

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, January 4, 2007, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

## **Roll Call**

### **Present:**

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I  
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II  
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

### **Absent:**

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large  
Commissioner Raena Banks-Neal – District III

### **Staff:**

Danita Meshack-Maden, Assistant Director  
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary  
Stephanie Baltazar, Administrative Aide  
Alma Bryant, Code Enforcement Manager  
Michelle Jordan, Care Management Supervisor  
Ramon Mata, Parks Supervisor  
Arrick Tuner, Recreation Supervisor

## **Public Comments**

**Ms. Belle** (address P.O. Box 2763 Inglewood, CA 90305) stated I'm just a little confused with the agenda; it's not a format of a regular agenda.

Also, regarding the MLK celebration, your celebration is usually held on the same day as the City of Los Angeles' celebration and it is hard to run the kids from Inglewood to L.A. There needs to be more notification between the school district and the city. Thank you.

**Commissioner Brown** stated I serve on the MLK Committee and we do have a liaison from the Inglewood Unified School District, who is in the Martin Luther King Committee Meeting right now. So we do have communication between us and the school district.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

**Commissioner Smith** stated before we approve the minutes, I would like to have the upcoming items page moved from the back of the agenda package to the second page right behind the agenda.

A motion for the approval of the minutes from November 2, 2006 was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Giardina.

## **Director's Report**

**Danita Meshack-Maden** stated good evening Commissioners. My name is Danita Meshack-Maden and I am here on behalf of Kevin Hawkins. We will start off with Michelle Jordan who will be reporting out on our Human Services Division.

**Michelle Jordan** stated good evening.

### **Gifts from the Heart**

The generosity of the community, local businesses and city employees, afforded us the opportunity to provide food baskets and gifts for our most needy clients. The "Gifts from the Heart" Campaign made it possible for us to give gifts to 82 individuals that included senior citizens, disabled adults, caregivers of older adults, older adults taking care of senior citizens, disabled adults, caregivers of minor children and their families. In addition, 69 families received food packages.

The Inglewood Police Department; Marvin Engineering; Real Estate Broker James C. Simpson; Simply Wholesome; Frito-O-Lay; In-N-Out Burger and Randy's Donuts made special contributions.

Needless to say, with our community's collaborative effort the project was a tremendous success.

### **Partnership for Families (PFF)**

Through the Partnership for Families Grant, we were able to assist two pregnant women with housing and keep them and their children off the street.

### **Los Angeles Area Agency on Aging**

On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, staff distributed the L.A. County Seniors Count Survey to 52 senior participants at the Inglewood congregate meal program. Sikizi Allen assisted with the completion of thirty-seven (37) English and nine (9) Spanish surveys, while others took the survey home for completion and return to L.A. County.

Surveys were delivered to the Lennox meal program for distribution. Hawthorne received surveys directly from L.A. County Community and Senior Services. Surveys will remain available at the Inglewood Senior Center and the City Hall Kiosk until January 31, 2006.

The Managers of senior housing sites also agreed to assist by making surveys available to residents for completion.

**Michelle Jordan** stated thank you.

**Danita Meshack-Maden** stated I'll turn it over to Arrick Turner.

**Arrick Turner** stated good evening.

#### Recap of Holiday Activities

- The City's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held at City Hall on December 7, 2006.
- Tennis for Tot's was held at Vincent Park on December 9, 2006.
- Santa's Workshop was held at Darby Park on December 16, 2006.
- Rogers Park Toy Giveaway was held on December 22, 2006, and toys were distributed to over 500 children.

#### Boys and Girls Club

On Wednesday, November 22, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sergeant Franklin Spencer of the National Guard and President of Xplicit Ryderz M/C, in conjunction with the Rogers Park Boys and Girls Club hosted a Thanksgiving brunch for underprivileged families in the community. We were able to provide a nourishing meal with all the trimmings for over seventy families.

On Friday, December 22, 2006, the Rogers Park Boys and Girls Club, Inglewood Police Activity League, Paul Pierce of the Truth Foundation, and Beverly Hutchinson of Sister Spice Ministries provided over 500 children with gifts for Christmas at our Annual Toy Give-a-way.

#### Eight Days of Fun

December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>, Rogers and Darby Park offered Eight Days of Fun, a winter camp modeled after our summer camp.

#### Centennial Celebration Planning Committee

The Centennial Celebration Planning Committee held its first meeting on Monday, October 30, 2006. Meetings were also held in November and December.

The role of the Committee is to make recommendations and perform tasks related to the planning and execution of the Centennial Celebration event including, but not limited to the selection of theme logos and slogans, event types and locations, speakers, entertainment and fundraising. Noticeably absent was a representative from the Centinela Valley Historical Society (CVHS). Committee consensus was that an invitation be extended to CVHS to attend future meetings. A staff report to the Mayor and City Council Members detailing the planning efforts to date is scheduled for February 6 or 13, 2007, unless called for by Administration before that time.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8 at 12 p.m. in the Community Room.

### 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.

As part of the MOU, the Department committed to providing office space at the Veteran's Memorial Building – "Teddy Roosevelt" room (downstairs) – for use as a headquarters for IPAL administrative and program operations.

It is anticipated that occupancy of the building for programming will begin no later than March 1, 2007. Discussions about relocating Senior Center programs and activities are underway. Staff advised PAL representatives that the City would have to delay occupancy pending completion of relocation efforts.

Since March 1, Department staff has worked with PAL to conduct joint programs such as field trips and the annual boxing show. On November 1, access to the Teddy Roosevelt Room was given to PAL. Overall, the full intent of the MOU has not been achieved and the Department is still interested in working with the organization.

The recommendation is to extend the MOU for 1 year. The current MOU expired on December 31, 2006. We anticipate this will be presented to the Mayor and Council Members on January 23. We would like for your concurrence.

**Arrick Turner** stated thank you.

**Commissioner Brown** asked when is the Centennial Celebration going to take place?

**Alma Bryant** stated in 2008.

**Commissioner Brown** stated I'd just like to comment about MLK. New this year to the celebration is a souvenir booklet, a fly over by the Goodyear blimp and additional press coverage.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked wasn't the IPAL MOU sent to Council in December?

**Sandra Green-Hilliard** stated there was no Council in December, so it was carried over to January.

**Danita Meshack-Maden** stated I'll now turn it over to Alma Bryant our Code Enforcement Manager.

**Alma Bryant** stated Happy New Year.

#### Vendor Task Force

Vendor Task Forces that took place in December were very successful. Nine tickets were given and three people were arrested. The dates of the task force were: December 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., December 4, 7, 12, 14, 18 and 21 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., December 9 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and December 23 from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### Graffiti Email

We now have a new service available when the graffiti hotline voicemail is full. Residents can now report graffiti by emailing the information to the new graffiti email address which is [graffitihotline@cityofinglewood.org](mailto:graffitihotline@cityofinglewood.org).

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I'd like to applaud everyone for the work they have done on getting the graffiti cleaned up. I've been diligently calling the graffiti hotline and the turn around has been just a matter of hours. Please pass that on to them. Thank you and I really appreciate them.

**Commissioner Brown** stated kudos to Parks and Recreation, because as always you continue to go above and beyond the call of duty and with such a minimal budget. It's like you are working 24 hours a day. I know there are merchants on Crenshaw who are really happy with your work and how well the graffiti crew color matches the wall. Please commend your guys for us.

**Commissioner Smith** asked Mr. Turner, were you asking for concurrence on the IPAL agreement?

**Danita Meshack-Maden** stated yes, we need your concurrence to extend the MOU with IPAL for another year.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked wasn't there a motion made and passed at the last meeting?

**Sandra Green-Hilliard** stated yes, but there was no Council.

*Commissioner Giardina made a motion to extend the MOU with IPAL for another year. Commissioner Brown seconded and all were in favor.*

**Commissioner Smith** stated I was at the Senior Center and I noticed that the kitchen in the basement is not being used.

**Danita Meshack-Maden** stated I'll let Michelle address that question.

**Michelle Jordan** stated the kitchen in the basement is not a commercial kitchen; it does not have the equipment needed and can not accommodate the blast freezer.

**Commissioner Smith** asked the kitchen is not being utilized at all?

**Michelle Jordan** stated no, the food is catered and brought in on a daily basis as opposed to us cooking it.

**Commissioner Smith** asked how long will the seniors be there?

**Danita Meshack-Maden** stated we don't know.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I have a question regarding the Center Park water feature.

**Dania Meshack-Maden** stated Ramon Mata can go ahead and report on that.

**Ramon Mata** stated good evening.

#### Capital Improvement Projects

- Vincent Park Restroom Construction – Teresa Kneedler is the Project Manager.
- Public Works will assign a project manager for the following projects:
  - Ashwood Park Restroom Renovation
  - Vincent Park Basketball Court Resurfacing
  - Siminski Park Restroom Construction
  - Siminski Park Building Improvements
  - Circle Park Water Feature Installation/Construction

#### Tree Maintenance

A copy of the current tree trimming schedule has been distributed.

**Ramon Mata** stated thank you.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked who is the project manager for Circle Park?

**Ramon Mata** stated Public Works is still in the process of appointing one.

**Commissioner Giardina** asked who can give me more information regarding the project?

**Ramon Mata** stated Public Works.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

#### Minutes Addendum

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I was reading over the minutes and saw that Commissioner Agee spoke about surveying the Circle Park area and found that the seniors are not interested in the water feature being installed at Circle Park. That is not true; the seniors in that area are extremely excited about the project and can't wait.