

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, June 1, 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., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Irlanda Ordonez – District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Acting Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Stephanie Baltazar, Administrative Aide
Sikizi Allen, Senior Center Manager
Teresa Estrada, Cultural Supervisor
Rita Gardner, Parks Superintendent
Carmen Lopez, Acting Senior Code Enforcement Officer

Public Comments

Nancy Cryder stated I'm here to discuss Center Park. There are signs posted that say you can not play soccer at anytime at Center Park. We've had more soccer games there every night for the past 3 years. I have complained to everyone, but it seems like no one is going to do anything about it. Why do you have signs up? You need to give the soccer teams a place to play. There is no place for them. We had 75 people over there on Monday playing soccer and you ask them who their coach is and they say they don't know. No one answers me and yet 10 balls get kicked against my house. Every time they are over there they break things constantly. But yet no one does anything about it. I've complained for 3 years that it says no soccer games, but we have them over there constantly. Why can't we have someone there to say hey you don't belong here get off our field or something? But right now you guys don't do anything just put up signs and let everyone do what they want to do. They tell the homeowners to stay put. I've been cussed out so many times and I'm tired of it. I've lived there for a long, long time and I think it's really sad that the people are ruining our parks. I thank you for your time.

Commissioner Smith stated I didn't want to interrupt you, but I didn't get your name.

Nancy Cryder stated my name is Nancy Cryder and I reside at 3661 W. 111th Street right across the street from the park.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you for your comments. Any further public comments?

None.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion for the approval of the minutes from April 6, 2006 was made by Commissioner Giardina and seconded by Commissioner Agee.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated good evening Commissioners. We will move right along with the agenda and go right into the Director's Report. As we do every month, we have our very capable staff here who will be speaking to the various division activities. So let's start off with Ms. Estrada who is staring at me with a don't start with me look. Teresa Estrada will speak on the Recreation Division.

Teresa Estrada stated good evening everyone. Teresa Estrada, Cultural Supervisor for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Memorial Day Celebration

On Monday, May 29, the City held the 58th Annual Memorial Day Service here at City Hall. The City was honored to have Brigadier General Ellen Pawlikowski from the Los Angeles Air Force Base Space and Missile Systems Center to serve as the keynote speaker for the event. More than 200 residents, their family and friends, came out to pay tribute to the nation's heroic servicemen and women.

Inglewood Idol II

On May 12, Herman Browne, Melody Boyd, Jeffery Givens and the Boys and Girls Club participant's hard work and dedication made way for an outstanding evening for the community. Inglewood Idol III took place at Rogers Park and went over without a glitch. Performances ranged from tap dancers to praise dancers. The event was very successful and next year's event is promised to be even better.

Youth Basketball

On Saturday, June 3rd, the youth basketball Prep and Junior divisions will have their championship games. The games will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Darby Park and all are invited to attend.

Also happening this weekend June 3rd & 4th, over 20 kids will represent the City of Inglewood in the Hershey's Invitational and the SCMAF track meets. The events will be held in San Bernardino and Long Beach. All the youth who will be representing the city have worked extremely hard and we wish them well.

Pre-School Graduation

On Thursday, June 8th, the Early Childhood Education Program will host their annual Pre-School Graduation. The graduation will take place at Darby Park at 11:00 a.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

Summer – Busy Months

The Department is currently accepting applications for Summer Day Camp. Camp will be held at Rogers, Darby, and Ed Vincent Parks and also at Lockhaven Community Center. Camp is offered in two-four week sessions. The first session will run from June 26-July 21 and the second session will run from July 24-August 18. Camp hours are Monday thru Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and extended day care is available for an additional cost from 7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. before camp and after camp from 4:00 p.m-6:00 p.m. The cost is \$200 for residents and \$216 for non-residents. The cost for extended childcare is \$49 for residents and \$56 for non-residents.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department will once again offer a five-week summer performing arts camp at the Inglewood Playhouse. The camp is designed for youth (ages 5-18) interested in performing arts. Professional artists will instruct the youth on voice, dance and acting. Camp will take place from July 6-August 5. Students will meet twice a week; Thursday from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person. Camp will conclude with a special outdoor performance in the Edward Vincent Jr. Park Amphitheater on Saturday, August 5, 2006.

Baseball Sign Ups

Youth baseball sign-ups will begin on Monday, June 5 at Rogers, Darby and Ed Vincent Park. Registration is open to all boys and girls ages 5-14. The cost is \$30 for residents and \$34 for non-residents.

Swimming Pool

The Ed Vincent Jr. Park Swimming Pool is scheduled to open its doors for the summer on Monday, June 26. The pool will open for general swim 7 days a week from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The park will also offer weekly swim lessons. The classes will be offered from Tuesday through Friday at 9:30, 10:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Weekly sessions run for two consecutive weeks and each child will get a total of eight lessons. The minimum age requirement is 7 years of age. Adult only swim lessons will also be offered. These classes will be held on Saturday mornings. The cost per session is \$10 for residents and \$14 for non-residents. The registration will begin on Monday, June 5.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much Teresa. As you know since this meeting will be broadcasted, I'd like to share with everyone that in case any additional information is needed regarding any of these activities you can call 310-412-8700, that's the city's Cultural Office. Thank You Teresa.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Teresa and Sabrina. Are there any questions for Teresa?

Commissioner Agee stated I'd just like to say, you are doing a very good job but there's one other class that I've been thinking about, the one that Milton Brown taught.

Teresa Estrada stated yes, he is offering a digital video camp and it will be held over at the library lecture hall. I don't have the exact dates.

Sabrina Barnes stated it begins the second week of July. It is open to high school aged children, but Mr. Brown will accept children of a younger age if they have willingness and a desire to commit to the program. It's going to take place on Saturdays at 9 a.m. You can clarify that by calling the office and it is free. One of the local businesses has given their support to the program, so unlike last year we are not charging the students. We are looking for 20 students, but I'm sure we can twist Milton's arm to take about 25 or so, but right not our initial number for the program is 20.

Teresa Estrada stated and if I may add, as part of a project, they will film an actual live performance. This they will do in conjunction with Summer Performing Arts Camp who will be having the live performance on August 5th, the digital video camp will actually film the entire show.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Teresa Estrada stated and thank you for saying I do a wonderful job, I appreciate that.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee, Commissioner Ordonez?

Commissioner Ordonez stated I don't have any questions at this moment, but I do appreciate everything you are doing.

Commissioner Giardina stated I would just like to concur; you guys are doing a wonderful job, thank you.

Teresa Estrada stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated same sentiments.

Commissioner Smith stated Sabrina; I'm turning it back over to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. Just a quick note, I wanted to thank Commissioner Brown who attended the Memorial Day Celebration in full uniform. Thank you very much for your support, and for Commissioner Agee who was also there. We missed the other Commissioners, but we knew your hearts were there.

We are going to move on to our next portion of our presentation. We will have Sikizi Allen speak on Human Services.

Sikizi Allen stated good evening.

First I'd like to say that yesterday we celebrated Older Americans Day and we honored all of our 90 year old seniors. We had 15 seniors that were 90 years old.

Commissioner Brown suggested the phrase 90 years young.

Sikizi Allen stated 90 years young and it was a real highlight to honor 15, 90 year olds. The oldest male was 99 and the oldest female was 98.

Secondly I'd like to speak on the mural project. Skip Halloran who is overseeing the mural project has received contributions from some of the community. There is a \$15,000 contribution that if received, it will go on the permanent dedication of the mural project. The project is going well. The students are working on identifying costumes that they will wear and display at the dedication of the mural.

Update on the Relocation of the Senior Center

On May 23, 2006, a meeting was held to coordinate the logistics of the move between Recreation, Parks and the Human Services staff. The group will meet again on June 6, 2006. We are trying to tie down a schedule, which depends on Council's approval of a funding strategy. In order to know exactly how much space we will have at the Vet's, we will have field trips every Friday beginning June 2, at 9 a.m. until the building is evacuated, to measure and lay out the space inside and out. On May 23, 2006, staff had a walk through with ITC regarding possible temporary space for care management and administration at 101 N. La Brea.

We met with two senior groups on May 28th and we talked about the funding strategies for the relocation and the intergenerational community center project. We talked about intergenerational housing which is a new aspect to the seniors. They embraced the concept with some discussion. They agreed that they can go along with that idea and that they have 2 years to look at the bugs because they have some concerns about what type of age restrictions it will have. We are talking about young kids, teenage kids, and seniors who are raising grandchildren. Those are the kinds of concerns that they raised, but they feel in general that this is something that they can go ahead and support.

On June 13th there will be a meeting with the Mayor and Council Members to decide on the funding strategy for this entire project. Once that is decided, we will have the approval to move further and complete the transition of the relocation to the Veteran's Building, the transit center on Market Street for Transportation and we are still looking for housing for the Administrative and Integrated Care Management staff. We did a walk through at 101 N. La Brea to see if that would work for us, but everything is up in the air until we have approval.

County Contracts

We are looking for nutrition contracts from the County. Everything is as is. We've received 17 additional meals that are from the previous fiscal year. However, the county will have our Integrated Care Management program on a month to month contract for six months until we are ready to pay off the RFP (request for proposal) contract. That contract should start January 2007, however working with a month to month contract for the next six months; the funding will remain the same. It will remain the same as last years funding until they decide what they are going to do. So we are kind of just stuck with that, but we're working with it. Any questions?

Commissioner Brown stated I've heard a lot of discussion about the intergenerational program in terms of housing and there are some concerns in terms of age range, music and those kinds of things like that. I think those kinds of things can be worked out and I see that as something we can be very proud of.

Sikizi Allen stated we recognize that there are 6 senior housing facilities that are age restricted and they are concerned about affordable housing in the City, so they were open to working with the intergenerational concept.

Commissioner Giardina stated I just think that this is very exciting and I think that an intergenerational center is necessary. So many times we go away and I think it is very important that they bond and make sure that they interact and so I'm very excited about it.

Commissioner Agee stated I want to congratulate you. You know I kind of hang around there sometimes because I'm a senior citizen myself. You have some happy faces up there that want to see this intergenerational housing happen because we have to learn how to get along together both old and young. I think that is one of the biggest problems we have now, there is so much separation between the old and the young. The young is supposed to learn from the old. If they can't get together, how can they teach us? I hope this would happen all over the city. You've got some of the sweetest senior citizens up there and I can name a few of them. I'm proud of you and I'd hate the thought of losing you but one day we might. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Smith stated don't say that Commissioner Agee, we don't want to lose her. I want to thank you for keeping us abreast of what's going on with the senior center and thanks for a thorough report as usual.

Sikizi Allen stated you are welcome, thank you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much. Next we are going to have a representative from Community Services, Carmen Lopez. Prior to Carmen speaking I would like to share with you effective yesterday, the Traffic and SEO part of our section was returned to the Police Department. So we will not have that particular part at our future meetings. But I just wanted to acknowledge them for the outstanding work that they do. I'll now turn it over to Carmen Lopez.

Carmen Lopez stated good evening everyone; I am Carmen Lopez from the Code Enforcement Division. I really don't have a lot to report on this evening; however I would like to let you know that we have been receiving an increased number of complaints regarding illegal street vending. So what we have done is modified our work schedule to have a 7 day enforcement. Since we started at the beginning of May, we have had a big difference. In the beginning we encountered approximately 28 vendors the first weekend, and since then the numbers have decreased to approximately 7 vendors.

Since our Superintendent retired on April 27, 2006, some of us including myself have been working double duties. I'm looking forward to things getting back to normal, hopefully within the next week, as we should be welcoming a new Code Enforcement Manager.

I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Carmen. Any questions Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated yes Carmen; I would like to know if Code Enforcement is responsible for political signs posted on city property.

Carmen Lopez stated actually we are. The people who are in charge of removing them is Public Works. We actually call Public Works and have them remove them. Do you have a specific address where they are located?

Commissioner Agee stated I do but, I won't tell you but it should be taken care of. I was under the impression that this was under Code Enforcement.

Carmen Lopez stated yes, it is reported to us and we call Public Works and have them remove it.

Commissioner Agee stated ok.

Commissioner Brown stated just one comment. I did get a chance to speak with Ms. Jackson when she was here and it was concerning District 4 she speedily took care of the situation and that made me feel quite well. That was a situation and we were both in line with each other that this particular business was out of compliance with trucks.

Carmen Lopez stated I know exactly what you are talking about.

Commissioner Brown stated Brakemasters at Crenshaw and 110th.

Carmen Lopez stated yes, they still have two trucks.

Commissioner Brown stated I had heard they were supposed to move the two trucks by the 2nd, but he still has several trucks there.

Carmen Lopez stated yes, we are aware of that. We've already issued them another notice, so they have been advised.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Carmen. Back over to you Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. Last, but certainly not least, we are going to hear from our Parks Administration Superintendent and she will be addressing one of the issues or concerns you had the month before last regarding the capital improvement project.

Rita Gardner stated good evening Commissioners. First I'd like to start off with our tree section. I'd like to go over our tree trimming schedule for the month of June which can also be viewed on our website.

District 1

67th Street between Park Avenue and Long Street
2nd Avenue between Century and Arbor Vitae

In District 2

East Hargrave Street from Brett Street to North Welton Way
East Brett Street from Field Avenue to North Welton Way

District 3

Isis Avenue from Hillcrest Boulevard to Arbor Vitae Street
Glassgow Avenue from Hillcrest Boulevard to Arbor Vitae Street
Inglewood Avenue between Century Boulevard and Arbor Vitae Street

District 4

1st Avenue between 102nd Street and 104th Street
Atkinson Avenue to Wilkie Avenue between 109th and 111th Street

Again, this can be viewed on our website.

In April, 2006 our 5th crew was reinstated into our division. Unfortunately, because of our tower trucks being down, we have not been able to implement our crew. Our tower trucks have been down because they did not pass the safety check. We are waiting for parts to come in and they should be back up and operating by next week and we hope to have our 5th crew out. We are going to prioritize what the 5th crew will be doing. We will probably have them trim the trees in the parks. We'll have them trim the trees around Vincent Park then have them move on to Siminski Park. We have some crews that are trimming the backside of Rogers Park. I don't know if you have seen that, but there are some dead limbs that are falling because of the wind.

I'd like to move on to the soccer renovation policy that we are waiting for our Director to approve. It will be an annual renovation policy. What I'd like to say at this point is that it is tentative as we are waiting for the approval. Once we have the approval of our Director then we will post it on our website. What we plan to do is have the soccer field at Vincent Park renovated twice a year as well as the multipurpose field at Darby Park. We don't want to have any play interferences so we will keep soccer field open to defer some of the groups to the open fields while we are renovating the other two fields. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated I understand that you say you are going to renovate the soccer fields at Vincent Park, where are the soccer players going to play?

Rita Gardner stated that is correct. We will probably move them to our softball field, which is what we did this last year. We will try to coordinate the renovation of the soccer fields. I will tell you tentatively, we didn't have any problems and we want to follow that same schedule. We have another plan for the players to use the softball fields when they are not being used by the softball players.

Commissioner Agee stated to my understanding soccer destroys turf really bad.

So if you move the soccer players from the soccer fields on to the baseball diamonds, then they will destroy the baseball diamonds. Where are the football fields? We don't have any football fields in the City of Inglewood. Football is one of the oldest sports we have in this country. The field is not leveled and Center Park has been taken over by the soccer players. It doesn't seem like we are going to do anything about it. It is time for some action. Soccer does not own this city. These parks are owned by every citizen in the City of Inglewood, not all the soccer players. I think it is about time we that we stop bending over backwards to satisfy the soccer players and let's do something for the football players and the baseball players in the city because they are important too. As far as I'm concerned, I've been fighting for the last five years. I have nothing against soccer. I don't see how the City of Inglewood keeps spending money to protect and supply soccer fields for soccer players. Those who are playing in the fields don't even speak English. You go over to Center Park and they don't speak english. These parks are for the citizens of Inglewood and I'd like to see them used by the citizens of Inglewood or maybe close them down. Thank you.

Commissioner Giardina asked are you through Rita?

Rita Gardner stated no, I was just trying to find out if you had any questions on this particular issue.

Commissioner Brown stated this always seems to be a very hot issue. I don't even know how to resolve it. I'd personally like to see money. I heard there was some money for a _____ (inaudible), something like \$75,000, why aren't we looking at more space? That is what we need. I understand where Commissioner Agee is coming from but we need space and that is something we need to give some major consideration.

Rita Gardner stated all our charge is, to keep the parks green and clean and that is why we are trying to implement this policy that will allow us to keep our parks up. If we maintain it on a rotating basis, it should last and be aesthetically pleasing and safe for all players.

Commissioner Smith stated Rita you were saying that you are going to change the soccer players to the baseball fields when they are not playing. If the soccer players play on that field one day and tear it up and make holes in the field or whatever, is there a crew that is going to go out there and make sure the holes are not there before the baseball players take the field?

Rita Gardner stated absolutely. We are advising the groups that we are going to have renovation of various soccer or athletic fields and they will have to adhere to our policy. They will have to reschedule their games elsewhere. We are pre-advicing them and that's why we implement policies, so we can educate everyone in the community on these things that will take place. Hopefully, it shouldn't be a problem.

Commissioner Smith stated ok thank you. Can you make it short Commissioner?

Commissioner Agee stated we had a young lady who spoke tonight concerning Center Park and I'd like to get some answers from staff.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee that will come at the comment portion.

Commissioner Agee stated so long as they get the answers.

Commissioner Smith stated continue Rita.

Rita Gardner stated I'm going to report on our Capital Improvement Projects.

What we are faced with right now is we are going to have to carry over some of our projects that are in the current fiscal year to the next. Unfortunately our Public Works Department is inundated with so many of their own projects, that they have advised us that they may not be able to complete any of our capital improvement projects that are budgeted in this fiscal year. So we are going to carry over the following projects:

- The Ashwood Park Renovation of the fixtures basically providing for an upgrade of the restroom fixtures.
- Vincent Park Basketball Court Resurfacing.

Another project that may or may not, hopefully, will be the Vincent Park Restroom Construction Demolition Project. We received a note from Public Works that the plans and specifications have been submitted by the contractor Romtec. They are going to go up to the Planning Commission for review on June 7th. Once that takes place, they also need to be approved by the Building and Safety Division as well as from the LA County Fire Department. Hopefully it will be completed before this years' Jazz Festival. However if not, we will make sure that it will be carried over to our new fiscal year.

Projects that are going to come into the new fiscal year are going to be funded by the 2002 Resources Bond Act. We went before Commission and sought your approval and the projects that you did approve are the restroom construction at Siminski Park, Siminski Park interior improvements, replacement of wind screens various parks and the Circle Park water feature. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Giardina asked can you elaborate on the last part of your report, you mentioned the restrooms at Siminski Park.

Rita Gardner stated the Siminski Park improvements calls for interior improvements. For example, they will upgrade carpet, window treatments and other interior repairs and replacement of all windscreens at the tennis courts located at various parks.

Last but not least, the Circle Park water feature which is providing for installation of a water fountain.

Commissioner Agee asked can I be recognized Chair?

Commissioner Giardina stated and so those particular ones are actually going to be budgeted?

Rita Gardner stated yes, for fiscal year 06/07.

Commissioner Giardina stated fine, thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated judging from what you just said, it seems like the majority of the projects are going to be cancelled with the exception of the renovation of the soccer fields.

Rita Gardner stated they are going to be carried over, meaning that they will be deferred into the next fiscal year. The soccer field renovation is going to be done by the Park Maintenance crew. Public Works will be able to handle the capital improvement projects. The renovation of all the soccer fields and athletic fields is a project that is ongoing for our Park Maintenance section; it is not considered a capital improvement project. This is an in house item that is part of our routine to keep us green and clean.

Commissioner Agee stated I have a problem with this. It seems to me that we have spent over a million and a half dollars on soccer fields in the last 8 or 10 years.

Rita Gardner stated that is not true.

Commissioner Agee stated we have spent zero on baseball diamonds and on football fields. Something is not adding up to me.

Sabrina Barnes stated if I may Commissioner Agee, regarding our football fields, we have a multipurpose field at Darby Park that we have designated for football. We don't have a specific football stadium. In the event we need to utilize or make space available for football, we often use the soccer field at Vincent Park for Junior All American. The seasonal sport takes priority. So as you look towards the latter part of the summer you will see Junior All American doing their routines and drills on the soccer field. We try to maintain a level of playing fields as best we can.

We realize that some of our resources in terms of soccer and baseball may not be what we want it to be because of course we always want more. But even just at Darby Park earlier in the year, the ball diamond was down so it could be refreshed and replenished. The soccer fields are maintained because they do take the bulk of the wear and tear. It is a year round sport. But as with our policy the seasonal sport is given priority.

Rita Gardner stated I'd like to add to that. We do prepare baseball diamond fields as well. We do maintain all the fields prior to the openings. Our crew is out there renovating fields and preparing for each season.

Commissioner Smith stated so we can cut this short, will you do me a favor because I'm a little concerned as well and we do talk about soccer a lot. Can you get the figures of what we spent on baseball, soccer and football fields for the last how many years Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated for the last 10 years.

Commissioner Smith stated not that far back, but let's say the last 4 or 5 years.

Commissioner Agee stated no, no. You have to go back further than that, because they spent over a million dollars to put the soccer fields in at Vincent Park.

Commissioner Smith asked do you have those readily at hand where all of us can have a copy by the next couple of weeks or so?

Rita Gardner stated I'd like to interject one thing. What we did is we went to Council a couple of years ago and we tried to get them to approve the renovation of our soccer field using county money because we do have funds that are readily available for maintenance and servicing the projects that have been completed and funded by the county. It was shot down and what Council asked staff to do was research funding sources to install artificial turf. So we did not spend any money to renovate that field.

Sabrina Barnes stated we will look at 5 years in terms of the maintenance and the cost.

Commissioner Smith stated and where those funds came from.

Sabrina Barnes stated the funding sources, cost for maintaining the fields and the cost of the installation of the soccer field.

Commissioner Smith stated corrected. Commissioner Agee is that it?

Commissioner Agee stated I'm on the fields everyday, I walk across them and I know what the fields are like and I wouldn't want my kids playing on the field.

Commissioner Smith stated you may continue Rita.

Rita Gardner stated that was it.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Rita very much. Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much. That concludes our report. I'd like to speak, if it's appropriate to do so, as far as Commissioner Agee asking for answers for the community or would you like me to wait?

Commissioner Smith stated why don't you wait one moment. I want to make sure there are no non-agenda public items. Are there any non-agenda public comments?

Diane Sambrano stated good evening Commissioners, my name is Diane Sambrano. I am concerned that on this agenda if I were to speak to something that was on the agenda, how would I know if it was old or new business? Your descriptions don't allow me to know what is on the agenda other than old or new business which isn't really very well defined, though I do have a couple of comments. It sounds like you've already talked about at length a couple of soccer issues. I live across the street from Center Park and every single day on Monday thru Friday and sometimes on Saturday and Sunday we have approximately 150-175 people playing soccer even though there is no soccer field. Unfortunately, I'm not opposed to soccer, I'm not opposed to baseball, football or any other sport. But when one group whoever it is, chooses to monopolize it and not allow any of the other groups, I do have an issue. On top of that, it is my understanding that they don't pay any fees there. At least that is what the non-coach told me because when you go and ask for the coaches, there isn't one because the sign says organized. They misrepresent that. In the past when staff would go and ask where do you guys live, they would point at my house. None of them do the dishes, the lawn or pay rent, so I have an issue with that misrepresentation as well because I know they don't live at my house. Additionally, I have an issue with the rudeness towards the residents in the community. When the balls do go over the fence, they are rude to an assortment of residences not just one or two, but all of the residents. We do have neighbors who have had their lights broken, windows broken and everyone claims it's not their fault. We have all lived by that park for 50 years, 40 years, and 30 years. In the past, groups did say oh we are sorry but this particular group cusses out the person who is suffering a loss to their property. So that does concern me, but I would hope that we would establish a way to make it fair that all groups who want to participate do pay as opposed to some do and some don't.

I was made aware of another issue at Rogers Park recently because I have made a comment in the past, I'm sorry it's at Vincent Park. One of the fences behind the baseball courts seems like if I was running to catch the ball and if I were to run into it, that pole would hit me in the back. Some of those kids are as small as I am. Now I come to find out that one child was in fact hurt. But because he signed the \$2 waiver, apparently it didn't go anywhere and that kid suffered a ruptured spleen. Now, none of his siblings play ball anymore. That concerns me, because I don't know how often that does happen. Maybe it should be checked into that all injuries are reported so that we do fix the problem, rather than have more injured children. And then I have another issue.

Commissioner Smith stated Ms. Sambrano can you please wrap it up.

Diane Zambrano stated I sure will. I'm going to suggest if you have a free Sunday on June 11th that you attend the Historical Society's BBQ fundraiser. It's always a fun, adventurous event. You'll get to learn about Inglewood, Lawndale, Hawthorne and all the places that use to belong to Daniel Freeman before it was subdivided. Please come out June 11, from noon to 3 p.m. Thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Ms. Sambrano. Sabrina you can comment on that now.

Sabrina Barnes stated first off, thank you Ms. Sambrano for the information regarding the child and the incident that took place at Rogers Park, that has not come across my desk but I will check with staff to see if that was reported and verify if it was a city activity. Typically if it is a non-city activity, we may not know about it. But this is an incident we would definitely want to know about, so thank you for reporting that.

Regarding activity over at Center Park, I do want to concur with everyone; this is nothing new, we deal with this issue all the time. Again our charge is to serve the community and strike a balance so that everyone has equal access to our parks and our recreation centers. As you know Center Park is not a staffed park per say, there is no recreation center there. Staff is not there from 8-5. We do operate our mobile recreation program there during a period of time; 2 days a week and staff is there. We also have been working with our Special Enforcement section to do the drive bys and to help us with the enforcement arm. We don't have our eyes there all the time. We also count on our residents such as the residents that are here today to bring things to our attention. We know that there is soccer play there, the field is not rented. That is one of our sites we don't rent, it's consider a neighborhood safe park. So there is no fee structure there. There are drop in activities and it is our charge to monitor the site. What we did also was to put people on the grounds. We would not say that's not appropriate, but we will do that if they are playing organized activity. We will go there, they have their uniforms on and you can actually tell that these are organized teams.

We invite your comments and suggestions on how you'd like for us to address this, but for right now we are enforcing it as we see it or as it's reported.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm going to speak before the rest of you. I think this should be a community thing where you get the community involved as well as the staff and you come up with a solution where they can help and fill in when the staff is not there. But they need to have a lot of input in this. We don't live there, we don't know what the situation is. They need to be the one's with the input.

Commissioner Giardina stated I believe that after listening to the concerns that this park seems to be routinely frequented and it appears to have an enormous amount of activity there. I'm just wondering if there couldn't be some sort of joint committee where in fact we'd meet with the residents, the commission as well as the department, and since there's not a fee schedule set up there and it is this popular spot, then maybe what we can do is possibly institute a fee and have someone possibly use that when there is some sort of vandalism that takes place at their home as far as the lights breaking. This possibly calls for us to create some sort of committee to have a hearing where you can fill out a paper to say their light was broken. When that happens, part of the fees can be used to help reimburse or help repair the damage created to the residents' home. It appears to be a wildly popular park, so if it's going to be frequented like that then maybe we can recoup some revenue and everyone would benefit from that. That's just a thought that we can toss around because I think the fact that if we may or may not like soccer being played, it is an extremely, extremely popular sport and it's just something that people want to do when they get off of work. Seeing this kind of traffic over there, we should try to capitalize on it. This can possibly get us started and create some sort of dialogue for it.

Commissioner Agee stated in reference to Center Park, it is a very organized sport. There is some gentleman that I've tried to get his name all week, but for some reason his name is not coming through. It is organized and they wear uniforms and like I said, they don't own the park. The park belongs to the citizens in that area and they should be able to enjoy and it's up to staff to make that happen. We have a police department, if they have to go down and arrest every one of them then that is what they should do if it's necessary. The people in that area, who have been paying taxes for many, many years, deserve some relief. I go there myself; I see what's going on. They are very organized and they are getting away with it for free without paying a dime. I suggest that you call the police and have them go in there and round them up and take them to jail or whatever. It's time for them to stop, those people need some relief.

Commissioner Brown stated as interesting as it is, we are talking about a park. It's amazing to me that there are no fees and there should be fees at the park because of how it's being abused. They've done sodding, they've put up signs.

I have to agree with Commissioner Agee, there should be some relief. I do know that Ms. Sambrano and her group in that area monitor that park quite well and they have brought this matter to Council's attention year in and year out. Nothing really seems to have been addressed. We do have the Lockhaven Facility there so if we need to have a meeting with all the residents, we can. Basically it's time to find out who this group is that is playing there who do not even live in our area. They are passing up other parks where they know they would have to pay.

Commissioner Ordonez stated I basically agree with all the Commissioners and I believe that the safety of our residents is very important. There should be ways of organizing something, monitoring and implementing fees there.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Ordonez. Any further business from the Director's Office?

Sabrina Barnes stated nothing further this evening.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. Ladies you have done an excellent job as usual.

New Business

Commissioner Ordonez stated I'd like to make an announcement. I'm sad to say I'm resigning my position as Commissioner. I'm very, very happy to have spent all this time here. The city gets together and does some great things and being able to have been a part of it was great. I am moving out of the City of Inglewood after 20 years. I'm getting married, so I feel in a way good and in a way sad because it seems like I was here for such a short time. I did see wonderful things and I am very happy to have been a part of this and I feel like crying. It was great working with all of you.

Commissioner Smith stated congratulations and I won't get on your case because that was supposed to be for comments, not new business. But that's ok, I know you are excited.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to say I really goofed. I had some people who I invited here and they really wanted to come and speak, but I told them 7 p.m. and it's 6 p.m. Is there any way the Chair can give them an opportunity to speak so that they can explain what they came for?

Commissioner Smith stated if the Commission doesn't have a problem with it.

Linda Gibson stated I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Linda Gibson, and I'm President of Inglewood All Junior American Football league. We've been a non-profit organization for nearly 40 years now.

One of the biggest problems that we have had is playing fields. For the last nearly 40 years we've had our games at Coleman Field which you know is owned and operated by IUSD, but my problem with that is they charge us nearly \$20,000 every year. In order for us to pay those prices we have to charge the parents, so we are looking at higher registration fees for the children. Also this year, our registration is down due to a new organization that has popped up by a well known gangster rapper who has started his own organization and his fees are competitive with ours. One of the biggest things we are asking this commission to look into is perhaps one day sometime soon provide us with an area where we can have our games. This would help be able to reconstruct our financial fees so it would be a little more economical for our boys and girls to play with us. Keep in mind we have over 700 girls and boys every Saturday that we keep off the street between July and December. That's 700 kids that live primarily in the City of Inglewood. We are here and have been part of the community for the last 40 years and we would like to continue to be a part of the community but now that times are changing we need to change as well. If we can recoup some of the money that we give to the student board and redirect it to the city and parks and recreation, this will really keep us going. Parks and Recreation is there for soccer and for baseball, there is even a new facility now for skate board riders, but there is nothing, nothing for football. As you know, football is a thriving sport. But like I said we have no other resources but to deal with the district, so I think if you guys can really keep that in mind and really think about the boys and girls who are playing football. We have a wonderful cheer program as well. There are a lot of good things that we are doing for the community and we would like you guys to help us continue to do them. I'd like to thank you all so much.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you for bringing this to our attention. Commissioner Agee happened to mention football earlier in the meeting so all of that is going to be addressed soon. Thank you for coming out.

Unfinished Business

Commissioner Agee stated I guess it's about time for me to shut up. I can say this.

Commissioner Smith stated I knew you couldn't do it.

Commissioner Agee stated you've made your statement and I support you 100%, I just want you to know that.

Linda Gibson stated you always have and I appreciate that.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Commissioner Smith stated I knew you didn't have it in you Commissioner Agee. Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated it's funny that the group had come in as we were just discussing one of our greatest needs and that is space. Don't think that it's just your concerns; it's all of our concerns. We will get together to come up with some kind of a solution so we can make it equal amongst all our sports. I'm a formal football player you know.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like to thank you for coming tonight. I think it is admirable what you do with the children. I believe we will certainly try to facilitate you. It's kind of like a beacon for us tonight, I think this is something that we need to look at and give our attention to see what we can do to at least try and make it valuable for the children to be able to have this as a resource. We appreciate your comments tonight and we will work on them.

Commissioner Smith stated well I think we've had commissioner's comments for unfinished business and everything out of order tonight.

Commissioner Brown stated we haven't been together for a while; we've got so much energy tonight.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm going to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., do I have a motion?

Commissioner Brown stated I move to have the meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Agee and Commissioner Giardina both seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS

1. Capital Improvement Update
2. Park Maintenance – North/South
3. Park Construction
4. Tree Maintenance/Street Landscaping

RECREATION

HUMAN SERVICES

1. Temporary Relocation of the Senior Center
2. Free Summer Lunch Program
3. SHAPE
4. Transportation Issues
5. Senior Center Activities
6. Be Well

COMMUNITY SERVICES