The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, June 7, 2007, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large Commissioner Norma Smith, Chairperson – District II Commissioner Raena Banks-Neal – District III

Late:

Commissioner Brenda J. Payne - District I

Absent:

Commissioner Henry Brown, Vice Chair – District IV

Staff:

Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary Alma Bryant, Code Enforcement Manager Rita Gardner, Parks Administration Superintendent Mario Smith, Recreation Supervisor Michelle Jordan, Program Specialist

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Agee made a motion and was seconded by Commissioner Neal-Banks. Motion Carried.

Rita Gardner stated good evening commissioners.

Capital Improvement Projects

Vincent Park Restroom Construction Project – Public Works staff (our project manager) has concerns regarding the roof. The roof is not meeting their specifications and they may need to have the contractor redo the roof. It is going to delay the project, they have until August 12th for their construction period but hopefully we will be able to have the restrooms completed before the Summer Jazz Festival.

- The Girl Scout Building Demolition Project Public Works is getting ready to go out to bid for the demolition. The awarding of the bid will probably take place sometime in mid-July, the awarding of the contractor may happen in August. I believe that the demolition won't happen until after October because they won't start anything before this process.
- Circle Park Water Feature Installation Project Public Works is working on plans and specifications. We've had some contractors go out to look at the electrical panel that needs to be replaced. We are looking at maybe a cost estimate of about \$2,000 to \$3000 to replace that electrical panel. We've had some people from Fish Electric come out and take measurements to see how much it would cost. We are basing this on the size of the water fountain that we are going to be placing.
- Playground Rubber Matting We are trying to get the contractor from Miracle to come out; we are in critical need of replacing the rubber matting. We have identified some potential funding through the Maintenance and Servicing from the L.A County Safe Neighborhood and Park Propositions.
- Vincent Park Fields we opened up field "B" this Monday. We closed field "A," which is close to the Amphitheater. Field A will be shut down until mid-July. We are going to reseed it so that by the time the Summer Jazz Festival takes place; there will be nice green turf. We are also going to shut down field "B," which is close to Florence Avenue, and it will be shut down from August 6 to September 9 so that we can reseed after the Summer Jazz Festival. We are going to have both fields open for play and we will maintain the fields once a week, so we are going to be notifying the participants that one day a week we will be closing it for maintenance.

Commissioner Smith stated any questions or comments? Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated no comments.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Payne?

Commissioner Payne stated no comments.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Banks?

Commissioner Banks stated no comments.

Tree Section

The tree trimming schedule is as follows:

District 1: We are working from 8th Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard on West 81st and West 82nd Street; District 2 from East Welton Way to North Long Street on Hyde Park and Hazel Street; District 3 from West Arbor Vitae to West Hardy Street on South Truro Avenue and West Manchester Boulevard to West Arbor Vitae from Inglewood Avenue down; and District 4 from Yukon Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard on West 106th Street and also on West 107th Street. They are also trimming the Chinese Elms on Hudspeth between Spinning and Ardath Avenue.

Today the crew planted trees city-wide and they are also maintaining the trees in the yard. We have a lot of trees that we are getting ready to plant. We are also assisting in the mural project and we are going to be planting trees at Grevillea Art Park.

Commissioner Agee stated what about the tree planting for the Centennial Celebration?

Rita Gardner stated our Director asked us to come up with projects for the Centennial Celebration and the Tree Section said that they will start planting a total of 100 trees on Century Boulevard in commemoration of our Centennial Celebration.

Commissioner Agee stated can you tell me where?

Rita Gardner stated it will go from Crenshaw all the way up to the 405 freeway. They will be planting trees along the parkways.

Commissioner Agee stated very good.

Commissioner Banks stated what kind of trees?

Rita Gardner stated we will go with our recommendation from our tree master plan so I have to check because they recommend certain trees in certain areas.

Commissioner Smith stated you mentioned repairing of sidewalks. Are they still going to put down that black asphalt?

Rita Gardner stated yes, that is supposed to be like a re-patch before they actually remove the sidewalk and re-concrete it.

Commissioner Smith stated o.k. so they are going to remove that black asphalt.

Rita Gardner stated they are trying to remove any patches to prevent tripping. As soon as it is ready for the pouring of concrete, they will grind it down and smooth it out then pour the concrete.

Commissioner Smith stated the reason I am mentioning this is because my neighbors have several patches along the sidewalk.

Rita Gardner stated now, we will go to recreation. Mario, Supervisor of the Eastside facilities will be giving the presentation.

Mario Smith stated good evening. Once again, my name is Mario Smith; I will be speaking on behalf of Recreation. I will start off with our upcoming programs.

Summer Day Camp

Our Summer Day Camp will begin on June 25th. Respective parks, we will be doing something new this year. The theme for Rogers Park is going to be "Be My Guest," part of that theme will be etiquette and social skills. They will plan an event and will serve dinner to their parents through the camp. They will also learn a lot of ways of how to plan an event, everything from printing the ticket to lighting up a show room for the event. Ed Vincent Park will be doing "Wide World of Sports," where they will do fundamental drills in baseball, basketball, football and soccer. Darby Park will be doing "Exploration Station," it will be an Earth and Natural Science Camp. The children will learn everything from recycling, insects and a lot more. Moving right along to our Mobile Recreation Program....

Mobile Recreation Unit

We have just received a new unit, the unveiling will be on July 4th at our 4th of July Celebration at Edward Vincent Park. Our new unit is equipped with baseballs, basketballs, soccer balls, arts & crafts equipment, board games and more. This will be taking the fun to the streets; the mobile unit is going to travel city-wide. Once it is up and active, with all due respect, all districts that do not have a community center within walking distance will have access to this park on wheels. I am very excited about this particular program because it is part of my responsibility and it is going to be my favorite. My staff is very excited about the program because there is going to be an added adult component, which is "Walk and Talk." The staff is going to start walking clubs in each respective district; they will engage the parents while their kids are playing in our whole recreation program. The parents can walk and talk throughout the parks with staff; and like I said it will be a walking club, it will encourage health and fitness. We are also putting together a party packet, where the respective block clubs can rent the mobile unit to come out to their block club and set-up arts & crafts, games and provide a small entertainment site for their block club.

Juneteenth Celebration

This Saturday June 9th, we will be having our first annual Juneteenth Celebration at Edward Vincent Park from 12 to 4. We are going to have a wide range of live entertainment at the Amphitheater; it is our first event but it is going to be a

wonderful celebration. Mr. Arrick Turner coordinated it and is very enthused about it. He has put together some nice acts so we welcome you to come and join us as we celebrate our first annual Juneteenth Celebration.

Baseball Registration

The cost for residents is \$30, for non-residents its \$34. We encourage all boys and girls to take the opportunity to come and participate. Staff will teach the fundamentals of baseball - hitting, catching and throwing. In the past the program has had great success with teaching kids the basic fundamentals of how to play the game correctly.

Swimming

Registration for swimming lessons will begin June 11th, 2007. Staff encourages all kids to come out and take advantage of this; they have to be at least 7 years of age. It will be held at Edward Vincent Park Pool. Lessons will be given from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information please call Edward Vincent Park; and that concludes our Recreation report.

Commissioner Smith stated very impressive list of summer activities.

Commissioner Agee stated I just want to congratulate you on your programs. I attended the pre-school graduation today, it was very nice!

Rita Gardner stated Mario can you report on the post event Memorial Day Celebration activities.

Mario Smith stated I was not forwarded the notes.

Rita Gardner stated ok. I just want to report on the Mobile Recreation Unit, in the past it has only been in District IV. This time you are going to see it all over the city, something that is going to be different. The Mobile Recreation Unit is going to be very exciting because it is going to be full of activities.

Michelle from our Human Services Division, would you like to report on your section?

Michelle Jordan stated good evening. I am Michelle Jordan, the Care Management Supervisor; I see the new faces on the Commission so I will tell you a little bit about what the Care Management Department does. I am the Care Manager Supervisor for the Inglewood Senior Center and our main objective is to assist seniors, disabled adults and caregivers of seniors and minors. We have a lot of grandparents who are now parents again for whatever various reasons, but we have experienced a lot of that. We help with the care givers; we try to stabilize seniors at home as much as possible and assist with their various

needs. Some may need transportation. We connect them to our Transportation Section; others may need meals for those that are home bound and we offer home-delivered meals and in some cases they may need shower chairs, or a bench, things of that nature. We have very high profile cases, where the senior is really at risk of harm to themselves or someone that is harming them. When we identify those cases, we contact Adult Protective Services and let they know there is a senior with the specific need. We also serve as a community resource for the County. So we technically service people of all ages - from 0 to 110. That's a capsule of what the Care Management team does.

Summer Lunch

The City of Inglewood will offer free summer lunches to youth under the age of 18 throughout the summer. Lunch will be served Monday thru Friday beginning June 25 and it will go through August 31st. It will be at five different locations - Ashwood Park, Edward Vincent Jr. Park, Darby Park, Lockhaven Community Center and Rogers Park. We are considering a sixth site - North Park. Meals will consist of hot and cold food such as pizza, corn dogs, burritos and sandwiches. Milk, fruit and dessert items will be also served.

Commissioner Smith stated please give the times of the service.

Michelle Jordan stated it will begin on June 25th and end on August 31st.

Commissioner Smith stated sorry, I meant the time of the day.

Skip Halloran stated the Lockhaven site is from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Ashwood site is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rogers, Darby and North Park are from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and Vincent Park is from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Michelle Jordan stated that's a good thing.

Transportation

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) recently announced that the city was awarded 6 replacement vehicles, including the I-Line Trolley. The grants were \$251,000 and local match was \$89,000. The vehicles will arrive sometime in 2008.

Grevillea Art Park Mural Project

All but 9 of the 60 panels have been installed on the new wall. Construction has begun on the extension of the wall at both ends. The remaining panels have been measured so the wall will be the exact dimension of the remaining panels. Sculpture Conservation Studios conservators will work on the last repairs and enhancements to the remaining panels, while Pima Construction continues the

landscaping of the park. The final panels are expected to be installed in 4 to 6 weeks and the dedication of the unveiling will be August 11th of this year.

Senior Activities

On Wednesday, May 23, 2007, Artis Spriggs, a Senior Volunteer, was honored for Older Americans Recognition Month. There was a celebration at the Senior Center and another at the 42nd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Awards Program at the County Hall of Administration. Celeste Sanchez, a participant at the Lennox Senior Center was also honored at the latter event. The following holidays and events were celebrated in May: Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day Senior Expo, Senior Day at the Races at Hollywood Park, Care Free Day of Art, and Education and Culture at the Skirball Center.

Senior Center Update

Weekly meetings are held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. with Public Works representatives, Senior Center Manager and Project Consultant to discuss work progress and coordinate work plans for improvements to the Veteran's Building. The cooling and heating schedule is ready to bid out. The electrical plans are ready to submit to Southern California Edison. Windows are being measured for installation of new windows. Windows will have a flip-top opening for ventilation. There will be air conditioning with an interlock sensor, which will automatically shut off air conditioner when doors or windows are open. Vinyl flooring will be replaced in the lobby/reception area and classrooms. This brings us to the conclusion of Human Services.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you. Any questions or comments? Commissioner Banks?

Commissioner Banks stated no questions.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated remaining panels, are they having any problems?

Skip Halloran stated no problems with remaining panels. The two reconstructed panels are apparent, but nothing has come up recently.

Rita Gardner stated now Mrs. Halloran is going to report on the Staff Report that is going to City Council.

Skip Halloran stated in September 2006 the Senior Center was relocated to the Veteran's Memorial Building, and you heard some discussion towards that building because the seniors are now in a much smaller building and they are

having a lot of problems and actually the main problem has been the Nutrition Program.

Nutrition Program

There have been nothing but problems, poor service, poor quality with the current vendor - NDK. We have tried very hard to help them get better and it continues to this day. Problems have included expired products, food temperatures that are not right, and meal shortages. It's just very sad that this whole thing is to be a temporary location because the new Senior Center, which is down the road a couple of years, is going to go up at the same location as the old Center.

So this is temporary but it is very stressful to have an inadequate facility. Many of our programs and staff have been rescheduled all over town. It's been very difficult and you can really help us with this one because we wrote the bid specs so that we didn't have to accept the lowest bidder. There were two bidders, one was NDK Foods, which is the one that we have right now; and the other is Saint Vincent's Senior Citizen Nutrition Program.

There is really no comparison. We did a survey and visited kitchens and talked to staff and participants. Not only will Saint Vincent's do a better job; they also are able to serve therapeutic diets, which we've never been able to do and we have been wanting to do, and Michelle attested to the fact that many of our seniors who are the frailest need to have therapeutic diets and we were not able to do that. So that is a very nice thing. They are also taking into consideration people who have food allergies and there is a lot more selection and a better variety on the menu. We were hoping that you would go along with our recommendation that we reject the low bid and take the other bidder.

The added cost will be covered with general fund money the same time we are looking at other grants. We could put a proposal in for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to cover some of it. We are looking to do some fundraising for this. I have evidence on the poor quality of the current caterer for the Council if they want it; I have a whole stack of emails, quality assurance meetings, photographs of the current caterer. Do you have any questions?

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated it seems we have a problem. We should go along with Saint Vincent. I would like to make a motion now, I motion that we go with Saint Vincent.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee I didn't call for a motion yet, and you can't make it until I call for it.

Commissioner Agee stated I had a neighbor complain about not being able to get seconds and I also visited the center so I agree we need a better quality of food.

Commissioner Smith stated Skip can you give us the annual cost?

Skip Halloran stated this is a 12 month budget, it starts July 1st and goes through June 30th. Its \$11,500 from July to September and each year it will be an extra \$131,000.

Commissioner Smith stated I call for a motion to support the Saint Vincent bid.

Commissioner Banks made a motion to support bid with Saint Vincent and was seconded by Commissioner Agee.

Rita Gardner stated ok, now we will go back to our Community Services Report. Cheryl Jackson will be reporting on the Community Services Section.

Cheryl Jackson stated good evening. I am the Administrative Assistant in the Code Enforcement Division.

Vendor Task Force

On June 13th, the Regulatory Enforcement group will be conducting a task force in all the different districts. The regulatory group is a Code Enforcement assisted unit in that helps with enforcement issues related to scavengers. The enforcement will be focusing on parking & illegal activity at Center Park, NPDES violations, illegal push cart and tamale vendors, and scavengers that go through city trash cans on a regular basis. The hours of enforcement will be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and we usually come in at 4 p.m., kind of off-schedule.

New Hire

The only additional thing I have recorded recently has been the hiring of a new Code Enforcement Officer. On May 29th we had Kevin Carroll start with the City as a Part Time Code Enforcement Officer. He is assigned to a Monday thru Friday shift, he will be out from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. so that will give us some additional enforcement after hours and working every other Saturday. This position became vacant when Mr. Aubrey Washington was promoted to our Building and Safety Department. Well that's it. Are there any questions or any areas needing attention?

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Banks?

Commissioner Banks stated no questions.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated I understand that you no longer accept notes on cars regarding tickets?

Cheryl Jackson stated technically, parking enforcement is under Inglewood Police Department.

Commissioner Agee stated that's not yours?

Cheryl Jackson stated no, that would be our Traffic/Parking Department.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Payne?

Commissioner Payne stated no questions.

Rita Gardner stated Ramon Mata, who has been with us for 17 years, will be moving on. He started off as Parks Maintenance Trainee and because of his hard work and ethics and talent, he promoted all the way up through as our Park Maintenance Supervisor. Great guy! He lives in that area, so every day in the morning he would leave his house at 4:00 a.m. to get here at 6:00 a.m. In the evening he would leave here at 3:30 p.m. and get home at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. That commute was beginning to get very horrendous for him. So I am very glad that he will only travel a maximum length time of 30 minutes at the most. But I really will miss him. He took me over and showed me the ropes when I left the Recreation Section and moved over to the Parks. So I will be in debt to him. I do want to inform you that he has left as of today. We gave him a farewell party and again I apologize that you weren't invited Commissioner Agee, that was an oversite. I didn't attend the Graduation, if not I would've extended it.

Commissioner Agee stated I have the utmost respect for Ramon, but I don't like him because they didn't invite us over for the barbeque.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

NOTE: TAPE RECORDING WAS UNAVAILABLE DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.