Julien Dothard, Carole McCoy and others. Participating agencies will include

Inglewood Cultural Arts, Wanda Wallace Art Foundation, Nuris Fine Art and Interior Design and the California Artist Coalition of Los Angeles.

Mark your calendar and also plan to attend these other events during Black History Month:

- **February 3 - February 19, 2006 – “Grandpa’s Truth,”** a stage play presented by FNC Community Development Corporation at the Inglewood Playhouse on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. Sunday performances are at 4:00 p.m. General admission tickets are \$20; children under 12 and seniors, \$15. For information, call (626) 858-1907. The Inglewood Playhouse is located at 714 Warren Lane (at the center of Edward Vincent Park).
- **Friday, February 24, 2006 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Lively Lyrics: an Evening of Spoken Word and Poetry** featuring Inglewood’s and L.A.’s best poets and spoken word artists. Location: Inglewood Library - Gladys Waddingham Lecture Hall, 101 W. Manchester Boulevard. Admission \$5. As part of this event, two of the poets will perform the DEBATE (between Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois). The poets that we have for Lively Lyrics will entertain the audience with a variety of topics including love, peace, family, pain, hope and courage. The list of poets includes Andre Henery, Lorenzo Franks, Cameron Mays, Allen Reyes, and Sean Adams, to name a few.

Computer Classes at Lockhaven Center

Plans are underway for a computer class at Lockhaven Community Center. Human Services has contracted an instructor to teach a morning adult class. The target audience is parents of Lockhaven Center preschoolers - moms, dads and grands – and other adults in the Community. The classes will be held on Monday & Wednesday from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Classes for youth will be conducted during after school hours on Wednesdays from 3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m. The classes will also be open to all community youth, including children participating in the Mobile Recreation Program and the Darby Park Boys & Girls Club members. Classes are scheduled to begin on February 22, 2006.

Mobile Recreation

Also on February 22...the Mobile Recreation Program will host an Open House, of sorts, on Wednesday February 22, 2006 from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at Lockhaven Community Center. The event will consist of self-defense demonstrations, arts and crafts, face painting, music, refreshments, giveaways and Computer Class registration. Mobile Recreation Program hours are 2:00 p.m. to 5:00p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at Lockhaven Community Center; Tuesdays and Thursdays at Center Park.

Cesar Chavez Day

Plans are underway for the City's Annual Cesar Chavez Day Unity March, Recognition Ceremony, and Celebration. The event will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2006. The March assembly begins at 9:30 a.m. at Hollywood Park-Gate 8. The unity march will begin at 10:30 a.m. Participants will march along 90th Street to Darby Park. The recognition ceremony and celebration will take place at Darby Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The celebration will include live entertainment, exhibitors, arts & crafts, student art and essay exhibition, interactive games and our 3rd annual soccer tournament. This event is co-sponsored by the Inglewood Unified School District.

Health, College, Career and Earth Day Celebration

Planning is underway for the Health, College, Career and Earth Day Celebration that will take place at Rogers Park, on Saturday, April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Teresa Estrada stated, that concludes my report for the Recreation Division.

Commissioner Brown asked are there any comments? Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to comment on the Martin Luther King birthday or whatever it was, celebration. I think that the kids from the school deserve an A+. They did an outstanding job, I cried and when I cry it's got to be the best. The first part of it, I didn't like at all. I didn't like the city councilmen and the kids out there marching in the rain. I think Dr. King's birthday should be celebrated by everyone, not just church folks. I think instead of having so much preaching, we should have a little celebration, I think he'd like that. We go to church every Sunday. This is just one thing I'd like to see changed.

Teresa Estrada stated so what you are saying is more of a celebration.

Commissioner Agee stated more of a celebration, more people. Everyone should join and celebrate, not just the people who go to church every Sunday. I'd like to see that change, but it probably never will. You're doing a good job.

Teresa Estrada stated thank you.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I just wanted to commend you all for all the work you are doing and for bringing us your report. It seems like there are a lot of things coming up. I just had a question regarding the art fair on February 19, you mentioned it was going to be here. Where will it be?

Teresa Estrada stated Community Room A.

Commissioner Ordonez asked and the day where the poets will be at the library, what time will that be?

Teresa Estrada stated the Spoken Word is going to be Friday, February 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the lecture hall over at the library.

Commissioner Ordonez stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated along the lines of MLK, it's strange that we are talking about it because in the adjacent room, there is a debriefing to look at what went well and what we can improve on. I like the idea Mr. Agee mentioned because when we end, it's ended and I'm just looking back at how the Cesar Chavez parade ended with a picnic in the park. I'd like to see something like that. This year we were at a tremendous disadvantage because of timing and how we had to make sure there were not a lot of political ramifications. I'm quite impressed that we found several favorable articles. One was in the LA Times, the Inglewood Today Magazine, the Crusade and several other publications that talked about how great the speech contestants were. There are some things we need to continue to work on. Personally I would have liked to see us honor several of our committee members. One is Inez Scott who passed away earlier in the year, who had served many years on this committee. We also had a young lady who had served on the committee and was killed in a car accident on her way to Vegas. There are things that we can improve on and I would hope Mr. Agee sees it fit when we do have our meetings to come to the meeting and voice his concerns. The more we can get a collective of people to come together to make suggestions, I think it would show what King stands for.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you. We have Mark Martinez our Tree Trimming supervisor here to give a brief report.

Mark Martinez stated good evening.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Rogers/Vincent Park – the installation of concrete slab has been completed at both sites

- Rogers Park Skate Park – landscaping has been completed as well as the installation of the park components
- Vincent Park Restroom Construction/Demolition – demolition has been completed and construction will commence within the next month.

Park Maintenance – North/South

- All of the areas are being maintained
- Siminski Park’s lights have been replaced by Edison and all the trees have been trimmed in the area
- Darby Park’s multi-purpose field and Vincent Park’s soccer stadium are currently being renovated.

Park Construction

- The demolition of Rogers Park’s wooden arbors located in the patio area will commence soon.

Tree Maintenance

- All crews are working in their areas as much as possible
- We are trying to meet the needs of the Commissioners and the Council persons
- We are having problems with the root pruner, but it is being taken care of by the superintendent of the garage.

Commissioner Agee stated no comments.

Commissioner Ordonez stated no comments.

Commissioner Brown stated thanks for doing a good job.

Mark Martinez stated I appreciate it.

Commissioner Agee stated I’d like to congratulate Teresa and all of you, you are doing a wonderful job.

Kevin Hawkins stated I just want to advise the Commissioners that effective today, the Administrative Offices over at Vincent Park including the Girls Scouts building and our preschool program will temporarily be relocated to the Veteran’s Building, citing renovations. We appreciate the Commissioners, as we talked about some of our needs and this is the first part of it. In the past we’ve always been told money, money, money. But you guys said it’s about our health and safety. We will keep you posted, but as of right now those programs have been relocated.

Happy Black History Month. This month is Black History month. You can see me with my Tuskegee airman jacket, which I had the opportunity to have it signed by some of the Tuskegee airman here as part of the speakers bureau. Thank you for your support.

New Business

Commissioner Agee stated I'm glad to hear the center has been vacated at Vincent Park. I happened to visit Vincent Park last week and the office at 700 E. Warren Lane. I did an inspection, went all over the building and found it to be a disaster for kids. I feel so good that the people have been taken out of there. I'd like to make a motion that the building be torn down and replaced.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I second.

Commissioner Brown asked what building are you talking about?

Commissioner Agee stated the building on Warren Lane, where pre school is held.

Commissioner Brown it's been put in motion by Commissioner Agee that the facility at 700 Warren Lane be vacated and torn down. We have a motion on the floor, all in favor?

All the Commissioners stated I.

Commissioner Brown stated I will pass that over to Kevin and I know he will expedite this.

Commissioner Agee stated I will be waiting for it when it goes to Council.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

Commissioner Comments

No Commissioner comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS

1. Capital Improvement Project Update:
 - Restroom Construction/Demolition
 - Imperial Branch Library Renovation
 - Rogers Park Patio Renovation
2. Tree Maintenance
3. Park Maintenance – North/South
4. Park Construction

RECREATION

1. Cesar Chavez Day Celebration
2. Inglewood Idol II
3. Mobile Recreation
4. Inglewood Games:
 - Darby Park Skate Park
5. Programs
 - Classes
 - Activities

HUMAN SERVICES

1. Contribution from Hollywood Park Racing Charities
2. New Partners for Families grant
3. Senior Center Renovation
4. Mural Update
5. Oral History/Living Museum
6. SHAPE

COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. 2006 Residential Parking Permits
2. MLK Participation
3. New Hires
4. Regulatory Enforcement
5. Pepper Spray Class