

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, January 5, 2006, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Absent:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I
Commissioner Irlanda Ordonez – District III

Staff:

Stephanie Baltazar, Senior Office Assistant
Patricia Bitker, Food Service Manager
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Kevin Hawkins, Director
Ramon Mata, Lead Park Maintenance Worker
Mario Smith, Recreation Supervisor

Public Comments

Steve Taylor stated good evening. My name is Steve Taylor. My address is 1840 Tebany Street in Anaheim. I was interested in bringing in an independent traveling baseball team for ages 12 through 14, so scouts from the major and minor leagues can come take a look at the local talent. This is not to take away from the existing leagues, just an additional team to teach the kids how to play baseball and some different techniques. For the last 20 years everyone has been playing basketball and football. We really have to get our kids back to baseball and teach them a good solid technique and also help get them off the streets.

Commissioner Smith stated Steve I hate to ask you this, but I didn't have it recording. Can you please just state your full name and address.

Steve Taylor restated his name and address.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you, you may continue.

Steve Taylor stated that's basically it, it's just an idea. I was in the area and I saw you were going to have a meeting and I thought this would be a good opportunity to present myself. I figure this would be good for our kids. They'd get the opportunity to play for another team that gets scouted out. It also gives the kids an opportunity to pursue a baseball career.

Commissioner Smith stated Mr. Taylor, we really appreciate your interest in our children and we thank you for presenting this to us. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated yes. I'd like to ask Mr. Taylor a question. How much experience do you have in sports, Mr. Taylor?

Steve Taylor stated I played baseball, ran track, played basketball as well as football. I coach baseball and have coached my son as well as several all-star teams. I've been around sports in general all my life.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm Commissioner Willie Agee and I like what you are saying. Seems to me like it would be a good program for the City of Inglewood and I hope you are successful at making it happen. We'd have to get all the details, but it sounds good to me.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any further questions or comments?

Commissioner Brown stated just a comment. There is an inner city league called RBI Commission, would you be involved to any degree there or is this just something where you see the need? I know one of the major concerns in minorities developing an interest in baseball here in the city and across the country. For some reason our young people look at basketball and that whole thing, baseball is an American game and I was wondering if that tied in as well. You did say you live in Anaheim, so I was wondering would that be an issue for you having to travel back and forth? I also wanted to ask, what is it that you want from us?

Steve Taylor stated what I need for right now is a park. Then we have to talk about the financial situation, who can afford cleats and uniforms. Then we'd probably have to track politicians or someone who we can attain equipment and stuff like that from, it's not cheap. We can do a lot of things with a park such as hold tournaments. The money raised from the tournaments can go towards the kids traveling across the country to play other teams or out at other venues such as Orange County, Chino Hills Ball Park or the major league park in Palm Springs. They can even have the opportunity to go to Cooperstown; a 9 year old in Cooperstown, what an experience that would be for them. They have like 13 fields and dorm rooms that are named after big major league players.

Commissioner Brown stated we understand the need.

We have limited space and I'm just hoping that space will become available in one of our districts so we can continue to expand our recreational activities. We've already inundated soccer and football at one of our stadiums.

Steve Taylor stated one other thing I didn't mention before was I won't take these kids from their current programs. It would take place on a Saturday or Sunday, I know some kids would not be able to make it during the week. I understand park space is really limited, but I can do a lot of things with a small space; I can share the field. I also know how to conduct a practice with other teams on the field with nets that I have, that can be put up as a barrier.

Commissioner Smith stated again, thank you Mr. Taylor. Will you do me a favor? The young lady sitting on the end named Stephanie. Will you give her your phone number and any information she needs to get in touch with you, thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you Mr. Taylor.

Approval of the Minutes

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

Director's Report

Kevin Hawkins stated happy New Year. Ms. Green made it appoint for me to attend the first meeting of the year to make sure that the Commission knew that there is still a Parks and Recreation Director.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Ms. Green.

Kevin Hawkins stated I look at it like this, management staff is here so I don't have to come anymore.

Commissioner Brown stated you aren't going to get off that easy.

Commissioner Smith stated but that was a good try.

Kevin Hawkins stated that was a good try. It's so good to see you all tonight. I believe we have some good reports tonight. I see it's like students in a class, when you look over there to see who you're going to ask and everyone is looking down. I know Ramon is filling in for Rita who is scheduled to be here, but she had a dental appointment and had some complications so she couldn't be here. As a result of that, Ramon will go last. I'm going to start of with Pat today from Human Services.

Pat Bitker stated good evening. I have a few things that I want to share with you: the mural, the oral history project, the cab company, new transportation, the computer lab and the senior center disaster plan.

Mural Restoration Project

The California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) contract has been finalized for receipt of \$160,000 to fund portions of the Helen Lundberg "History of Transportation" Restoration Mural Project. This is the grant that helped us reach our funding goal. We are now able to go out to bid for a contractor to do the work on building a new wall, landscaping Grevillea Art Park and constructing an interpretive kiosk. Because of delays in getting the bid package out, we will reschedule our dedication event to spring or early summer. Our citizens committee is working on planning and fund raising for this event. There will be an unveiling of the mural and some living museum historical enactments and entertainment.

Oral History/Mural Education

On December 19, 2005 Elizabeth Norwood, Education Consultant, Andrea Morse, Chief Conservator on the Mural Restoration Project, and Skip Halloran met with approximately 50 students at a special assembly at City Honors High School. These students had expressed an interest in joining the Mural Education Project directed by Mrs. Norwood. Mrs. Norwood is recruiting students to participate in the Living Museum Project, which will culminate in a performance at the Mural Rededication Program in June of 2006. Students will conduct historical research about the mural, artist, times, and important historical characters, including past Inglewood residents. Each student will choose a character to portray and write a script and be costumed as that character. The audience will walk around the Museum and interact with the characters. At the assembly, Andrea Morse presented her power-point description of the mural restoration process. The class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays right after school on the Honors High campus. We are partnering with a teacher, Miss Felix, who will assist with the class. A few ongoing participants will join the newcomers.

Cab Companies

On November 15, 2005, City Council approved the issuance of a permit to operate to all Yellow Cab Companies and United Independent Taxi. Yellow Cab's contract was extended to March, 2006. We are working on contracts with all three companies. It will take several months for all the paperwork etc. to be complete. At some point we will have a forum with representatives from the companies to give presentations and answer questions. A publicity campaign will also take place.

New Transportation Vehicles

The new vehicle, which was budgeted in the 2004-2005 fiscal year, is expected to arrive in two or three weeks. On December 16, 2005 Charles Banks, Rick Longobart and Skip Halloran attended a procurement workshop for the two vehicles which we are receiving from the Section 5310 grant. We selected two vehicle types: one is a 20 passenger, two lift vehicle and the other is a twelve passenger, two lift. This will provide flexibility in scheduling different capacities. We were able to work with a sales rep from Creative Bus Sales and will put all the specs together after the holidays. We also received the contract with the State which we must complete, as well as deposit the City match in the State account before the State will release the vehicles. We are receiving vehicles totaling \$120,000. The match of \$24,600 is budgeted in the 2005-2006 fiscal year budget. The State will own the vehicles and we must operate and maintain them for a total of four years, after which the State will release them to us.

Computer Lab at Lockhaven Community Center

Twelve computers have been installed in the new computer lab at Lockhaven. We will be offering computer classes for families, senior citizens and youth. Our goal is to replicate the offerings we have on the west side on the east side of town.

Senior Center Disaster Plan

The Senior Center has been working on development of a disaster plan. At the specific request of Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging, we have drafted our response to any emergency that would jeopardize our ability to continue to provide at least one meal a day to our seniors for three days of a disaster and maintain a watchful eye on their overall well-being.

Specifically, we have developed a plan to provide at least one meal for three days to our current senior clients. We would first utilize food in our refrigerators and freezers including HDM for the first couple of days and then switch to shelf-stable food there after.

We have begun to coordinate with the City Disaster Preparedness Team for the City of Inglewood to work with local police community affairs, LA County Fire Department, Code Enforcement and other agencies to both report vital information to the overall coordinating group for the City as well as possible needed services. Part of these needed services beyond providing food and water would be to check on the physical condition of our seniors and provide assistance for those who may require dialysis or oxygen or other vital services.

We have developed a wide and deep list of other community agencies with which we would work from the Salvation Army to ham radio operators.

One thing learned on the wake of Hurricane Katrina by people like ourselves was that even with a very good disaster plan in place, often the biggest problem was interference by FEMA. Delivery of food and water by major vendors to hospitals, long-term care facilities and other agencies like us was confiscated by FEMA. We are working with the City, becoming much more integrated with the overall disaster plan the city has laid out. The goal is to meet what is mandated by the county.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. Commissioner Brown, do you have any questions?

Commissioner Brown stated no.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated yes. I'm really glad to hear about this preparedness plan in case of a disaster. I think this is where it should start, locally. My personal opinion is that the local leaders failed. I'm glad to know that we are getting prepared so it won't happen to us.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee, Kevin.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you Pat for that good report. Let's go over to recreation with Super Mario.

Mario Smith stated good evening and happy New Year.

Holiday Decorating Contest

The Holiday Decorating Contest was conducted on December 21st and 22nd, 2005. We had over 50 residents who participated from all 4 districts including 3 block clubs: 7th Avenue, Hyde Park Manor and Olympian Block Club. It was a great success and we enjoyed the event.

Request for Recommendation

The Department would like your consideration in recommending we enter into 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 Police Activities League (IPAL) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation that works to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency by providing enrichment programs for youth.

Under the MOU, we will provide office space at the Veteran's Memorial Building. The "Teddy Roosevelt" room (downstairs) will be utilized 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.

IPAL will provide recreational programming to Inglewood youth at all our parks and recreational centers – beginning at Vincent and gradually expanding to all of the facilities. Programs and activities may include mentoring, flag football, boxing, debate, gun safety and awareness and camping.

Mario Smith stated I see it as a win-win situation. We are always looking for an increase in police presence and this will provide a safer environment for our parks as well as more activities for our children. This concludes my request for recommendation.

Commissioner Brown asked do you need and motion from us?

Mario Smith stated yes, I would like a motion.

Commissioner Smith asked MOU, a.k.a. what?

Mario Smith stated it is a memorandum of understanding.

Commissioner Smith stated ok. I have a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Brown stated madam chair I'd like to move that we take this memorandum in agreement because Los Angeles County has the same type of involvement with the Sheriff's Department. With that type of presences and the sort of things that are happening at our parks, this can serve as a two prong purpose because you'll have officers there to participate. Our young people might see this as a different setting and a lot of collaboration can happen. I'm really looking forward to this.

Commissioner Smith asked do I have a second?

Commissioner Agee stated I second.

Commissioner Smith asked are there any discussions?

Commissioner Agee stated yes. I'd like to ask if this is being held at the Veteran's Building at Vincent Park?

Mario Smith stated yes, that is correct.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm for this 100%, I totally endorse it. It is very much needed and I'm glad to see it happening.

Commissioner Smith asked is there any further discussion on this subject? It's been moved and second that we adopt this program. All in favor?

All the Commissioners stated I.

Commissioner Smith asked all opposed? You got your wish Mario.

Mario Smith stated thank you.

2006 MLK Celebration

The 2006 MLK Celebration will take place on Saturday, January 14 at 9 a.m., at the Tabernacle Faithful Central Bible Church located at 321 N. Eucalyptus Ave. At 11:15 a.m. the symbolic march will begin going south on Eucalyptus Ave; east on Regent St; east on Manchester Blvd; and south on Kareem Court to the parking lot at Hollywood Park Racetrack (Pincay Dr. /90th St. – Gate 8 entrance).

Programs and Activities

Our after school programs will resume from the holiday break on January 9th. After school sites are from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The kids participate in arts and crafts, organized activities and homework. Kudos to all our staff that do an excellent job working with the kids.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Mario. Are there any further questions for Mario?

Commissioner Agee stated yes. I'm concerned with Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. It sounds like a replay from last year. All the changes that the Council made are a disruption as far as I'm concerned. Anyhow, I hope it's successful, but it will be without me. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith asked any questions Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated just 2 comments. I'm sorry Commissioner Agee feels that way about MLK, but the show will go on. A couple of things with regards to the Christmas decorating contest; I had a lot of fun out there. My bus tends to always be packed because we have all the goodies for not only the judges but for the residents who participate. My concern is that we need to find a way to start a lot earlier in terms of getting information out to the residents. I really don't know how, but I really think we can see if we can get some businesses to make certificates, I know we provide ribbons and trophies.

We got off to a late start this year. Maybe we can start to look at the first of November to start flooding the neighborhoods and block clubs with the information for the contest.

My next concern is MLK, I serve as a co-chairman on the committee which also includes Pastor Alvin Isaacs who has done a tremendous job. But my two concerns are that we do get comments and sometimes negative feedback. There is great representation from all four districts, except district two. I'm hoping that the Council person will see it fit to send her representatives to the committee because that is where the great input takes place. Secondly, one of the key points that you will see is the input of our young people. To give you an example of something that took place was an adult wanted to take out a speech contestant, but we had some very vocal young people who were able to get votes unanimously and put in back into action. Even the MLK planning should have started a little early. We got to a late start putting the committee together which meant we weren't able to have certain activities like the luncheon we had last year. Time is so viable. The flyers are out; I just picked up a batch of those. That's another little thing that we haven't been able to do, is get the information out in a timely setting. If you look at the individuals who will be the grand marshal, keynote speaker and mistress of ceremony, you will find a tremendous program. One of the key things is to cut down time because if anything is longer than 2 hours, it becomes very boring to our young people. Sabrina and other staff members have been really supportive. I'd like for minutes to reflect that I have missed 3 meetings because I'm wearing a double hat. I'd like for it to show as a record just in case a political situation arises.

Mario Smith stated just to comment on what you said about the speeches. I've read some excellent speeches from some of the kids. I think it's excellent. I'm also so glad that you all are supporting our venture with the IPAL program. I think this is an excellent opportunity for our department.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Mario, back over to you Kevin.

Commissioner Agee stated can I have a chance to comment?

Commissioner Smith stated you already did.

Commissioner Agee asked I did?

Commissioner Smith stated yes, you did.

Commissioner Agee asked well can I ask another question?

Commissioner Smith stated yes you may Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated with all do respects to Mr. Brown, I personally disagree with the changes. My main reason is I think they should have left it how it was, unless they had a better plan to present it to the people.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee; you already stated that on the record.

Commissioner Agee asked can I say another thing about the Christmas Tree Lighting?

Commissioner Smith stated let's go on to Kevin, I'll let you say that in the comments ok?

Commissioner Agee stated ok.

Commissioner Smith stated Kevin.

Kevin Hawkins stated I actually have some comments, should I wait until then so we can go through this or do you prefer that I give you my input now?

Commissioner Smith asked input on MLK?

Kevin Hawkins stated input regarding a couple of items, Mr. Smith reported on.

Commissioner Smith stated that's fine.

Kevin Hawkins stated I'm trying to get back into the swing of things. Let me start by saying we'd like to thank the Commission for your support. A couple of points that Mario pointed out. Your support is critical to IPAL. I believe that the Police Department is bringing an item this Tuesday for funding for their portion of the program. Originally they had requested that we too sign off an item and present this portion, but we made it clear that before our participation or before we moved forward, we would bring this to the Commission. It's going to be a companion piece where the Police Department will first get approval to expand funds then we will take this side of the MOU which you are supporting and bring in another staff report which will be a joint staff report. The reason why we are so excited about this is that we've long had these programs years back and due to various reasons, it left, but we are glad that it is back for dual purposes. We are all about the youth and creating opportunities. We think that in house prevention and we want to make sure we are hitting our youth at early ages. And then also with getting the Police Department involved in this, we know no we will always have police presence at our facility when these programs are going on. They get to see the police officers. Some of the issues that we bring this body, when we talk about the need, we're going to have real excited about that.

Commissioner Smith stated Kevin, let me ask you one question, how will the IPAL organization be funded?

Kevin Hawkins stated good question. They are a non profit organization, so like most nonprofits, they're given donations. The way they go about it and the way we go about it, is collaboration. That's how you make your dollars stretch. What was a hurdle was providing the space, then you identify priority and need and then you make it happen. There was such support for this that we were having Park Supervisors say I can move some stuff around or out in order to make this happen or we can move it over here and change the schedule. Where we really think it's worth it. Yes, they are bringing some funding in, but it is a joint effort with the Police Department that is why I have made it appoint to say that the Police Department are involved because they are going to take this to the Council requesting expenditures that are going to be used for this and then we are providing the park space and recreation entities.

Commissioner Smith stated the reason I ask is because I give to PAL in different cities. I was wondering if they are going to be making calls and ask for contributions which will help out a lot. The other thing I wanted to ask you is when you speak of space, the guy who was doing the survey, have we received anymore information about the space and what he was looking for?

Kevin Hawkins stated you are referring to the Trust for Public Land. What we were looking at was using Inglewood as a post agency for one of the workshops and we were to hear back from them prior to the holiday break and we didn't, so we will follow up on that. The one thing they did promise this body it has not been forthcoming, but we have not forgotten.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you, you may continue.

Kevin Hawkins stated the other thing was the MLK. I understand that there are some issues, but we are not here to talk about that. We are here to talk about the recreation component, which is you supporting our ventures. I wanted to point out as the meetings are going on; this is really activity with the 9th floor, a citywide project. To be quite honest with you, recreation is now kind of in the mix with everyone working on it including myself and Sabrina. We respect all the feelings on it, but I just want to make it a point that this is a citywide activity, not recreation. I do want to point out is as a result of last years activities and I think it's important for you to know, Micheala Perrera who is from the KTLA news who spoke and was so moved by the speeches of the youth and I mean she was moved, and her words were so touching that I actually developed a friendship with her and as a result later saw her outside of here at Disneyland at their 50th anniversary celebration and I brought up MLK and that we'd love to have her back. She said all you have to do is just call and I will be there for Inglewood.

What also came about with her touching participation with MLK was KTLA's presence at the opening of the skate park, where they interviewed us and had some positive press and then finally when KTLA did the 1st remote in the South Mall area where we had the gospel singers, the fashion show. All of that started with her presence and being motivated and inspired at MLK. The legacy of Dr. King is living on.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Kevin. Are there any other reports from the Director?

Kevin Hawkins stated finally Mr. Mata from our Parks section.

Ramon Mata stated good evening.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Skate Park Construction at Vincent/Rogers Park – concrete slabs are completed at the two sites, landscaping will begin soon
- Restroom Construction/Demolition at Vincent Park – plans have finally been submitted and are waiting for approval, installation of restroom kits will begin in January
- Swimming Pool Valve/Pump Replacement – all valves and pumps have been replaced

Park Maintenance – North/South

All of the Park Service Technicians/Workers are currently maintaining all of the park grounds, restrooms, playground areas and athletic fields.

Tree Trimming

The tree trimming schedule for January is available for viewing on the Department Web Site.

Addendum to Parks Division

The Parks Division Park Maintenance Section will be implementing an annual athletic field schedule beginning January 1, 2006. The athletic field at Darby Park and the soccer stadium at Vincent Park are highly used throughout the year. Because of the high usage, the fields are badly damaged and need to be renovated and maintained on an annual basis. Effective immediately, both fields will be closed for maintenance from the beginning of January through the end of February of each year.

Ramon Mata stated and that concludes my report.

Commissioner Smith asked it wasn't so bad was it? Thank you. Are there any further comments from the staff?

Kevin Hawkins stated I want to say, thank you that was a good report.

With the New Year, I have to make it appoint that we have a new section now that is a part of our Department. The representative couldn't be here tonight, but I wanted to share with you very briefly their notes that are from our Community Services section which includes our Code and Parking Enforcement, just quickly we've been approved to hire two new Code Enforcement Officers, five to seven Parking Enforcement Officers eight and crossing guards. All of these positions should be processed and trained and out to the field by the end of this month, which is good news especially with the crossing guards.

Street Sweeping

All residents must abide by the posted time on the sign. You may not park after the street sweeper passes. Residents must park on the opposite side of the street between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Commissioner Smith stated that's an awful long time isn't it. I mean if after the street sweeper passes, what else is there to do with the street?

Kevin Hawkins stated what happens a lot of times is it may be posted but they may not necessarily come at 8 a.m., so yes the window is a big window, but again they aren't going to come to your district at 8 a.m. They maybe be operating in one district and by the time they get to yours, it may be a different time period.

Commissioner Smith stated I understand that, I'm saying before because it was so inconvenient for a lot of the home owners, what they said is once the street sweeper has passed, you can park. And now they are changing it back.

Kevin Hawkins stated it's been this way for a while. Now I know what you are referring to was an exception that we made a few years back. But the ___ regulation has always been that. It was made a point a couple years back to abide by the posted time. It started off as something being direct to the residents, but it was hard to enforcement.

Commissioner Smith stated ok, but we will send that out to the residents' right?

Kevin Hawkins stated the residents do have it and it's posted.

Commissioner Smith stated I know it's posted, but it was sent out before stating that in one of the utility bills. What needs to happen is that it needs to be sent out again correcting the last statement.

Kevin Hawkins stated I will double check and make sure.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you.

Holiday Trash Pick Up

On a Holiday, the trash pick up is delayed. The officer will issue a parking citation to a vehicle in violation by the time and day on the posted sign, not on the day your trash is picked up.

Kevin Hawkins asked did that make sense?

Commissioner Smith stated no.

Kevin Hawkins stated ok for example: if your trash pick up day is Monday and the Holiday is Monday on the other side of your street is posted for Tuesday, don't park on the Tuesday side on Tuesday thinking the trash from Monday has to be picked up. We will cite on the Tuesday side on Tuesday as that is the day posted on the sign. I'll tell you what I'll make sure our parking enforcement folks will explain that.

Residential Parking

All residential parking permits expire on Dec. 31st of each year. Residents can obtain new 2006 permits on the 2nd floor of Inglewood City Hall in the Traffic Office between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, except on the alternating Friday, when City Hall is closed.

If renewing a permit, residents will need to bring in their old passes (if they still have them), a current Southern California Gas Company bill, a Southern California Edison Company bill, a city water bill, rental agreement or a mortgage bill and a current driver's license. We do not accept telephone bills or cable bills as a proof of residency. Each resident will be issued four parking permits for free. Additional permits can be purchased for \$25 each.

Abandoned or Stolen Vehicles

Abandoned or stolen vehicles can be reported directly to Inglewood Police Dispatch at 310-412-8731 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Kevin Hawkins stated and that's news from our Community Services Department.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated I believe the streets are posted, correctly? If the sign says no parking on Tuesday, and you park there you are going to get a ticket right?

Kevin Hawkins stated yes.

Commissioner Agee stated right now you have three cans that you put out each day. That's three different trucks that are rolling by to pick up each container. Some times one comes in the morning and sometimes one comes in the afternoon. If the sign says 4:30 p.m. and they don't come to pick it up by 4:30 p.m. then you have a legal right to park on that side of the street. You go according to what the sign on your street says. If the City misses a day, that's their fault, that's the way I understand it. Now if I'm wrong, I want you to correct me.

Kevin Hawkins stated your take is right and usually if a citation was issued in a case where it was issued after the posted time, the resident just needs to bring it in and explain that and it will be dismissed and that has happened. The issue is to make sure that your streets are clean.

Commissioner Smith stated and we appreciate that too. Any further questions?

Kevin Hawkins stated I have nothing to add.

New Business

Commissioner Brown stated I don't know if this should come under new business or old business, I'm just a little concerned about our budget and where we stand.

Commissioner Smith stated old business, I mean unfinished business.

Commissioner Brown stated you have mentioned at the City Administrators retirement that we tend to do so much with less. That tends to always scare me because the Parks and Recreation and the Community Services tend to do all these great things and so when funds become available they seem to tend to give you the same peanuts. Where do we stand in terms of increase or decrease for our fiscal year?

Kevin Hawkins stated as you know the new fiscal year began on October 1st, so our funding is in place. For the most part the levels were the same to be quite honest. The additions were made really because we took on a new section. So for example if you look at the budget for last year's budget might have been closer to \$9.1 million as opposed to the \$12 million for this year, and that is based upon the added units that we brought on.

But I can say though, is that I'm glad you brought that up because when you talk to your council people or when you see the City Administrator that does go both ways. We have recently requested the reinstatement of that fifth crew that we lost and the motion that you passed at I believe at the last meeting or two meetings ago in support of our request. We are waiting to hear back on it, as you know we have a new City Administrator, but it was supported and that is very important because that is that rotating crew. As you know we have four districts and we need fifth crew in order to address the calls when you call in. So that is where you'll see the benefits to that or we've had some transportation needs and Pat's done a great job working with Rick Longobart who has been tremendous over in our Public Works Department, we keep talking about these things and instead of in the past when we use to have to wait years to even get on a list to get a new vehicle. Now we get a call back that there are vehicles that are slated to go somewhere else but we may be bumped up in the event of that ever happening. You may not see the impact if you look at the line items, but know that we are starting of the year _____. I know that Pat has been trying to get vehicles for years now and pieces of equipment. That is where we stand.

Commissioner Smith stated Kevin I want to ask something concerning the budget. You say your fiscal year starts in October, when do the different departments give you their budget and their request for funding for the following year?

Kevin Hawkins asked did you say the different departments or do you mean the different divisions?

Commissioner Smith stated the different divisions in your department?

Kevin Hawkins stated we basically have a budget process and we go through a review process on a 4 month review. Generally we put in for the Citywide budget process which is usually the sixth to eighth month review process so that is 4 months prior to coming into the fiscal year. During that time it's my job to make sure that I have an accurate report of our various sections from personnel needs and how many positions we need and how we going to do that if we can't get approved for that or some capital items. So to answer your question it's a year around process, but when we start getting into the next fiscal year it will begin four months prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Smith stated ok. What I would like if the Commissioners agree, that once the different divisions have given your their request and once you know their needs I would like to have a special meeting for the Commissioners to go over their needs as well as what you feel is important before it is submitted to Council.

Kevin Hawkins stated that would be submitted to Administration. We never submit anything directly to the Council.

Commissioner Smith stated right, but you know what I mean.

Kevin Hawkins stated ok.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Agee, do you agree on that?

Commissioner Brown stated I agree whole heartily because we continue to hear the great things this department does, but it seems like we get the end of the rope, with Parks and Recreation covering so many areas and all, so a meeting where we can be supportive, where you'd know that we have your back I have no problems with that.

Kevin Hawkins stated we know you have our backs.

Commissioner Smith stated we just want to know what each individual division needs and prioritize them so when our Council people come to us or when we go to them, we can thoroughly give them the low down, Commissioner Agee.

Commissioner Agee stated my opposition on that is I don't have any problem with the Commission wanting to see the budget. If I saw the budget I probably wouldn't know what it was about in the first place. What I look at is when I go into the parks and see whether or not the parks are being taken care of. If the parks are being taken care of and we are getting things done, then I feel like the money is being spent right. But we had the bid on the restrooms at Vincent Park for \$850,000 and I opposed it and we got on for \$523,000. I will support it if you want to see the budget, but from my own personal opinion, I think staff is quite capable of doing the right thing.

Commissioner Smith stated we are not questioning their capabilities; it is part of our responsibilities as Commissioners. Can I get a motion on the floor?

Commissioner Brown stated Madam Chair, I'd like to move that we have a budget review with the staff so that we can give our support and input in terms of the upcoming budget for the new fiscal year.

Commissioner Agee stated I second.

Commissioner Smith stated it's been moved and second Kevin, that we have a special meeting before it is submitted to the City.

Unfinished Business

None.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Agee asked now I can talk about what I want to talk about?

Commissioner Smith stated yes.

Commissioner Agee stated number one, getting back to Martin Luther King's birthday. I want you to know I support any involvement as far as the kids are concerned – 200%, that is what it's about. My problem with what is taking place this year, is far as I'm concern is it is very political. If it's broken, fix it and it's not broken don't. We've got the same play all over again, so why was it changed in the first place.

My second complaint is the Christmas Tree Lighting.

Commissioner Smith stated your second comment right?

Commissioner Agee stated yes. Last year I commented about the same thing. My personal opinion is we are out there to judge the Christmas tree lighting. It is getting too political. The City Councilmen are using it to campaign, some of the Commissioners going into people's houses inviting them to come out. The Commissioner said to one lady what's the matter are you scared to come out. I don't understand this. That's not what the Commission is for, as far as I'm concerned. We are out there to judge the Christmas lights, get off and walk up and down the sidewalk, make our decision and get back on the bus and on to the next house. That didn't happen here. I'm the only one voting. If you want to keep it that way, you have the votes to do it. But my personal opinion is crossing the line with the Parks Commission, it shouldn't be political. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee, Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Brown stated no comment.

Commissioner Smith stated since there are no further business or comments, we will adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.