

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on June 4, 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 Norma Smith, Chairperson – District Two
Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three

Late:

Commissioner Henry Brown – District Four

Absent:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District One

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Director
Sandra Green-Hilliard, Sr. Administrative Secretary
Michelle Jordan, Program Specialist
Kevin Carroll, Code Enforcement Officer
James Henry, Recreation Supervisor
Mark Martinez, Tree Maintenance Supervisor

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Agee made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and was seconded by Commissioner McLemore. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much Commissioner. It's good to see you all, it has been a while. We will now hear from our Parks Division, Mark Martinez, our Tree Supervisor is reporting. Excuse me Mark, if you don't mind Mr. Kevin Carroll from our Community Beautification would like to present first.

Community Beautification

Kevin Carroll stated good evening Commissioners

These are the results from our Task Force from the month of April and the first week of May. On April 5th we had 9 vendor confiscations, 4 shopping carts, 0 scavengers, 0 NPDES reports, 14 signs pulled, 1 sink hole reported and 0 ice cream trucks. For April 22, 2009 we had 12 vendors confiscated, 12 shopping carts, 3 citations were issued, 3 scavengers were confiscated and detained, 6 illegal ice cream trucks and 3 NPDES reports through phones were reported; and for the first week in May we had 16 vendors

confiscated, 4 shopping carts, 0 scavengers, 3 NDPES reports, 1 sign pulled, 0 sink holes reported, 4 illegal ice cream trucks and 4 citations were issued (1 parking, 2 auto repair and 1 solicitor).

These are the results for the Task Force for the month of April and the first week in May. Any Questions?

Chairwoman Smith stated you guys were busy weren't you! Commissioner Agee do you have any questions or comments?

Commissioner Agee stated yes, this is one that is a bit personal. There is a rumor going around that you guys haven't been having any Task Forces out lately.

Kevin Carroll asked have we been having them?

Commissioner Agee stated yes.

Kevin Carroll stated yes we have.

Commissioner Agee stated I don't know how true that is but I understand that you haven't been getting police backup whenever you need it, is that so?

Kevin Carroll stated I haven't heard anything regarding that effect in terms of what was transferred to me from my supervisor. But usually when we call and say we need police backup, for the most part, they do come. I don't know how true that is, I will have to check with my supervisor to see if there was an incident specifically. But as far as on my watch, whenever I've had to call on PD, there has never been a problem.

Commissioner Agee stated okay, that's all I had to say.

Chairwoman Smith stated can you let the record show that Commissioner Brown is present. Sabrina back to you, there are no further questions.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much, and now we will hear from Mr. Martinez, our Tree Supervisor.

Mark Martinez stated good evening.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Darby and Vincent Park Lighting Improvement Projects - On April 14 the Mayor and Council Members approved the submission of a grant application for the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Safe Neighborhood Parks (Proposition A) Cities Excess Funds of 2009. This project will provide for the rehabilitation of sports lighting at Darby and Vincent Park. On August 13, 2008, the northwest portion of Inglewood suffered a power outage; and as a result, the baseball diamond and soccer field lights at Vincent Park were impacted. Several ballasts were burned out. The existing sports lighting system at Darby and Vincent Park have exceeded their life expectancy; and as a result, frequent outages occur that present safety concerns and impact programming. A single 3-phase panel needs to be installed that replaces the multi-panels located at or near the fields.

The panel serves as the sole electrical source for lighting, irrigation and other systems.

- Darby and Vincent Parks Basketball Court Renovation – E.C. Construction was contracted to paint the stripes at both parks and to install basketball standards at Vincent Park. All work was completed as of April 30th.
- Vincent Park Soccer Field Artificial Turf Installation Project – In April of 2009 the installation of the artificial turf project was open for bids, three vendors responded and staff is currently working on staff reports and contracts awarded to the lowest bidder.

Tree Maintenance Update

WCA as of April 29, have trimmed approximately 15,225 trees throughout Inglewood. During Phase III of WCA, which began in February of 2009, crews ranged in size from five to ten men and were assigned to all four Council Districts.

WCA will provide two classroom-training sessions to the City crews. The following topics will be addressed:

- Tree pruning Standard and Goals (Industry Standards versus City Standards)
- Structural Development of Young Trees (Treatment and Maintenance of Newly Planted Trees)
- Needs Assessment of Current City Crews

City Crews will be trimming trees in the following locations:

- June 1-12 – City Hall
- June 15-18 – Art Park
- June 22-30 – Special Requests
- July 1-10 – Queen Park
- July 13-24 – Center Park
- July 27-31 – Special Request
- August 3-13 – Centinela Adobe
- August 17-24 – North Park
- August 25-31 – Special Request

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you. Commissioner Agee do you have any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated yes, concerning the soccer fields. They are going to put artificial turf, is that going to be on both fields or just one?

Mark Martinez stated I believe it's both.

Commissioner Agee stated I never hear any mention about football. Now my thing is that the kids who play football are just as important as those who play soccer. These kids have been neglected too long; if this city can afford a soccer field, then they ought to be able to afford a football field for these young kids to play football. Now I just don't understand why it's always soccer and never football. Football is the number one sport

in the United States; soccer is new in this country. At least our kids should have a place to play; last year they didn't even have a home game because they didn't have a field to play in. The mayor gave direct orders that there should be a football field and a soccer field at Centinela Park, now is that what you guys are working on?

Mark Martinez stated I believe funding is part of the problem but maybe Sabrina would like to cover this.

Sabrina Barnes stated sure. The way we are preceding is that we were working on two specific grants. One grant specifically said the field had to be put down for soccer; however, once that field was installed, it could be striped and used for football. But the predominant sport for that field had to be soccer. On the second field that we were going to put in place was going to be multi-purpose, so both fields in a sense will be multi-purpose where both soccer and football can be played. Again Mr. Agee, is it called a football field? No it is not. It will then be termed a multi-purpose complex in which both soccer and football can be played depending on the striping.

Commissioner Agee stated what does the charter say as far as football and soccer? Does it say that you can have both?

Sabrina Barnes stated it says that the predominant sport takes precedence and there isn't anything that says if it's a football field, you can only play football or if it's a soccer field; per the ordinance, you're supposed to only play soccer, and if it's a baseball diamond, you're only supposed to play baseball. Because the demand in the community has been so high and is so high, we've been doing our best to try to accommodate everybody; and how are we doing that, we are letting them both play on the respective fields.

Commissioner Agee stated that's the problem! What I'm saying is we need a football field and we need a soccer field. My opinion is that football should be before soccer because football is the number one sport in this country. Now there is no way to get around that. Now the Mayor gave specific orders to have a football field and a soccer field at Centinela Park. Now this purpose thing, I don't know about it but you can't play football and soccer on the same field. Soccer dominates the fields, now I don't care if you put artificial turf down there, you still won't be able to play soccer and football on the same field.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee and thank you Sabrina. May you look into that and I don't know what you can do about it, but if he says that the Mayor said something about a football field then look into that for me please. Because I know that you were saying multi-purpose field, and it makes sense, but like he said football is the number one sport in this country.

Sabrina Barnes stated okay. I will do that.

Commissioner Agee stated it seems to be that everyone in here should be concerned about these little kids who play football and don't have a field to play on.

Sabrina Barnes stated Commissioner Agee, the comments are not meant to show lack of concern, I am simply sharing with you what our direction has been; and you said that the mayor said that we should have a football field and a soccer field , I will go back and

research that. When we presented this item to Council, this is the exact way that we presented it.

Commissioner Agee stated those are the orders that he gave to staff.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee, which is why I am asking her to research it and if he did give those orders to staff then it should be on record.

Commissioner McLemore stated so when you finish trimming all the trees, how many trees have we trimmed besides the 15,200?

Mark Martinez stated as far as the city. What West Coast has allowed us to do is free us up from trimming street trees and allowed us to concentrate on the parks. If you've noticed, we have been working at City Hall up front. It's odd because our street master plan doesn't have the inventory for the city trees which includes park trees, city property, it only has inventory out for residential areas. I really don't have a number but I can estimate.

Sabrina Barnes stated we estimate we have about 8,000 in number. That is all of the trees in the parks plus the public facilities and as Mr. Martinez indicated, those weren't part of our master plan.

Commissioner Brown stated my only comment is I would like to know if the training has taken place with the Tree Maintenance Staff and the WCA; and how is it coming, have you noticed any improvements in things that we are doing correctly and incorrectly? How is the transition going because that is my interest?

Mark Martinez stated training has always been ongoing with the Tree Maintenance staff. It's always high priority as far as safety and proper training; it was a wake up call when the incident had happened and it brings your attention to it once again. But WCA training is going to happen next month on the 20th and its going to be on the 3rd Friday of every month. We are going to have two and they are going to come in to give us some additional training. It wasn't taken lightly when the accident happened. Safety has always been a high priority and that's number one - safety for the employees and safety for the public. That's how we have always handled it.

Commissioner Brown stated is there any new special equipment that Parks and Recreation has secured and we are not aware of?

Mark Martinez stated we do have three tower trucks that we probably won't see until about Christmas time or the first of the year because it takes a while for everything to go through and there will be an additional two coming in the following year. So Rick, the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, has found ways to turn to the few that we do have and he is getting funded for that, but that part is looking up.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown, Sabrina back to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much. Next we will move on to Recreation. Mr. James Henry will be presenting from Recreation.

James Henry stated good evening Commissioners and thank you Sabrina.

Summer Day Camp

In front of you, you will see a flyer which outlines all of our Day Camp activities for the upcoming summer. This year as in the past, Inglewood is going from an outstanding Summer Day Camp Program and this year is going to be even better. The different camps and their various locations are listed in the flyer and we're currently registering for the camps. We are moving slowly right now, but based on the economic conditions, that is not an alarming issue for us because we know that they usually pick up when school is out and when the parents have an urgent need to take care of their kids in the summer. So we are expecting to fill our camps by the time the day camp actually starts.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons this year will again be offered at the pool, on ages between seven and thirteen. Our lifeguards are currently going through their certification process to make sure that everything is in place and in order this year for an outstanding summer program. So we are looking forward to it being even better this year than last year.

Juneteenth Celebration

Our Juneteenth Celebration will be held at Rogers Park this year on the 13th. We are encouraging everyone to come out and take part in it. This year we are expanding some of the activities; we do have activities for the very young and the very old, so everyone can come out and participate and partake of the activities that are set-up.

J4 Celebration

Our July 4th Celebration will take place again this year at Edward Vincent Park. Activities will start at 10 a.m. and culminate at dusk; and the fireworks show will end all of the activities for the day. We are encouraging the Commissioners and everyone in the city to come out, and take part in this because we always have a wonderful time in our July 4th Celebration. That concludes my report for today, are there any questions? I will be more than glad to answer.

Chairwoman Smith stated are you finished Mr. Henry?

James Henry stated yes ma'am.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Agee do you have any questions or comments?

Commissioner Agee stated all I can say is that you are doing a good job outside with that basketball court. It's about time.

Commissioner McLemore stated I am looking at the registration dates and it started on Monday, May 11th. Can people still register, even though we are in June?

James Henry stated it is ongoing ma'am; May 11, is the start of registration and continues until we are filled.

Commissioner McLemore stated what is the capacity?

James Henry stated each one is different. Usually at the basic parks such as Rogers and Darby, I think they have a capacity of one hundred twenty five kids. For the Performing Arts Camp its fifty; and for the Wide World of Sports it's one hundred. So it depends on which camp site you would like to enroll your kid.

Commissioner McLemore stated thank you.

James Henry stated you're welcome.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Brown do you have any suggestions or comments.

Commissioner Brown stated just to compliment the staff to continue to provide quality summer programs and also compliment you for your splendid dress in coming to our meeting. I need to you to design a wardrobe for myself. I appreciate that.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you, Sabrina back to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much. At this time we will move along and we will hear from our Case Management Project Director, Ms. Michelle Jordan from Human Services.

Michelle Jordan stated good evening Commissioners.

Transportation

The Transportation Department through L.A. Metro presented a workshop for the seniors entitled, "Seniors on the Move" on May 28th. The agenda included child safety, how to take the bus and the trains, and how to get information on the internet; also highlighted were the different senior discount programs. Representatives also talked about the new Transit Access Pass System and also included field trips sponsored by the Hawthorne Light Room; they took the seniors over there and showed them the whole process, from start to finish.

Senior Center Update

There are ongoing senior center meetings being held with various departments and consultants. Our consulting firms are making great strides in moving the new senior center to reality; and as far as we know, the groundbreaking ceremony is still scheduled for this summer. There have also been meetings with interior design consultants.

Concerts at the Mural

The schedule is complete. On Sunday, June 7 Concerts at the Mural will feature Estaire Godinez and her Brazilian Jazz Guitar, followed at 4 p.m. by Ms. Liza G. Fly, who is a

Country songwriter and vocalist. On Sunday, June 14, featured guests are the Delian Music Student Ensemble and Charles (Chazzy) Green, who is well known in the jazz community. On Father's Day, June 21st, we will have a very special performance by R&B artist Jimmy Roland followed by the funky beats of Ms. Fae DC and Friends. On Sunday, June the 28th, the final performance date - we will feature Mr. Dennis DeLoach (known locally as dePoet for his spoken work and vocal talent). This performance will be followed by Jazz Impressions, a quartet from El Camino Community College.

Lastly, the Care Management Team will sponsor on Saturday, June 6th a Caregiver Conference which will be held at the Gladys Waddingham Library Lecture Hall. The event will feature speakers, adobe demonstrations, herbal information, cardio care, resource information for participants and the conference will end with a panel of caregivers speaking with the audience. Throughout the day, major raffles will be a part of it and for the caregiver, a grand prize raffle of a \$125 gift card to the Beach Massage and Day Spa in El Segundo.

Commissioner Agee stated on the second Sunday; do you have a name for the Master of Ceremonies?

Michelle Jordan stated no, I do not. It is just the Delian Music School that will be there and the jazz teacher.

Commissioner Agee stated it will be yours truly.

Michelle Jordan stated oh okay. Well Bravo!

Commissioner Agee stated you know the mural is very close and why I get involved because it's something that I am really proud of. I love it and I hope you all come out to see it because we've been passing out the cards, so hopefully we get enough people there and especially on the second Sunday. That is all that I have to say.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee. Commissioner McLemore? Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated I would just like to get a little more information on the Caregiver Conference, is it open to the public? I do know a couple of agencies that have people who work as caregivers and I would like to be able to share that information with them.

Michelle Jordan stated it's definitely free and open to the public. Parking will also be free. The auditorium holds one hundred and ninety nine and most chairs will be spoken for. We'll have refreshments throughout the day, lots of food and information will be given by caregivers.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you. I have nothing to say but that you have done a great job. Actually all of you have done an excellent job, Sabrina back to you.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you. I will be brief, and I would just like to share with you that we will be moving on our tree care ordinance after we get through our budget process, in which I will speak about in a little bit. It is just in general, but the purpose of our tree care ordinance will be to provide clear direction regarding planting, maintaining

and removing trees from streets, parks and other places. Some of the items that will be included in the ordinance will be various findings, such as: value of trees, what our role is, and tree care and maintenance. Also, it will have definitions on various terms that we would use with the public, and also as a part of our municipal code it will identify who is responsible for the protection of the tree, who enforces the ordinance regarding the trees; then, if there is a desire to establish a tree board or some body related to the trees, it can also be included. For the most part, it tells the residents what their charge is and then it also outlines what the city's responsibility will be.

You all have expressed some concerns and some interest; for example, when we entered into our WCA contract, the question was "why aren't they doing the ornamental trimming?" If that is something that you want addressed, that would need to be something that we would have to put in the ordinance because then it becomes law, per say as opposed to someone having discretion. As I indicated, we are using standard tree trimming policies.

This would be an opportunity for us to speak to those types of measures. For example we removed a tree in District 2 that was impacting a sidewalk replacement project. The District 2 residents were very concerned because it was a much beloved tree. (To Mark) Do you remember what type of tree and how old it was?

Mark Martinez stated well there were two – a casuarinas and liquid amber. They have been there ever since I have been here, so they are over 36 years old.

Sabrina Barnes stated the residents were very specific in how they wanted their trees to look in their area. Yes ma'am.

Chairwoman Smith stated was this a tree that was cut down over that place that looks like a town.

Mark Martinez stated yes, it was on East Ellis right off of La Brea.

Chairwoman Smith stated okay.

Sabrina Barnes stated so we have gotten some feedback and we'll be thinking about some of the things that the residents said with regards to the tree.

Chairwoman Smith stated but the main reason for cutting down that tree was that it was pulling up the sidewalk because of the roots.

Sabrina Barnes stated exactly.

Mark Martinez stated pruning the roots would've made it a hazard. It would've made it worse than what it did; there was no way of saving it.

Chairwoman Smith stated that's what I was saying. When I was looking at it, it just didn't seem like it would damage the sidewalk like that.

Sabrina Barnes stated it wasn't cut for the sake of cutting; it was cut because of safety issues, it was a hazard. Those are the types of items that we need to include.

Chairwoman Smith stated I did speak with some people over there and I did let them know that it was a hazard, and Councilwoman Dunlap was with me.

Sabrina Barnes stated okay. So we would spell those things in this ordinance so folks know clearly that when we are cutting trees, these are the conditions; and when we remove trees, these are the conditions. I think Mark will appreciate that because many times people will want us to remove trees for aesthetic reasons or because of their sewer laterals. The city has a policy and the public needs to know how that is addressed; so it will be spelled out in this document. Once we get through the budget process, we'll start work on it.

Chairwoman Smith stated make sure that you include termite infected trees.

Sabrina Barnes stated okay, those are deceased trees and that is normally when we deal with removals.

Improvements at Veteran's Building

With regards to improvements at the Veteran's Memorial Building, we planned to share this last month but we were not able to due to lack of quorum. On April 28th, the Public Works Department went before the Mayor and Council Members to award a contract to TKH Construction for the remodel of the Veteran's Building. However, several residents and the Mayor and Council Members expressed concerns regarding making sure we maintain the historic integrity of the building. With that the item was actually tabled or put on hold to make sure that staff had taken all the proper measures with regards to the scope of work. For example, the ornamental ceiling is an element that the residents, Council Members and a lot of folks would like to remain in tact. What's the impact? What type of windows are you using? Will it still have a historic feel once it is done? So they are reviewing that and I do not know the exact date of when it is scheduled to come back, but it is being further looked at.

Modular Units at Edward Vincent Park

We are so excited! Kaiser Permanente did donate to us, two modular units. When the Senior Center was relocated from Locust St. to the Veteran's Memorial Building, some staff had to give up their home. We received a double-wide unit and a single unit. The double-wide will be for recreation staff and programs and the single wide will be for our graffiti section because they also need better accommodations as well. The West L.A. facility did a remodel and they have a new structure there. While they were there, they had several construction trailers and they donated two of them to us.

Budget

I just need to say briefly that we are now starting our budget process. If you had a chance to be in attendance at Tuesday's Council Meeting, the City Administrator shared his direction to staff with regards to preparation for the budget. The city has enjoyed not being like other cities, where we have to take furloughs and take drastic measures like reductions in services and layoffs. But our City Administrator has directed us to take some measures so we can continue to say that that is the case. All departments have been asked to come up with a ten percent reduction plan.

As we are preparing our budget, we have to include reductions in our personnel, and M&O. The intent is not to have services impacted.

Our actual budget packets are due in the next few weeks. If you have some input then I would love to meet with you or at least let you know the direction we are moving in; but right now I won't know firmly what our plan is going to look like. I met with the Superintendents on Monday just to see where they are, where they think we can shave some savings from so that we can contribute our part. It will be challenging, but it has always been challenging. Normally when there are reductions, they normally go for the soft pieces and we happen to be the soft piece. If you have to choose between having the streets safe and having a special event, the special event kind of goes away. It's a no-brainer. I use that term loosely, but a fun activity or keeping the community safe, naturally I think everybody would want to keep the community safe. So those are the types of things that we may have to give up.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Agee do you have any questions or comments?

Commissioner Agee stated how does the city go about getting contracts for the Parks and Recreation?

Sabrina Barnes stated well specifically for all of the departments, it depends on the dollar amount, but we are always required to either get a request for quotation, request the qualification or to bid the projects out publicly. For a lot of larger projects like our Capital Improvement Projects, artificial turf, whatever the case may be it may be a bid process because of the dollar amount. A scope of work is developed, which basically outlines what we are asking them to do and what are the general terms and specifications for the project. It is sent out to the audience that should receive it and are given a certain amount of time to return their proposals, including costs. The city's policy is the lowest responsive bidder is the person that wins the contract.

Commissioner Agee stated what I don't get is who actually says you get this contract or you're hired for this particular project?

Sabrina Barnes stated the Mayor and Council based on the bid response. Once we get them back, if you line up the numbers, whoever is the lowest bidder is the contractor that is recommended to the council.

Commissioner Agee stated who draws up the contract?

Sabrina Barnes stated well the actual agreement is drafted by our legal department.

Commissioner Agee stated is that the City Attorney?

Sabrina Barnes stated correct, his staff not him specifically but an attorney in his office.

Commissioner Agee stated you know that eighty-five percent of the work has been done in the parks since I have been here, practically every one. It takes forever, and ever and ever to complete the job; it's outrageous. It should be checked; the people have asked us about the racquetball court at Darby Park. I was at it the day before yesterday and it's still closed since last July.

Sabrina Barnes stated can I comment on that? Because it is not on the agenda but I do have some information regarding that. I believe I mentioned at the other meeting that we had received the bid back for that project. We are ready to move forward and we will do the scheduling. The individual that responded as the lowest bidder was deemed unresponsive and then the contractor protested. So they kicked it into another phase, it had to go before Legal for review. I learned today that the Public Works Department is responsible for those big pots because it's a general service; that is not something that we do because we are Recreation Staff. They are responsible for the care of the building; so what they are going to be asking Mayor and Council to do is to actually reject the lowest bidder, determining them unresponsive and then award the contract to the second lowest bidder. If that is approved, then we can get back on track and start moving; but right now that project is pending and making its way to Council.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Agee. Mrs. McLemore?

Commissioner McLemore stated Sabrina, when the trees buckle the sidewalk? Who is responsible, the city or the homeowner?

Sabrina Barnes stated if the tree impacts the sidewalk, we are responsible.

Commissioner McLemore stated so when I drive down and see, I can just report it and someone will come out.

Sabrina Barnes stated well it's a combination of things. Normally the folks will report first that it is a tree issue; then Mark will get it and coordinate appropriately. He will take a look at it or he will recommend that the individuals on the Public Works side, they actually handle the sidewalk, take a look at it. It's collaborative. It gets put on a list or (to Mark) you can speak to that.

Mark Martinez stated yes it's pretty much a two-share responsibility. It comes from all areas, like from residents, employees in the city that we happen to know; but like Sabrina says if I have to get here first, I will look at the sidewalk and see if the tree is stable. If not we will cut the roots and we will pass it to Public Works' Flynn Marine because they are the ones that do street repair and fix the sidewalks. He handles it accordingly through the procedures that they go through. What that was on Ellis though was on the CDBG Grant list for sidewalk repair in which they had a major contract with and those were on the list. But it is shared and can come from all different areas, like a pedestrian walking, residents or somebody else that goes through the street.

Sabrina Barnes stated typically as Mark says, it is a two-face process. We do what we can with regards to the tree, whether its root pruning or if we actually have to take the tree out. Then it's the coordination with the other side of it; they either patch it or replace it the sidewalks by putting it on a list. But it's a process.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner McLemore. Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated no comment.

Chairwoman Smith stated Sabrina I have a question regarding who does the research on these contractors that are giving you the bids to see if they have a lot of complaints against them.

Sabrina Barnes stated typically all of the follow ups, check ups and recommendations may come from our Purchasing Department; or if it's real specialized, sometimes the departments will do it. For example, the Redevelopment Project, they are very active in doing the background checks of the potential vendors or vendors that will be coming on board. But it's a combination of the departments sometimes and of our Purchasing Section because they go through and make sure that the vendors adhere to everything on the checklist. You know you've turned in your bonds, submitted your references, they all are appropriate.

Chairwoman Smith stated okay. So when you turn in the bids, you only turn in the lowest bids to City Council?

Sabrina Barnes stated well they get the full list, whether it's three or five people, the lowest bidder is the one that gets recommended; unless they are determined to be unresponsive. They can be unresponsive for a number of ways, either they turn in an incomplete packet or they don't use the product that we specified. In the document, there are a number of things that can make them unresponsive. But if they are responsive and they are the lowest bidder, the contract and/or ordinance should be theirs.

Chairwoman Smith stated okay, now all of them can be equal as far as the work they've done before or do you have star processing such as five-stars, four-stars, three-stars. How do you tell the difference in these contractors?

Sabrina Barnes stated they bring with them their credentials on paper. I mean in terms if we don't go look out to see what type of gymnasium floors you put in, then determination should not be made like that.

Chairwoman Smith stated all I am saying is that I don't know how they do their research. But every contractor, (i.e. if you have ten contractors, you cannot have every contractor listed in the Better Business Bureau the same, I mean somebody has to have a complaint. You can't tell me they all have none), has to have at least five complaints to one to even no complaints.

Sabrina Barnes stated I am going to say that I don't know that we go look for their complaints. They provide references; naturally if you put someone on a reference list these are people that can speak highly favorably. I don't think that you would put someone who would say, "Please don't!" So the investigation is not so deep that we find out that these people are bankrupt and they never complete a project.

Chairwoman Smith stated I am just saying that's why we were having such a problem with starting projects and finishing projects on time. They are not the most reliable contractors and maybe we should see that less is not always the best. So I am just making that suggestion that maybe we can find a way to look into what they have really done in the past, and not what they have presented to you. There's a long list of things that I have gotten from friends and various people.

Commissioner Agee stated Chair; may I ask one quick question?

Sabrina Barnes stated sure.

Commissioner Agee stated I would like to see whoever is responsible for this come before the Commission and explain to us why it takes so long to do these projects. You know I have lots of experience in the building. But I would appreciate if someone can come in and explain it to us.

Sabrina Barnes stated I will do my best to find out who that is because your concern and your care is not specific to our department.

Chairwoman Smith stated I think that what he wants you to do is bring the people who are doing this research for these contractors and stuff. So we can know the process. Are there any further questions about the budget or further comments?

Commissioner Brown stated just to piggy back on what you both had said; that projects as money, we sit here and give the approval of six months to one year and the prior dollars that you make available escalate from a \$500,000 project becomes a \$1,000,000 project because of all the delay. I think the city has dealt with contractors enough in the years to know when they put out bids, who are going to provide those kinds of services. So there has to be some kind of break down as something is falling through the crack. That's all that I am saying.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Chairwoman Smith stated and there is one other thing that you mentioned. You were saying that you had to have a ten percent cut in budget and personnel.

Sabrina Barnes stated our budget consists of personnel and maintenance and operations moneys, so the combination of those two overall have to be reduced by ten percent.

Chairwoman Smith stated okay, aren't we getting some money from D.C.?

Sabrina Barnes stated there is stimulus money coming, but to my knowledge it is project specific. The moneys that are coming are project specific and there are other determining factors that determine in why we have to reduce this amount of money. So yes that has been factored into it but we can't count on that. For example, some stimulus money will be used to hire Police Officers, but if that money is not received, then the question becomes do we or don't we hire police officers?

Chairwoman Smith stated I thought it was a done deal already on the stimulus. The reason that I am saying this is because if we are not in trouble, I would hate to see programs and people in trouble because of what if.

Sabrina Barnes stated well it's not what if. If we don't take measures to reduce our budget, we can very well be in trouble.

Chairwoman Smith stated oh. I didn't get that impression from the beginning.

Sabrina Barnes stated it's not let's just cut it just in case. If we don't take some measures then we can sure be in trouble.

Chairwoman Smith stated okay. Any further questions or comments before or commissioners last comments before we adjourn? Commissioner Agee?

Commissioner Agee stated no.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner McLemore?

Commissioner McLemore stated none.

Chairwoman Smith stated Commissioner Brown?

Commissioner Brown stated yes. After reading the minutes of the last meeting, I think there was a lot of discussion about this project that is before us, and all the meetings that the city has had hearings, and all. But one thing I never hear about or talk about is you hear about the traffic and congestion and how we are going to do, lights and all. But my biggest concern is looking at a project like that, and how dirt is going to be removed from that project. And when the hell are they going to be able to take it without bumping into an ongoing life and all that. When I hear all of these hearings, nobody addresses movement of dirt of 9.3 square miles; and that is really a concern to me. I haven't really heard anybody talk about it and of course some of the things that were promised. Now we know that the acres that are being set aside for Recreation will not have fields and all; and no one has really nailed down what our role as Parks and Rec with the fields that are there. So I just wanted to put on record to have said that. It is a major concern and I still have been asking around and no one has given me a clear idea of how this is going to really take place. The project I think is a great thing for our city but when you're talking about digging and movement, just think about the problems we just had with the congestion and doing the resurfacing of La Brea. When we're talking about a project like this; it might be a nightmare that we may all regret.

Chairwoman Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown. There are no more further comments. The Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on June 4, 2009 is adjourned at 6:50 p.m. thank you everybody.