The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, August 2, 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 6:02 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large Commissioner Brenda J. Payne – District I Commissioner Norma Smith – District II

Late:

Commissioner Henry Brown - District IV

Absent:

Commissioner Raena Banks-Neal – District III

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Acting Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary
Sikizi Allen, Senior Program Specialist
James Henry, Recreation Supervisor
Carmen Lopez, Senior Code Enforcement Officer
Juan Mata, Acting Park Maintenance Supervisor

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Smith stated before I call for the approval of the minutes, I have a correction on page 11. I think there was a misunderstanding, I asked for Charles to come to the next meeting.

A motion for the approval of the minutes from July 5, 2007 was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Payne.

Public Comments

Charles Harkey stated hello Commissioners. My name is Charles Harkey and I am from the South Bay Entertainment Group. I am here regarding the Jazz Festival. I've actually realized that I have not been here before and wasn't aware that you were asking me to come. I was talking to Sabrina and I thought that I should come.

I'd just like to thank you for your participation and just speak briefly about what I'd like to try this year that we haven't tried before. Usually what we do with tickets is go through the Council members. If you request tickets, it would go through them. I mentioned to Sabrina that I wanted to try something different this year. I actually wanted to allocate the tickets to each of you and set your own little space there where you can bring your family or your friends. It's just South Bay's way of showing you that we appreciate what you do. We get a lot of positive things come out of the parks. People are going into the park and talking about how nice it is and how well it is kept. We have never been able to show our appreciation other than when we are talking to the caretaker in the park. We were thinking of another body that can also be acknowledged and that's this body, so that is why I am here. This is a great event we started locally and it now has gone on nationally. We at South Bay Entertainment have realized it does take everyone to make this happen, it takes everybody. We have the opportunity to thank you for your wonderful work and that is why we are here tonight. I'm afraid I won't be able to stay for the whole meeting; I just wanted to let you know what we thought of you. One thing I would really like to ask you to give some thought to is the amphitheater, which is somewhat like a jewel to us. If all the surrounding neighborhoods had one, it would be really helpful. We do have one and I think it is fortunate that we continue to do the little things to show improvement. They may seem small but when people come year after year and see the changes they know that it is a really good spot. What we are trying to do is look into getting some overhead coverage for it. I think the overhead coverage would really set it off and to also make it a true amphitheater by actually fencing it off. If there was some kind of way to take off the fence that you put up temporarily every year, throw ivy over it and have people able to access it as they do now, you would have a true amphitheater. We have a lot of parks in the city, but we don't have a true amphitheater. Other communities would give their left arm for an amphitheater and we have one. We have what they want and all we have to do is measure it, continue to do little things (improvements) at a time, like putting electricity, I think that those are the things that need to happen. We'd love to have a true box office where people can drive up to anytime to get tickets. Not only for a Jazz Festival but for any type of shows. I think Sabrina can attest to it. When I started here six years ago, I was basically just interested in doing a promotion then we started talking about electricity. I think we are on the right path. I think we have now gone far enough to where we can continue. We hope that this Commission will talk to whomever they need to talk to to see that it is improved and updated so other people can use it, just not South Bay. Again I just want to let you know that we appreciate you.

Commissioner Smith stated you only looked at Commissioner Agee during your presentation. Are you aware of that?

Charles Harkey stated I wasn't really aware of that.

Commissioner Smith stated I'm just calling it to your attention.

Charles Harkey asked you didn't feel like I was talking to you?

Commissioner Smith stated no, we didn't feel like you were speaking to us. It's not a big deal. What I am trying to tell you is that from now on when you go to a body, I know that when you speak in a public place you focus on one thing, but you still are suppose to move your eyes back and forth. I'm just letting you know so if you go before the City Council or any other Commission, you don't focus on one individual.

Charles Harkey stated I'll take that into consideration.

Commissioner Agee asked may I speak?

Commissioner Smith stated that's my comment to you.

Charles Harkey stated I appreciate it.

Commissioner Agee stated may I comment?

Commissioner Smith stated yes you may.

Commissioner Agee stated Mr. Harkey I didn't see anything like that myself but you did deliver your message here this evening. I get that all the time, so don't worry about it. I appreciate what you've done.

Charles Harkey stated well I've gone before the City Council and I've been doing it for about six years now on a fairly regular basis and this is the first time I've heard this and I apologize if you felt like I wasn't making eye contact with you.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I appreciate what you have done and everything you have brought up.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you Commissioners. At this time we will go on to Director's Report. I want to acknowledge that I did understand what you said in the July minutes about the upcoming Jazz Festival. For the past few years we've been going in front of Council in late July, early August. On July 18th, the Mayor and Council members approved a sponsorship that we would provide in kind services and fee waivers for usage of the amphitheater to South Bay Entertainment. We also asked that the Mayor and Council members consider a recommendation for the promoter to receive a donation of \$25,000. They did not approve that and asked us to come back. On July 25th, we went back to the

Mayor and Council and at that time they approved the \$25,000 but they considered it an investment where the promoter is to return 5% of his gross back to the City. They also said they would like to see us back sooner than July 2008 to start talking about the Jazz Festival. We anticipate after this year's event, late August early September or October, we will be back before you and at that time will be prepared to let Charles know before we even make it to Council that he needs to come before Commission to ask that there be a recommendation that we move forward. That was the update on the Jazz Festival which is what I was prepared to do.

Also regarding the Arts Commission, as you may or may not know, the City has a Percent for the Arts Ordinance which requires new developers to pay 1% of their total project cost if it exceeds \$250,000 towards art. That ordinance has been on the books for quite a while. As a matter of fact, we've been trying to get the Arts Commission up for many years but it has been delayed. But we were successful last month in holding a meeting. We have three appointments and we look forward to moving that project forward. The reason why I reported out is because our Department is charged with dealing with that Commission as well; we have two Commissions under our belts.

The third item on the Director's Report is the budget. I asked that this be on the agenda so I can let you know I haven't forgotten about your requests. We have not received our preliminary numbers back yet, but we were advised that we are a little bit behind schedule because the city has converted to the new financial system. We expect information within the next two, maybe three weeks and then I will be able to share that information with you. The Mayor and Council has asked that we prepare a budget studying session which means each Director. Before we go to the study session, I will share information with you so that you can be provide input to answer questions.

As you know our 4th of July display was cancelled for health and safety reasons. On Tuesday we went before the Mayor and Council asking them to set a new display date of either August 25, September 1, to coincide with the Jazz Festival or September 3, to coincide with Labor Day. There was a lengthy discussion and Council did not approve any of those dates. They asked that we come back with other recommendations. They want us to provide them with a cost and parking analysis if we do the display in conjunction with the Jazz Festival. They also wanted us to look into having it in conjunction with our Centennial Celebration kick off or our 2008 MLK event. The contract we have with the bidder allows us a 60 day rescheduling period in the event we cancel on the day of the event. In any event, we have to pay for the show whether we decide to have it or not and that's about a \$12,500 fee. We elected to try and reschedule. There was a 60 day window in our initial conversation. They said they will not allow us to go into 2008, but they will give us about 90 days and push it to October 31 to reschedule within that period.

The Mayor and Council said that its fine but we need you to go back because we've done business with this vendor for too long for them to tell us no. In two weeks, we will go back to Council with additional recommendations. We are waiting to hear back from the vendor on whether or not they will consider taking our dates into 2008. At any rate, we still have to pay for the 4th of July show and the modest fee of about \$2500 that we will need to add to that expense to cover the reset up, repack and travel to mount the show again. If there are no questions or comments, I will now turn it over to the representatives from the various divisions.

Commissioner Payne stated I was just wondering how much the Jazz tickets are.

Sabrina Barnes stated \$68 and \$38 I believe. Those are the in house levels. He has premium tickets that are slightly higher near the stage and boxes around the venue but in terms of full fee tickets, I don't have the information available. I can obtain it and give it to you. There is a website provided and tickets are also available (outside of what you are provided with) at Inglewood Tickets. We don't handle any of the ticket sales; it is all done through the promoter.

Commissioner Payne stated thank you.

Sabrina Barnes stated you are welcome. At this time we will have Juan Mata from our Parks Division who will go first.

Juan Mata stated good evening.

Parks Construction

The Park Construction section has been very busy this past month. They repaired three broken main lines. They also were busy with the many requests they receive on a daily basis relating to: unclogging drains, fixing broken sprinklers, and repairing drinking fountains and playground and skate park equipment. Some of their other projects include laying of conduit to supply the electrical for restroom #2 at Vincent Park. Repairing the irrigation system at soccer field "B", and prepping the grounds for reseeding soccer field A.

Parks Maintenance North/South

The Park Maintenance North Section has been maintaining the parks during these very busy summer months. They also have the responsibility to mow, trim and edge all of the park grounds as well as picking-up debris throughout the park on a daily basis.

They assist in cleaning areas at various parks where the summer food program is operated.

They will be assisting with the National Night Out and Relay for Life Special Events. They will also assist with the preparation of the Summer Jazz Festival.

Capital Improvement Projects

The Parks Maintenance South Section has assisted with the Siminski Park Improvement Project by breaking and removing the asphalt and concrete. They have trenched and backfilled in order to install new irrigation lines. They will be assisting with the landscaping of the area near the building.

Vincent Park Restroom Construction Project is 95% to 98% complete. Edison came out today and approved the electrical conduit lines that were laid out by the Parks Construction Section. Romtec, Inc. will be constructing the sidewalk/walkway around both restrooms. August 15 is the scheduled date of completion.

Tree Maintenance

<u>Tree Trim Schedule for the months of August, September and October.</u>

Tree trimming will be done in District 1 on 82nd Street to Century Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue. In District 2 South on La Brea to Long Street between East Fairview and West Boulevard. In District 3 on West Regent Street to Arbor Vitae Street between North Ash Street and South LA Brea Avenue. In District 4 on West 104th Street to West Imperial Highway between South Van Ness Avenue and Yukon Avenue. This list will be followed as close as possible. Changes or deviations may occur from the list due to emergencies, hazardous situations, upper supervision requests or when equipment breakdowns occur.

Juan Mata stated that is all I have for you tonight.

Commissioner Agee stated congrats Juan on getting your new position. You did a good job tonight as you always do in the park. Congrats and keep up the good work.

Commissioner Payne stated I'd also like to say congratulations.

James Henry stated good evening Commissioners.

Status Report Regarding Siminski Park Renovations

The Public Works Department has begun renovations at Siminski Park. The areas of construction include the entire building and annex room.

We look forward to having a newly renovated facility complete with a new preschool room, restrooms and additional areas for meetings, programs and activities. The renovation project is expected to be completed by mid September.

Status Report Regarding Summer Recreation Activities

Summer Day Camps

The department is proud to report that we were able to serve over 700 youth this summer in our day camp programs. Both sessions were completely full at all the park sites. We have received nothing but rave reviews and compliments about our themed camps. All in attendance had a memorable and fun time. We look forward to next year.

Morningside Swimming Pool

In an attempt to provide the patrons in District 4 with an opportunity to enjoy swimming privileges, the City of Inglewood has collaborated with the Inglewood Unified School District at Morningside High School in a five (5) week program to allow swimming at the school on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during the hours of 1pm to 4pm. In previous years the program has not been well attended by the community, however this year recreation will canvas the community and distribute flyers advertising the program to solicit additional participation, Flyers will also be provided to the summer school students. Recreation provided two certified lifeguards and two recreation aides in support of this effort. This year thru collaborative efforts with the IUSD and Recreation staff, the pool water has not been an issue; therefore we're expecting better results.

Movies in the Park

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department along with the Public Works Environmental Services Section kicked off the summer "Movies in the Park" series at Ed Vincent Park on Saturday, July 14 and 21. Over 384 residents, their families and friends watched "Over the Hedge" and "Charlottes Webb" on the big screen. Please join us as the "Movies in the Park" series continues at Darby Park. The family film "Flushed Away" will be shown on Saturday, August 4 and "Happy Feet" will be shown on Saturday, August 11. All movies are free and begin at dusk. Bring six recyclable items and receive a free popcorn voucher.

Performing Arts Camp Performance

Please join us for an exciting afternoon on Saturday, August 18, 2007. The youth currently enrolled in the Summer Performing Arts Camp will offer a free live stage performance for the community.

These youth have been working extremely hard in rehearsing to deliver a final stage performance filled with lots of singing, acting and dancing. The performance will be held in the outdoor amphitheater at Edward Vincent Park at 1:00 p.m. We invite everyone to attend.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to know the status of the old building at Centinela Park.

Sabrina Barnes stated it has definitely been quite a while. We received information last week from the Project Manager stating that the plans are about 95% complete and a consultant who has been doing the environmental impact study is going to be coming in shortly. They anticipate demolition to begin toward the end of October possibly, but definitely this year.

Commissioner Agee asked are they going to rebuild?

Sabrina Barnes stated our internal discussion within our department is to rebuild. Right now that is the funding issue. We have to identify funding for a complex. There have been renderings on what the park can look like that we developed a while back. But we have to identify funding for a multi-million dollar project.

Commissioner Agee stated Mr. Henry; I want you to know that I appreciate you. I was with you in your office the other day and we had a long talk and I thank you.

Commissioner Payne stated I heard you mention the time of the Performing Arts Camp performance, but I didn't hear the date.

James Henry stated Saturday. August 18.

Sabrina Barnes stated at this time we will hear from Human Services, Sikizi Allen.

Sikizi Allen stated good evening Commissioners.

Vet's Building

Work is scheduled to begin in October. Right now we are working on getting out to bid and obtaining contractors.

Be Well

I am happy to report that Kaiser Permanente has granted us funds for the Be Well program. They are so pleased with what we are doing that they have offered to provide a \$12,000 grant to service the uninsured seniors.

We have been working with the Kaiser insured patients, but they are looking to extend the services to those who do not have Kaiser Insurance. We are looking at 20 seniors who we'd like to see begin the Be Well class in October. We have a couple of months to get them in the program.

Summer Food Program

Our summer food program is going very well. Our highest numbers are at Vincent Park or lowest participation is at Ash Park.

Commissioner Payne stated I would like to ask for more information about the lunches.

Sikizi Allen stated I was speaking about the seniors. The seniors are very pleased with the new caterers and the quality of food.

Commissioner Agee stated I was at lunch today talking to the seniors and they love it (the food) and so do I. Everyone I spoke to was very happy.

Commissioner Smith stated I don't have any questions, but I just want to say that I am pleased with the reports and keep up the good work.

Sabrina Barnes stated from our Community Services, Carmen Lopez.

Carmen Lopez stated good evening.

Code Enforcement

On July 18 and 19, the Regulatory Enforcement Group (SRI, CSI and SEO's), conducted a taskforce in all four districts, focusing on illegal use of Center Park and violations around the park, push carts, ice cream and tamales vendors and scavengers going through city trash. The task force was formed in regards to numerous complaints received from the residents in all four districts.

The results of our enforcement are:

On July 18, 2007, 23 vendors were warned (no license) and or cited. Items that were confiscated are: 6 ice cream carts, 19 coolers, ice cream, corn, fruit, flowers, candy apples and chicharrones. Two citations were issued.

On July 19, 2007, we checked for one building permit and one ice cream truck business permit, three scavengers and 25 vendors were warned (for no license) and or cited. Items that were confiscated are: 8 ice cream carts, 17 coolers, ice cream, corn, fruit, flowers and chicharrones. One pending citation was issued.

Commissioner Brown stated one question, is there a time limit on ice cream vendors going through Inglewood?

Carmen Lopez stated yes there is.

Commissioner Brown stated there seems to be a problem. Actually what is the time limit?

Carmen Lopez stated they are supposed to be out until 8 p.m. or once it gets dark.

Commissioner Brown stated there is a particular vendor who's out at 9, 10, 11 p.m. on 111th.

Carmen Lopez stated I have received a complaint from another resident and have asked them to call me back with more information and I will get that taken care of.

Commissioner Agee asked are we still making arrests at Centinela Park?

Carmen Lopez asked was it for the vendors?

Sabrina Barnes stated Commissioner that was through the Police Department and CSI.

Commissioner Agee stated oh I'm sorry, I apologize.

Commissioner Smith stated there is something I would like for you to go into detail with, the curb and sidewalk project.

Sabrina Barnes stated we are working in conjunction with Public Works. Any time they remove the sidewalk they will typically ask us to go and look at the trees to see if it needs to be removed, pruned or for the stump to be removed. It's a joint effort we do with the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Smith stated do you remember when we talked about the patching of the sidewalk is that being replaced now or are they still patching it up?

Sabrina Barnes stated they start by patching up the sidewalk and then it falls on a list so once they come back to your name on the list, they come back to repair it by taking out the old and putting in the new.

Commissioner Smith stated who has the list?

Sabrina Barnes stated that is generated through the Public Works Department. We are charged with the tree piece; they actually do the sidewalk (repairs). Juan is there anything you can add to that?

Juan Mata stated you are correct, that is done through Public Works. Flynn Marine is the supervisor who oversees those repairs.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Agee stated I would like to go on record saying that I don't care about what these Commissioners say about me, but I resent very, very much what happened here tonight with Charles Harkey. There was no reason for what took place and I hope it never happens again.

Commissioner Brown stated I have a couple of things I wanted some inside information on. It turns out that there seems to be some dispute with the Board of Education and the City Attorney's Office about Center Park, the size of the park and what one can actually do there. I'd like some updates on that. For the Lockhaven Center, I'd just like some information on the type of computer classes that are offered, the time and if there are fees involved. There has been a lot of complaints from residents of the Crenshaw corridor about the sprinkler system that we have and the re-filtering of the water that comes out which has a bad odor and it damages the cars that are parked outside and I would hope that someone will look into that. Lastly, how will the Centennial Celebration impact the MLK Celebration and the status of that?

Sabrina Barnes stated regarding Circle Park, there have been some discussions with the school district and they are being handled through the administrative offices in terms of reconfiguring for possible access issues related to the park. The Lockhaven Community Center computer classes have been dark recently because the instructor we had on board is no longer available. It's my understanding we are looking into a new instructor and classes will resume at a later time. The Centennial Celebration in terms of it having any impact on MLK should be zero to none very minimal. The bottom line is we'll have a lot more to undertake but we are use to that. We anticipate calling a meeting for the MLK Committee within the next month. What typically happens when we get started early, we don't have full participation because school is not in session and then we end up doing double duty. We anticipate early September is when we will get moving and you will be the first to know about it. If you can let us know which sprinklers it is that you are talking about, perhaps it's a matter of making sure they are not broken, but we use recycled water.

Commissioner Brown stated along the corner of 108th to 111th.

Sabrina Barnes asked on Crenshaw?

Commissioner Brown stated yes.

Juan Mata stated what we will do is inspect the area and adjust whatever is broken. We will definitely get this taken care of Monday.

Commissioner Smith stated I don't have any questions, but can you just tell us about the Arts Commission, when it meets, who's in charge, how it's run.

Sabrina Barnes stated the Arts Commission runs itself much like this body. We have not had full appointments until recently. What we were dealing with was lack of guorum. We still have two appointments to be made; one has to do with our newly appointed Councilperson. The person who was holding the seat in District 1 is not going to be reappointed to my understanding, that hasn't been determined; he is looking at existing positions to see how he wants to move on them and then there is a vacancy in another seat. What we would like to do is make sure the group is well rounded and that there are art professionals on the board because what they will be charged with is incorporating arts and culture into the city. There is an art fund that is associated with this project. Developers can comply with the ordinance in three ways; they can say here you do what you want to do with this money, 1% they pay into an art fund which we will set priority as to how the funds will be used in terms of art, registration, artist and residency programs. Then they can also elect to donate art to the city or they can incorporate art into their project. An example would be the cemetery and their mausoleums. They are doing a lot of construction and a lot of the adornment may qualify as public art and that's how they would satisfy this requirement. This is a new commission for us but the arts commission is very popular in other cities. So we are taking what has been done but putting an Inglewood spin on it to make sure it meets our city's needs. We have as our guiding principal, the cultural arts master plan which was adopted some years ago and it sets our priority regarding the arts. The community spoke and basically identified five areas that they would want to see addressed ranging from venues and art education to support for artists. These are only a couple of areas we want to strengthen ourselves in.

Commissioner Smith stated the couple that came in before wanted to bring come cultural arts into the city.

Sabrina Barnes stated that would be an appropriate venue. A lot of times those groups come before us for support and sponsorship. The city itself and this department are not in the business of sponsoring other agencies, but an outlet would be the Arts Commission because a certain portion of the funding that is allocate will allow for support of those types of activities.

Commissioner Smith stated according to those people they were looking to conduct an activity.

Sabrina Barnes stated if they were looking to conduct an activity, for example James is inundated with requests to utilize Vincent Park to have concerts, festivals, etc. We look at a scale of what's currently going on in the department and if someone wants to have a standing room only event, they typically have to go through the P & L (Permits and License) process which means they have to be permitted and licensed to have the event. If it's at one of our parks we sign off saying yes it is available, yes we will support it based on the scale and scope of the event. Sometimes it is too much for the park they are looking at.

For example, an event that can be held at Vincent Park might not be able to be held at Darby Park because of the scale of parking and other issues there. It really is a case by case issue.

Commissioner Smith asked do we have contact with them.

Sabrina Barnes stated my contact with them was to try and engage them as it relates to the Market Street Festival and see how we can work together. My conversation lead me to believe they were not just looking for a venue. I was more under the impression that they were looking for more financial support.

Commissioner Smith stated as long as I know you continued

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.