

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on April 2, 2009, in the Council Chambers located in City Hall on the 9th floor. Chairman Norma Smith, presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – Commissioner at Large
Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District One
Commissioner Norma Smith, Chairperson – District Two
Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three

Absent:

Commissioner Henry Brown – District Four

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Director
Stephanie Maldonado, Administrative Aide
Pat Bitker, Food Service Manager
Kevin Carroll, Code Enforcement Officer
James Henry, Recreation Supervisor
Juan Mata, Park Maintenance Supervisor

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Agee made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and was seconded by Commissioner McLemore. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Linda Gibson stated good afternoon. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Linda Gibson and I'm President of Inglewood Junior All-American Football League. We've come this afternoon to advise your Council that this is our 40th year. We are starting our registration at Darby Park beginning April 18th and I would like for one of the members of this Commission to at least be there to encourage the kids that are coming to our program. Last year, we were in dire need of a football field but I hear that there are some great things that will possibly be happening through Parks and Rec and we are quite grateful. With me this afternoon are members of my board. I'm not sure if any of them are going to be speaking but just to let you know we are still in the community. We are still here. We are still serving the boys and girls in the community and we would like for whatever help and support that you guys have given us to keep that up. Again, this is our 40th year. We have plans to be here another 40 years, hopefully some of the younger people can take over the ranks of some of us who have been here such a long time. We do want to continue to seek your help and support in our program. Thank you so much.

Chairman Smith stated Ms. Gibson, what is that date again?

Linda Gibson stated April the 18th. We will be at Darby Park from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. That is our opening day, which is when we pass out hot dogs and sodas to all the kids who come in. We also offer special discounts for those parents who can afford to pay in full on that particular day. We are at Darby every Saturday until July when our season begins. We would like for at least one of the members, Mr. Agee normally comes through but I would like to see more of the board there if you possibly can give us some encouragement and help us to keep the things we do alive and thriving. We had a really bad year last year because we were on the road so much, but hopefully we have everything worked out. Again, we do need your support.

Anita Walker stated good evening my name is Anita Walker; I am the Bi-laws Director for Inglewood Junior All-American Football League. I do live in the City of Inglewood. I have been a part of this program since I was 18 and I'm well over 40 and with that said, I just came out to let you know we are in the community. I've been a trainer for cheerleaders and now I am a Nationals' Cheer Coach so when I see kids, I pull them into the program starting as early as age 4. I do it because someone did it for me. I have no kids in the program and I wanted to come out and let you all know that we are here and we are not going anywhere and we do need your support.

Victoria Poland stated good evening my name is Victoria Poland just like the country. I am a parent and now a grandparent of Inglewood Junior All-American Football League. My son who is now 33 started with Inglewood at the age of 7. Some of these people sitting back here were there at that time and before. I know this program has produced lots of positive young men and young women who have gone on to college because of the support of coaches that volunteer. This is not a paying job. These men, women and children represent Inglewood Junior All American. They need a field. It was hard on us as parents in today's times with gas prices and driving to Irvine and Mission Viejo. We represent the City of Inglewood very well and in a positive manner. We need Coleman Field. We need a home field for our young men and women to thrive. My sons who are now adult men with children have come back to give to this program that has given to them. Thank you.

Thad Ballew stated hello, I am Coach Ballew and I'm also Business Manager for Junior All American. I spoke to you at the last meeting. Again, I am the Business Manager of this program and also a resident of the City of Inglewood who votes every year. I want to say that I have been around this program for 30 years as a head coach; I coached against Coach Henry when he was a young man. I retired from the City of Los Angeles after 34 years, and I am a Vietnam Veteran who fought on the Marine force. This is therapy to for me to help young men and women become positive role models and positive people as adults. This program works hard and as Anita said we represent Inglewood well. In youth football we are probably known as one of the best chapters in the whole Southern California Area, not only in the black area but in the white area. Inglewood represents well. We won the Super Bowl last year and the girls went to Las Vegas and won National Championships this year. People know who Inglewood is not because Inglewood is a side track of Los Angeles, but because Inglewood has a lot of positive people in it and we want to see Inglewood blessed on the right side not for the negativity but for the great things that we have. We have the Assistant District Attorney of Los Angeles who came out of our program, Brian Bowers. Many professional athletes who started right here in Inglewood and they still come back and try to help us out. I'll be here every month so you will see me as long as I can come, I'll be here because I want

to make sure I know exactly what to go back and tell the rest of the people in Inglewood. Thank you.

Vanessa Williams stated good afternoon my name is Vanessa Williams and I am the Assistant Cheerleader Coach for Junior All American. I've been with the program for just over 10 years now and in those 10 years I have no children in the program. I'm here again supporting Inglewood. We bring in on the average at least 185-195 girls every year who do Inglewood proud. We go to National Competitions and we at least have 4 to 6 winners each year. We need a home field. We have our girls who come out of our program who are cheering at Inglewood High School and at least 8 of them have come from our program. This is our 40th year, we need to be home, we need a field and we need some compensation to make sure we can do that this year. Thank you.

Stewart Bailey stated I agree with Junior All American. They need a football field. They deserve a field. It has been far too long since the kids have had their own opportunities to be at home playing football. We all know if we are home grown, you get your home cooking and you get the home cheering from mom, dad and everyone who can support. Football is a great thing, I use to play football at SC. Football leads to great things such as a positive attitude for homework, positive attitude toward females, positive attitude towards everything you do in life because you want to succeed at a sport that is violent but it is not really violent and it teaches you lessons about life. Please, whatever you can do to expedite the building of a field for these wonderful kids lets do it.

I have one complaint. It is a security matter at Rogers Park. Rogers Park has rooms that are designated for rental for different events. Now I go through this park and I see glass that you can look into these rooms to look in and out. But the glass is covered with paper. This is a security problem if there is something going on in one of these rooms, the Administration can not see anything and if the Police go up there they can not see anything that is going on. Why is the glass covered with paper to where you can not see in or out? Now I understand the kids that are in there might be doing something as far as homework and can get distracted by the outsiders. This is a problem that has been going on for at least a year. I would just like to say take the paper off. I understand you are paying for it, but I would rather have a little security than pay a lawsuit in the long run. Those are my comments. Please everyone have a blessed day and thank you.

Chairman Smith stated seeing as there are no further comments, I'll turn it over to you Sabrina.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated good evening. We will proceed with the agenda. First under Director's Business, I'd like to share with you a staff report recommending that you recommend to the Mayor and Council members the approval of a Tree Dedication Policy along with the approval of a Tree Dedication Planting by the Rotary Club. As you know our Parks Division is tasked with the maintenance of the city's 28,000 plus trees. That is the beatification, planting, removal, stumping and everything that goes with the care of our urban forest. From time to time we receive inquires from the public, individuals or groups and organizations that want to plant trees. Currently there are no policies or guidelines to govern this if just an individual whether it is a service club or someone wants to plant a tree on behalf of a loved one, there is nothing in place that speaks to how that is done on public property. The attached policy lays out guidelines which details

which types of trees can be planted and those trees will come from our tree master plan. It details about how one will go about getting a tree planted. They must first fill out an application. It also talks about the tree planting requirements in terms of the actual site. This is part of a larger framework that we will be putting in place that we will address overall Tree maintenance which will result in an ordinance particularly timely in that we anticipate West Coast Arborist will be wrapping up their work in a relatively short period of time and once they are gone we want to have some policies in place to maintain what has already been put into place over these past few months and help carry us into the future in regards to the trees. This particular policy allows us to put something in place in time for our upcoming beautification effort. The Rotary Club approached us informally at the end of last year, then made a written request earlier this year so they will be one of the first organizations to take advantage of the policy should it be approved. With that if you have any questions, I'd love to entertain them. If not, I would ask that you vote based on our recommendation that this matter be included for both items one and two.

Commissioner McLemore stated who picks the trees and is there some type of certain specification for the trees?

Sabrina Barnes stated the trees must be in compliance with our Tree Master Plan. As part of our Tree Master Plan, we have identified the type of species that go at certain locations. Typically if someone wants to plant something, let's use your block club as an example, the dominant species in your area would be first preferred but then we'd also have a selection for choice number two and three based on the City's master plan and it has to do with what type of tree will flourish in the environment, space requirements and parkway distance. That is discussed with our Tree Supervisor who will talk to the person who submits the application and let them know what their choices are and then a decision is made from there.

Commissioner Agee stated I see the information. I think it is a great idea. I support it and I'm prepared to make a motion if the rest of the Commission is ready.

Commissioner Giardina stated we have a master plan and there was going to be some amendments to the plan, has that been completed yet?

Sabrina Barnes stated no that will come with our recommendation with regards to the full on tree policy. Also, we are working with WCA to possibly add some other components if it will fit within the scope of work. For example, within the WCA contract the first time they were here it did not include what we've estimated to be about 8,000 trees that are included in the city parks and at public facilities. Once they have done that assessment we want to make sure we include the various trees as well as any other recommended varieties of trees that will be cohesive with the city's pallet.

Commissioner Giardina stated so we really don't have the date for doing the amendment?

Sabrina Barnes stated we first anticipated WCA would be wrapping up in July and with their exit and us giving our final report we are planning to make our recommendations at that time. We have recently been advised, just as recent as Monday; they actually plan to get out of here a little early. We expect within the next month or two we will have that policy in place and make that recommendation to you and take forth to Council.

Chairman Smith stated so is there any urgency with this? Can we wait until you have the other inline?

Sabrina Barnes stated well there is urgency with this in that if we don't have a policy in place than this particular organization will not be able to participate in the planting. This is just one piece of a much bigger pie. This portion will be incorporated in the final document which will deal with everything from how we trim our trees and one of the things that have come up since WCA has been here is that they are not ornamental when they trim the trees. As I previously explained, that is a city standard, it's not an industry standard. Industry standard is that you take about 25% off the tree when grooming it. We spend a little time; we actually embrace the tree and make them all nice. So we will need to address that, what types of trees can be ornamentally trimmed, do we just relegate that to our trees that are along the major thoroughfares or certain species of trees? So there is a lot more involved than just coming up with a policy. There are several things that we need to look at with regards to putting this in place.

Chairman Smith stated keep in mind while you are discussing this, that our residents said there were not enough tree trim from their trees. Maybe we need to deal with the city standards as opposed to someone else's standards.

Sabrina Barnes stated the someone else's standards is actually the professional industry standard.

Chairman Smith stated I understand what you are saying but we are use to the city standards.

Sabrina Barnes stated I do understand what you are saying and I just want to clarify that it is the tree professional standard and I recognize that ours maybe a little different. There are things as a city that we just don't do. For example, we don't top trees just because you think that your tree is too high or it needs to be trimmed in a certain fashion. The way a resident may recommend it be trimmed may put the tree at risk. If we top the tree, it can fail. If we prune it more than necessary it can fail. So just because it is being requested or the resident necessarily wants it, we have to be mindful for the health of the tree and those are the things that we will be taking into consideration when we make our recommendations to you as well as the residents wishes because we have received various inquiries about the amount of debris that WCA crews are taking from the tree as they are out trimming.

Commissioner Giardina stated I just wanted to make sure that I noticed in Inglewood in the 2nd district there are a number of trees on Eucalyptus in the 100 block. The palm trees that were semi-mature and I don't know if it was Edison but they topped them and have appeared to have killed the trees. I'm quite concerned about it because each one of those trees are probably worth \$4500 or \$6000 a piece.

Sabrina Barnes stated I can't speak to what utility company would have done it but we have had some experience when a utility company comes in and ideally when they come in they are just trying to clear the power lines and so the care and attention that we would give to the tree doesn't necessarily happen. We are engaged in conversations with them to make sure they are mindful. According to ANSI standards you are not suppose to top trees.

Chairman Smith stated any further discussion?

Sabrina Barnes stated just one last note, I do want you to know that this does not have any implication if a resident wanted a tree planted at their residence. This does not apply to that in a natural area where we would be planting a tree or there is a vacant well. This is outside of that scope.

Chairman Smith stated I have called for the question that's needed.

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that the tree dedication planting policy be accepted and voted on by the Commission.

Commissioner Giardina stated I second.

All the Commissioners were in favor, motion carried.

Sabrina Barnes stated it was a two-part recommendation, are you approving both parts?

Commissioner Giardina stated is that the planting?

Chairman Smith stated Commissioner Agee would you like to amend the motion to include the Rotary Planting?

Commissioner Agee stated yes I'd like to amend the motion and include the Rotary.

Commissioner Giardina stated the motion should read the tree dedication and the planting policy.

Sabrina Barnes stated and the approval for the Rotary's planting on May 2nd.

Chairman Smith stated I need a complete motion. Commissioner Giardina stated can you give me a complete motion?

Commissioner Agee stated what did I leave out?

Chairman Smith stated you left out the planting and dedication of the Rotary Club on May 2nd.

Commissioner Agee stated I include the planning and dedication by the Rotary Club.

Commissioner Giardina stated I second.

All the Commissioners were in favor and the motion was carried.

Sabrina Barnes stated this is just to let you know that in the coming months we will be back before you along with the Planning and Building Department to speak to you about the General Plan update as specifically as it relates to open space. There is nothing to report today, but I just wanted to give you the heads up that some substantive of information will be forthcoming. At this point, I'm going to jump to the supplemental agenda and we have a staff report on Hollywood Park development project. Here to

make that report is the Acting Planning and Building Department Director, Wanda Williams.

Wanda Williams stated good evening Commissioners and staff. My name is Wanda Williams; I am the Acting Planning and Building Department Director. As you may be aware the city almost two years ago began the process of beginning to review the process and a location for a ___ report for the redevelopment of the 238 acre Hollywood Park site. As part of this development they have included a provision to develop or to provide 25 acres of open space for park. 2.5 acres of those 25 acres will be for private use for the residents of the Hollywood Park site which based on the draft it will include 9800 full time residents. The remainder of the open space and recreational area will be dedicated as public space for the benefit, use and enjoyment of Inglewood residents, visitors and others. As part of this process the developers are required to go before the Planning Commission for certification of the Environmental ___ Report for the approval of the specific planning and ___ and then for the Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council. On the way as part of the approval process, because the development of park lands with the creation of the population which is almost 10,000 for this site, triggers the need for review by various Commissions including this body because the open space element will be affected. Currently, the city's open space element establishes a standard of 1 acre of park land for every 1,000 residents. I can report that based on our records and review by research done by the Planning Department, there is currently about .78 acre of park land per 1,000 residents. The city is very deficient in terms of park land. This particular development providing 25 acres of park land will greatly exceed the current standard for the acreage of usage per resident. Let me add also that in February of this year the City Council adopted a Quimby Ordinance which the City Attorney's, Planning and other departments worked in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department on which established a standard of 3 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. This project I might add exceeds also that standard in terms of actual park area. Having said that, we have provided a very brief report for you this evening. We are asking for this body to determine based upon the draft ___ report that was circulated in November of last year and based upon the hearings are occurring before the Planning Commissions and Council that his project is ready to be moved forward in the process to allow the Planning Commission, the City Council to take final action and there for following that, assuming the project is approved, it will be returned at some point to this body for you to determine and assist with the types of park equipment in the park areas and other particulars so that a through city review would be conducted for the proposed open space and park areas. Having said that I will conclude and I am glad to answer any questions you might have at this time.

Commissioner Agee stated I would like to know in the 25 acres, do you have included a football field and a soccer field separately?

Wanda Williams stated no there is not.

Commissioner Agee stated there is not going to be a football field and there is not going to be a soccer field?

Wanda Williams stated maybe Sabrina can answer this better but it is to my understanding that the details of the actual uses of those park areas will be worked out later. If that project is approved as indicated the developer, the Planning department and project staff will then sit down with the Parks and Recreation Director and her staff and

work out the details on what will be developed on each park area. At this point I don't know whether there will be a football field or what type of fields. I'm assuming there will be playing fields because of the amount of acreage that is proposed.

Sabrina Barnes stated on the plans that we saw today there is space designated for open play area there. It hasn't been designated what type of fields are going to be placed there. It is still up for negotiation.

Commissioner Agee stated when Hollywood Park put out the first report they said there would be a soccer field but they didn't have anything about a football field and I'm concerned about the kids who play football. They are just as important as the kids who play soccer and you can't play soccer and football on the same field.

Wanda Williams stated Commissioner if we could, what I'd like to do is go ahead and relay that information to the developer and provide some additional information and give that to Sabrina and she can convey that to you whether or not they are open to it or that is something still being looked into. I can do some research and speak to the developer on that and then let you know.

Commissioner Agee stated I've already talk to them about it and they gave me assurance that there is going to be a football field and a soccer field. Thank you.

Commissioner McLemore stated I'm a little confused; exactly what do you want us to do? Do the people here understand what is going on?

Chairman Smith stated may I make a suggestion before we continue this, that we table this and we have a discussion along with the plans for this development. Table it until maybe a week or two from now.

Sabrina Barnes stated can we ask your timeline?

Wanda Williams stated our timeline is we are going to the Planning Commission on May 6th. Let me add this, by law we are not required to come before every Commission with a proposal every time the open element or any elements change. We are attempting to do this because we understand that the amount of open space acreage that is being proposed needs some consideration by this body and we do want your input on that. Basically, I wanted to provide this overview for you this evening and hopefully get your input, any questions or comments that you would like for us to reflect in our report to the Planning Commission but at the same time we need to indicate a determination that you feel that the project is great, but that you agree for the open space and evaluation and that it will not conflict with any open space issues and you will proceed.

Chairman Smith stated I need to correct you on one thing, since you are talking about open space I think our Council people would want you to come before us before you make any decisions and secondly we will schedule another meeting prior to your meeting with the Planning Commission. So if it is alright with this Commission, we will table it.

Commissioner Agee stated point of order Chair, what is the hold up?

Chairman Smith stated Commissioner Agee I am asking the Commission if they would like to table it and discuss it in depth or vote on it tonight. Now you said you wanted to vote on it, there are two other Commissioners.

Commissioner Giardina stated I have a number of issues with the Hollywood Park Redevelopment piece. I have an issue with the deficiency with the open space prior to the Quimby Act and the fact that we will be bringing another minimal 9,600 to almost 10,000 people to Inglewood. We are already short of space and even though this may appear to exceed it as you spoke of before in your report there is a deficiency and I think even with attempting to go beyond what the Quimby Act requires it would still leave us in a deficiency. I believe because we haven't addressed the fact that we've grown, grown, grown and we have not allowed for this space and that is part of the reason why we don't have the space for a field so before we approve a project that is going to bring another 10,000 people to Inglewood that still does not provide for what the needs of the community are. I'm hesitant tonight to move on this and so to answer the other Commissioners questions, I'm hesitant to give this program and development the green light because I don't believe we have adequately addressed the needs of the community. For me, I couldn't support this tonight going to the City Council because I personally believe that the residents are not being appropriately represented as well as the needs of this community and these kids. There are a number of other issues that have to do with the environmental act in terms of traffic, mitigation and how it is going to affect our air, so I wouldn't be able to support this tonight and would hope that we would have the opportunity to table it and discuss it to see if there is some wiggle room where we can discuss it even further in terms of what we need as far as space. I support the Chair tonight to table this item.

Commissioner McLemore stated I'm not really ready to address it at all because I need more facts and input to I think that maybe we should table it for a little while so we can all come together and figure out what is going on.

Commissioner Giardina stated I make a motion to table this item and bring it back in possibly 2 or 3 weeks to give us a chance to review it, discuss and see if we can work some of it out.

Chairman Smith stated hold that motion for me.

Sabrina Barnes stated I just want to point out we are dealing with a couple of issues here. We are dealing with the overall issue of lack of space for the city as a whole and its residents but we are also dealing with what are the requirements and the project variables for this particular project. Knowing that the city has issues and we are deficient, are we expecting this developer to solve all of our problems? So on the other side we need to have some strategies beyond this developer, it's bigger than just this particular project.

Chairman Smith stated I understand that but what we want to discuss is this project in depth.

Commissioner Giardina stated I believe a project of this magnitude is the beginning of us strategizing to have some sort of approach to address the deficiency and something that speaks to this magnitude certainly even though it exceeds the Quimby Ordinance I

think we still need to try and pressure them into allowing more open space because there is obviously a need here.

Chairman Smith stated I'm going to call for the motion to table this for 2 weeks.

Commissioner Agee stated may I ask did each Commissioner receive the literature on this project?

Chairman Smith stated yes we received the package.

Commissioner Agee stated have you attended the meetings that Hollywood Park has put on with the Planning Commission a couple of weeks ago?

Chairman Smith stated no we haven't but I don't think we have even been invited.

Commissioner Agee stated well I was.

Chairman Smith stated well I am glad one of us was. I call for a motion.

Commissioner Giardina stated I make a motion that we table this particular issue for approximately 2 weeks.

Commissioner McLemore stated I second.

Chairman Smith stated all in favor.

Commissioner Giardina and McLemore stated I.

Chairman Smith stated motion carried.

Commissioner Agee stated I oppose.

Chairman Smith stated ok. Ms. Williams will you be at the special meeting we call?

Wanda Williams stated yes.

Chairman Smith stated thank you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. At this time we will move on with the rest of the departments business. We will start with our Parks section, Juan Mata.

Juan Mata stated good evening Commissioners.

Tree Maintenance Update

Phase III of WCA deployment on February 3. Three crews, ranging in size from five to ten men, were assigned to districts 1, 2, and 3 respectively. On Monday, February 9, 2009, a fourth crew consisting of four men was assigned, resulting in coverage in all four districts. WCA has been deploying large crews in each of the districts. As such, work has progressed much faster than anticipated. As of March 31, 2009, WCA crews trimmed 13,425 trees and performed 14 removals. Approximately 1,800 trees located primarily in

District 1 and 4 remain to be trimmed under the terms of the agreement. This figure excludes park trees, trees at City facilities and trees pruned by City forces per special requests or grid trimming completed within months of WCA's arrival. It's anticipated that pruning of the remaining 1,800 trees will be completed by May 1, 2009.

During the month of April, the tree trimming schedule is as follows:

WCA

- CD 1 – Grid 3 (64th Street through Century Blvd from West Blvd to La Brea Ave)
- CD 3 – Grid 2 (Retrimming of Buckthorn Street)
- CD 4 – Grid 2/3 (Century Blvd through 118th Place from Crenshaw Blvd to Freeman Ave)

City Crews

The City's two three man crews continue to handle special requests in the respective districts, with attention given to each Council District. Additionally, City crews concentrate their efforts on removal of dead or diseased trees identified by WCA and trimming at City parks and Facilities. The April schedule is as follows:

- April 1-10 – City Service Center
- April 13-24 – Rogers Park
- April 27-30 – Special Requests

Capital Improvement Projects

- Playground Equipment at various Inglewood Parks – opening of bids took place on March 11th
- Artificial Turf Installation at Vincent Park – grant applications were submitted to the Land and Conservation Office and the United States Soccer Foundation the first week in March
- Sports Lighting Improvement at Darby and Vincent Parks – resolutions to amend the 2008/2009 Fiscal year budget and approve the submission of a grant application for the Los Angeles County Regional Park and open space
- District Safe Neighborhood Parks (Prop A) Cities Excess Funds will be on the April 15 City Council Agenda

Juan Mata stated a copy of the tree trimming schedule was distributed to each Commissioner. That is all I have tonight, any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated you are doing a good job on the tree trimming; appreciate it and thank you very much.

Commissioner McLemore stated let me ask Sabrina, you said they don't trim the trees at the top? Because I live on Hillcrest and they came through and trimmed the trees but they are so tall when the wind blows, a lot of leaves blow into the street.

Sabrina Barnes stated my specific comment has to do with topping the trees which has to do with taking the top off of them to make them shorter. That can send the trees into

shock and cause them to fail and as an industry practice, topping is not recommended or suggested as a tree maintenance measure it does more harm to a tree than help it.

Commissioner McLemore stated so all they do is trim the branches on the tree?

Sabrina Barnes stated by taking off limbs and foliage of the trees, yes. In the event that it is hazardous or interfering with the electrical wires then it is addressed in that matter but then there is a way that it is done. It is not done because you want the tree to be shorter.

Commissioner Giardina stated I think I should turn this question to Sabrina, with the acceleration of the West Coast Arborist with the performing of the work, I know that we had talked about this with them that part of the agreement was for them to come in and train and supply a safety training for our people and I'm wondering if that has taken place or how many sessions was that because we did have an extremely unfortunate accident. Were we able to get that training for our tree trimmers?

Sabrina Barnes stated the training will set in motion our summer program. We anticipate having funding available left for this and while we indicated and talked to them about the trimming component again it was not written in their contract but since we have the additional funding we will be making the recommendations to the Administrator on how that should be used in addition to inventorying the remaining trees. At this particular time because we expect to also have some summer youth that will be coming on board and so they will not only be training our staff but making sure we our working with them in the best manner possible.

Commissioner Giardina stated but I thought when we made the motion and I thought I made the motion that the only way I really agreed to it was because after we had the tragedy here where we lost a trimmer, that was the reason that we had appeared to be slowing down, the crew were traumatized. I know me personally the only reason I agreed to it was because of the agreement with them to train. I didn't know that we didn't incorporate it in the original agreement but I was under the understanding that they had agree to that and that they would definitely supply us with the state law training as well as showing the effectiveness of use the equipment in a safe, non-injures matter.

Sabrina Barnes stated it was not written into the contract.

Chairman Smith stated that was a verbal agreement but we thought they'd stick to their word.

Commissioner Giardina stated so up to this time you are saying we haven't had any training?

Sabrina Barnes stated not any physical training from them. They have given us literature and information to help us with our own training components but no physical training from them. The other part of that is that this was designed to be a three year contract that we would work this in over the term of the three years but the way they have been assigning their crews, 10-12 men crews at a time, they've knocked the work out. The directive from the City Administrator was not to slow them after they completed their first years' money, it was to keep them going to get the work done and get out of

there. It has accelerated the plan and changed some of the things that we had planned to do over the course of this period of time that they would be here.

Chairman Smith stated so it was suppose to take three years and its taken one. Did the salary reduce from a three year salary to one?

Sabrina Barnes stated no it was a three year contract and typically with three year contracts you allocate so much money for year one, so much money for year two and so much money for year three. Although a three year contract was actually budgeted we didn't necessarily have to wait for the next fiscal year for them to start year two and three of trimming. Basically, they had finished year one's training by January. In terms of the numbers of trees they had completed, which is over 7,000, that's more than a year one number. Right now they are up to 13,325 which is actually years one and two that have been completed already. Because we had trimmed a large amount of trees that didn't need to be retrimmed that has provided some savings on this particular project.

Next, we will have a report from our Recreation division. James Henry is reporting.

James Henry stated good evening.

Earth Day Celebration

Everyone is invited to attend the upcoming Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The event will be held at Grevillea Art Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be food, environmental activities, live entertainment and exhibits by eco-friendly organizations. Other activities include composting workshops, recycling presentations, raffles and giveaways. Don't miss this exciting event. Come celebrate Earth Day with the residents of Inglewood.

I-Thrive

Join the Parks, Recreation and Community Services department for a day of fun and excitement at Rogers Park on Saturday, May 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event was exclusively designed to increase public awareness about the programs, activities and services offered through the department. Residents will have the opportunity to visit the information booths and obtain information about recreation, senior services, parks, IPAL, youth and family services and code enforcement. The day of the event highlights include a youth soccer tournament, staff versus community basketball game and a boxing exhibition. The event will also host dance, martial arts, scrapbooking and gardening workshops will be held throughout the day. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting event.

Inglewood Games Skate Park Competition

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting event. Inglewood Games Skate Park Competition don't forget to join us this Saturday, April 4th at Darby Park for the 4th Annual Inglewood Games Skate Park Competition from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Last year's event attracted over 350 skaters from all over Southern California. Don't miss this exciting event.

Status Report Regarding Darby Park Racquetball Court and Gymnasium Floors

On February 17, 2009 the City Clerk received and opened 6 bids for the repair and replacement of hardwood floors at Darby and Rogers Park. This includes replacement of the gymnasium floor and repair and resurfacing of the racquetball court at Darby Park and Rogers Park. Perflooring was the lowest bidder; staff has verified the businesses references and passed performances. Additionally the vendor has met all of the City's insurance requirements. On March 26, 2009 this City received a bid protest letter from the vendor regarding his discussion with staff regarding material substitutions and the acceptance of the materials for the replacement floors. This matter is currently under review however it is anticipated it will be resolved and the item presented to the Mayor and Council by the end of the month.

James Henry stated that is all I have for now. I hope to see you all at our upcoming events. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated I'm glad to see the racquetball court. Maybe within the next six months? Good job!

Commissioner McLemore stated what was the name of the event on May 2nd?

James Henry stated I-Thrive.

Commissioner Giardina stated is the vendor protesting the terms and conditions of the contract having to do with the wood that we were going to use on the floor?

James Henry stated, no ma'am it is not on hold. It is under review.

Commissioner Giardina stated so no work or is any work being done?

James Henry stated not until everything has been approved.

Chairman Smith stated thank you. Sabrina will you make a comment. I'm looking under Parks and two and three were not discussed - Capital Improvement Projects and artificial turf or did I sleep through that?

Sabrina Barnes stated Juan did speak to these. It was brief comments about the grant applications being submitted for the artificial turf at Vincent Park and then he also noted a budget amendment regarding the sports lighting equipment at Darby and Vincent Parks. Is that what you are speaking of?

Chairman Smith stated yes. Ok so we are waiting on the grant, not the installation right?

Sabrina Barnes stated right. There were two grant opportunities - the latter grant that he spoke about was the Land Water Conservation Fund grant that was submitted but we won't actually find out about that award until I believe late summer.

Chairman Smith stated ok so it is just the grant, see I'm thinking we were talking about installation and putting stuff in. Ok so both of these are grants. Thank you Sabrina.

Sabrina Barnes stated I do have a comment. I want to go back to the tree contract. Just to reiterate, we piggy backed that agreement which meant we did not have to go through the formal bid process. Piggy backing allowed us to get on board or utilize the contract that they have with another city under the same terms. You can take a way from the agreement but you can not add to it. So we could not physically write in a training component by virtue of the fact that we piggy backed. But we could engage them and ask if they would be willing to do that. We have not eased up on them doing the training but we have additional leverage now that they will have completed their contract and we have some discretionary funds. That is not our first choice to have to use those funds but if they don't do the training because they said they would they are not mandated because it was not a part of the piggy backing contract. That was not a part of Agoura's contract which is the contract we piggy backed.

Chairman Smith stated I understand that but that is poor business practice and I think we have it in our minutes that they both stated that they would be willing to train our people.

Sabrina Barnes stated that is correct, my point being we just couldn't write it in.

At this point we will hear from Pat Bitker, Human Services.

Pat Bitker stated good evening.

Human Services Overview

- Fundamentals First baseball/softball clinic for the after school program began in January. After school personnel and IPAL staff served as coaches/trainers. The clinic was held from January 21 – March 20, 2009. Over 75 kids participated in this program.
- They are also participating the I-Thrive event that was mentioned earlier. They will be highlighting their afterschool enrichment program, summer food and snack program, Girls Circle Mentoring Program as well as I-Read.
- All after school sites have implemented the basketball program. Special thanks to IPAL for purchasing the uniforms.
- Four after school sites attended the Roundhouse Aquarium field trip. I believe this is the aquarium at the end of the Manhattan Pier. The enjoyed it very much and it opened the possibility of some new things.
- IPAL Soccer tournaments will be held at Vincent and Darby Parks.
- Girls Circle began on March 2, 2009. There are currently nine participants. Our goal is to recruit 20 girls. Recruitment is ongoing.
- The After School program began recruiting and enrolling students in the I-Read Summer Reading Program. To date 78 students have been enrolled. The after school enrichment program will begin promoting and recruiting participants in early February.
- In an effort to encourage reading and get children excited about it, library visits are being scheduled as a part of the after school enrichment activities.
- Self Defense Safety Awareness classes began at Rogers Park. This class is being hosted by IPAL and Human Services. The class teaches the fundamentals of self defense. Students ages 5-18 are welcome to attend. Classes are held every Monday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Baseball tournament held at Rogers Park. Over 75 students participated.
- Concerts at the Mural will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the four Sundays in June. We are looking for local talent to showcase. Please refer any groups or individuals to Skip Halloran.
- The corner monument at the transportation mural was damaged and is at the fabricators being repaired.
- Sculpture Conservation studio will do the annual cleaning and re-anti-graffiti coating on May 11 – 13, 2009.

Pat Bitker stated any questions?

Chairman Smith stated the date of the four concerts?

Pat Bitker stated the four Sundays in June.

Senior Center Business

Fall Prevention Center of Excellence Program called InSTEP (Increasing Stability through Evaluation and Practice) is a 12 week program that focuses on improving the stability and balance of seniors. The program covers a group exercise program, medical-risk assessment, home risk assessments and fall prevention classes. The classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. There is no fee for this program. This project is supported by the Archstone Foundation and facilitated by the University of Southern California (USC). Fall Prevention Center will offer two class rotations of this program.

Pat Bitker stated just as someone who has worked with seniors, Fall Prevention is incredibly important; it is often incredibly serious and hard to recover from an incident where a senior falls and breaks a hip. This is a really important and timely program for seniors. To my understanding any equipment that they provide if they do in home assessments, install grab bars or provide people with canes or walkers that equipment will remain so it is a very good program.

New Ventures in Leadership (NVL) Program

The NVL program created by the American Society on Aging (ASA) is designed to promote the leadership potential of professionals of color and their involvement in the national aging arena and empower them to assume leadership roles in their community and organizations.

Sikizi Allen-Wagne has been awarded a full scholarship funded by Atlantic Philanthropies to participate in this year long program. The program consists of three components: educational seminars and conferences, mentoring and special projects, NVL partners are paired with two mentors, one local and one national to provide assistance with professional development. Over the next year, Sikizi will attend week long trainings in Las Vegas, Washington DC and Chicago and receive customized leadership training in the field of aging.

Pat Bitker stated Lastly a bit of an update on the Nutrition Project at the Senior Center. Here is a handout on what we are doing. This is additional information and some of the

examples of what we intend to send out in draft form for our pilot fundraising. As we have discussed before the demands for meals are really stripping our ability to provide the services so we have prepared this fundraiser packet some of which includes: a letter, a graph that talks about the specifics of the cost of providing meals and a draft of something we might ask people to check off the level of their donation. This will be mailed to former clients who were a part of the home delivered program because experience has taught us that people who have had direct contact with this program are much more likely to have a personal connection to it and be much more likely to volunteer their time or donate because they understand in a very personal way that it does make a huge difference in peoples lives. The Care Managers have begun to call through closed files of former recipients of home delivered meals to try and combed out 50-100 past recipients. We are going to use that as a pilot program to see if we are even on track with this packet and successful in explaining the information. If it is successful, we will expand it. We are also looking at ways, perhaps employees might be able to donate. There are ways even now that City Employees can donate to charities and that is part of a payroll deduction. We are also looking for some sort of method to be sure the money is raised wither through donations employees or others, and it remains in a discrete fund and it doesn't end up with city general funds. That is a very short range plan to try and bridge the gap between demand and ability to service our seniors. I did propose a more long range plan that is based on using the capacity of our soon to be built senior center. In the kitchen they are going to install there as a separate retail business plan that is relatively small but there is considerable funds that can be generated if we are able to run a parallel retail outlet and I think we can solve a lot of problems if we can get this up and running.

Lastly there is some immediate relief in view because the Obama Administration put a \$100 million dollars into the Older American's Act for senior nutrition. That money is working its way from the federal government to the state government to the local governments and eventually to us. I've spoken to people at Los Angeles County; they are unclear when that money will arrive. It absolutely will but there are many hurdles and because as you know the State of California had a \$52 billion short fall, so all that money will get funneled through that whole process so it may be some time until it actually arrives, regardless I think we should go forward with this initial testing of the waters of bringing community support directly to support the senior nutrition program. We will learn only through experience whether we are able to raise significant amounts of money. I think only good can come of it if nothing else we will learn about the support of community in other ways and if we do not raise that much money this way, we'll keep looking and trying. My goal is to become as self sufficient as we are able and rely on our own efforts as best as we can I believe that the demand will only grow. We have work to do but I think there is great possibility.

Commissioner Agee stated I have the utmost respect for you and your organization. I think you do a terrific job and I hope you can get more money. Just keep up the good work. You did mention graffiti abatement, are you going to spray the mural again?

Pat Bitker stated the Sculpture Conservation Studio does that annually and they are scheduled to do it May 11th – 13th.

Commissioner McLemore stated you've done a lot. For this form, do you have more of these in case someone wants to donate?

Pat Bitker stated all of this is in draft form right now. We are open to any ideas. If you think bigger donations are what's called for I'm happy to revise it.

Commissioner McLemore stated oh no no. I was wondering if I can get some more so I can take to my job because I told them about the fundraiser for the seniors and they want to know what they can do so I was waiting on the form to take to work because they want to give money.

Sabrina Barnes stated the form is in draft format but generally we accept donations so its not dependent it upon that particular form. We can note that it is a draft and if you are sharing it it can be utilized at this point but it is not final. We are fine tuning it. The print shop is going to give it bells and whistles so it is a little more polished looking.

Commissioner McLemore stated so if someone wanted to donate they can just write the check payable to who?

Sabrina Barnes stated at this point we are paying it to the Inglewood Community Services Corporation because then we can turn it back around and use it. We are working out the funding channels that will allow us to separate the money from the actual nutrition funds so that it can continued to be used.

Chairman Smith stated so this has already gone to Council? Its' the draft of the fundraiser? They've approved it? Do they have to approve it?

Sabrina Barnes stated it is not subject to Council approval.

Commissioner Giardina stated Pat I'm always touched by your reports. We talk about a village to raise a child but as we see our older people living longer and the need and not even having food to feed them is just one of our first concerns. And all of the people now who really don't have the money. I think if we work really hard to get a lot of people to buy into. I thank you again for your report, it is really insightful and that \$100 million dollars is a fabulous figure, too bad it has to funnel through the way it does but it'll be exciting when it gets here. thank you again and thank you for your hard work.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. Now we will here from our Community Service Division, Kevin Carroll is reporting.

Kevin Carroll stated good evening Commissioners.

Results for the Vendor Task Force for the month of March are as follows: 10 vendor confiscations, 16 shopping carts, 4 scavengers were confiscated, 1 nbdes inspection, 1 sign was pulled, 1 sink hole was reported and we confiscated an illegal ice cream truck. As of March 15th, 30 vendors were confiscated, 12 shopping carts, 3 citations, and 1 scavenger confiscations. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated do you guys have anything to do with these political signs?

Kevin Carroll stated we will remove the political signs once everything has taken place.

Commissioner Agee stated what about signs that are on city property?

Kevin Carroll stated give me that address and I'll take care of it.

Commissioner Agee stated Crenshaw and 90th, vacant lots on Century Boulevard that belong to the city. They are all over city property and I don't think they should be there. Even the people that I support need to come down.

Commissioner McLemore stated the fines for the vendors, how much are they? Is it enough for them that they won't come back?

Kevin Carroll stated in most instances Commissioner McLemore, we confiscate their materials because a lot of times unfortunately 90% of them don't have legal identification so we try to confiscate the materials to discourage them that way. Those that do have legal identification can range anywhere from \$300 dollars on up, depending on what we are confiscating and what they are selling. For the most part, the vendors we deal with sell illegal food stuff. There are occasional instances of cd's and stuff of that nature but majority of the time it is illegal food items, that's a no no in the City of Inglewood.

Commissioner McLemore stated so if they are selling cd's in front of the 99¢ store, that is illegal?

Kevin Carroll stated yes it is.

Commissioner McLemore stated really?

Kevin Carroll stated yes. If you do not have a vendor's license and you have not applied for the business license from the City of Inglewood, it is illegal.

Commissioner Giardina stated you are doing a great job Kevin. Keep up the good work.

Kevin Carroll stated thank you.

Chairman Smith stated I also think you are. Before I call for the comments, there is an issue of the Hollywood Project. What I will do Sabrina is call each of the Commissioners when they have their calendars in front of them and see what day is best for them and then I'll get back to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated and if you can also let me know if there is anything special you need to have at that meeting.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Agee stated I want to thank Inglewood Little League football folks and players. Thank you for coming out and I want you to know I'm just one vote but you've got my support 100%. I will be attending the games and I hope that you are in your own field this year because it is hard to see these young kids going through what they had to go through what they did this last year, I don't think they should have to do it. Thank you for coming out, keep up the good work. You guys are champions and you should have an accommodation for being so dedicated. Maybe we can arrange it.

Commissioner McLemore stated for Ms. Gibson, good job. 40 years is a long time and my hats off to you. Have you guys looked at a place to have a football field?

Linda Gibson stated as sad as it is we are looking outside the box of Inglewood. It's sad to say that Inglewood School District isn't embracing us as other school districts are. They understand the need of our program and how we can feed into their program and as much as we don't want to, these are our options. It was really hard this last year putting our kids on the road because we did not have the funds to meet at the school district. We did go back and submit an application this year, we followed all of the rules but we have yet to hear from them. I can't put my organization where it was last year. I promised parents to get them to come back that we will have a field. Again, as unfortunate as it is we are looking at other school district and places.

Commissioner McLemore stated thank you. and for the Senior Center, good job. All the reports were excellent.

Commissioner Giardina stated I echo the sentiments of this Commission. This is a fabulous thing, volunteerism. It is all about the kids. we have our work in front of us and I just want to say to all of the workers here, you are doing a phenomenal job these are tough times and you continue to work above and beyond the call of duty and it is appreciated by this Commission. I am always touched by the work that all of you do. Please take that back to the line staff and tell them how much we appreciate all the things they do.

Chairman Smith stated and I have to echo all of the Commissioner sentiments. One request was made by Commissioner Giardina, that we adjourn the meeting in memory of Juan Mata's son. The Parks and Rec Commission meeting of April 2, 2009 is adjourned of John Anthony Mata at 7:23 p.m.