A meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on March 6, 2014 in the Council Chambers located on the 9th floor in City Hall. Commissioner Juanita Withrow presiding called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Juanita Withrow – District Two Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three Commissioner Gene Eldridge – District Four

Absent:

Commissioner Willie Agee, Chair – Commissioner at Large Commissioner Halimah Ginyard – District One

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Parks, Recreation and Library Services Director Stephanie Maldonado, Administrative Aide Michael Davis, Recreation Supervisor Michelle Jordan, Human Services Care Manager Juan Mata, Parks Supervisor

Public Comments

Jim Withrow stated North Park lighting has been having issues and Director Barnes has been in communication with me and the contractor as well as Mr. Mata and I believe that this problem is going to be resolved because it's been quite some time now.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from November 2013, Commissioner McLemore seconded. The minutes were approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Withrow, McLemore and Eldridge

Nays: None

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from February 2014, Commissioner McLemore seconded. Commissioner Withrow asked for the question and there were none. The minutes were approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Withrow, McLemore and Eldridge

Nays: None

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated we have verbal reports this evening beginning with the Parks division.

Juan Mata gave a report for the Parks division on the following items:

• Vincent Park Lighting Project was advertised on February 13, 2014. The pre-bid conference took place on February 20th. Bids were due March 5th by 11am. Two contractors submitted their bids. Staff is in the process of checking their licenses, insurance, and other paperwork before awarding the bid.

Contractors Bid Amount

- ➤ Howard Electric\$548,700.00
- Carolino Construction Corp.\$437,000.00
- Public Works replaced nine lights that were out at Vincent Park.
- Based on new developments, the bid date for the Darby Park Lighting project has been rescheduled to March 19, 2014.
- A job walk was held on February 11, 2014 for the new fencing project at Siminski Park with the proposals due the 25th of February. The lowest proposal was submitted by Century Fence. We are in the process of checking their licenses, insurance, and other paperwork before we award the bid. We anticipate the project to be completed sometime in late April.
- The Park Maintenance division striped the basketball courts at Siminski on February 26th.
- Two months ago we informed the contractor that the motion lights at North Park were not working. The contractor came to inspect the lights. All batteries were replaced, tested and we were ensured they were working properly. Staff also tested the lights and all were working. However, after few days the lights no longer worked. The Public Works project manager will contact and discuss with the contractor to determine the causes and will continue to work together to get them back up and running.

Commissioner Eldridge asked if there will be any additional costs in going back to the contractor, do we have a guarantee. Mr. Mata stated we have a guarantee.

Michael Davis, acting Recreation Supervisor for Rogers Park gave an update regarding the following Recreation programs:

- The City's Youth Track and Field program will begin the week of March 17th. Track and Field is open to boys and girls, ages 6 to 14. Our program provides track and field instruction and guidance with an emphasis on sportsmanship. Coaches foster teamwork, mutual respect and encouragement. The cost is \$30 per child. Participants will practice twice a week and participate in a total of five Track and Field meets. Inglewood holds a great track and field record. Each year participants from our city are known for taking home 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals in the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation track and field meets. Applications are currently being accepted and will be taken through March 7th at Rogers Park.
- The Latino Diabetes Association began its first of six diabetes prevention workshops at the Veteran's Memorial Building. Classes will be held every Saturday from March 1 through April 5 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Everyone should have received copies of the flyer along with the class schedule. The classes are very informative and everyone is encouraged to attend. Free diagnostic testing will be provided, along with helpful information and

• The LA County Animal Control in collaboration with the Society for California Veterinary Vaccine Care will offer low-cost pet vaccination and microchip clinic to cats and dogs on Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Ed Vincent Park. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this low cost clinic. Everyone has been provided with copies of the event flyer to share with friends and neighbors.

Commissioner Withrow stated she asked Teresa Estrada when the Latino Diabetes was first presented if they would be able to partner with any local restaurants and was wondering if Teresa left any notes. Mr. Davis stated no but would follow up. Commissioner Eldridge stated regarding the pet vaccination program, per the City of Inglewood's Code Enforcement, if a resident has any more than two dogs they have to have a permit, are we making sure people are not bringing more pets than what is permitted. Mr. Davis stated I haven't seen residents bring more than 2 dogs. Sabrina Barnes stated it is a county wide program so to my knowledge they don't restrict the number of pets that you can bring.

Michelle Jordan, Human Services Care Manager gave a report on the following Human Services programs:

- The Department submitted an application to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NRPA is offering grant funds to support children's health through park and recreation out-of-school time programs. These grants are designated for expenditures that help local park and recreation agencies increase the number of healthy meals served to children when school is not in session, provide evidence-based nutrition literacy to children, and implement nutrition and physical activity standards. Grants are for a one-year period and are expected to range from \$25,000 to \$35,000 with additional nutrition literacy materials provided (valued at \$10,000).
- The California Department of Education (CDE) will allow use of program funds to operate
 Mobile Feeding Options in Summer Feeding Programs. Transporting meals to children
 rather than requiring children to travel to a meal service site is known as the 'mobile
 feeding' model. The Department plans to pilot the mobile feeding model with Faithful
 Central Bible Church.
- We are beginning to plan a whole new menu cycle for our nutrition sites at Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lennox and Ladera, as well as for home deliveries, which will begin on July 1, 2014. This will be a complex process with multiple approvals needed by Local, County, State and Federal bodies. This is a new beginning for Inglewood, since last year, because of a required bidding process for a caterer; we had to adopt the menu from the Gardena Nutrition Program, since both Cities have Tender Loving Care as the caterer. This year we are partnering with nutrition staff from Gardena and Inglewood, LA County Consulting Nutritional Services and the caterer to plan a menu that best reflects the needs and wishes of the senior participants and provide wholesome and delicious nutrition.

 Ms. Jordan distributed a flyer for the upcoming Caregiver event and asked everyone to attend. She also again thanked the Commissioners for their help and donations over the thanksgiving and holiday seasons.

Commissioner Eldridge stated he will be there (referring to the caregiver event). Commissioner Withrow asked if the one year grant is for a new program or to help fund a program that already exists. Sabrina Barnes stated we did receive a grant from them last year but this is a different component which encourages mobile feeding sites which are new to us. Commissioner Withrow stated so it is not additional money. Ms. Barnes stated it is additional money above our current grant funding. Commissioner Withrow stated so you are you still going to provide the food service at the permanent locations. Ms. Barnes stated yes we will maintain the same sites with the addition of the mobile site.

Sabrina Barnes gave report providing information regarding the City's relationship with the Social Justice Learning Institute (SJLI). Commissioner McLemore asked what they are planting in the gardens. Ms. Barnes stated it varies from site to site. In the garden at Queen Park there are greens, herbs, flowers and vegetables. Commissioner McLemore asked what happens to the food and how is it distributed. Ms. Barnes stated it is an open garden and it is not gated so that the community can come and take advantage of it. Commissioner Eldridge asked what the date is for in the last paragraph. Ms. Barnes stated the last two Earth Day celebrations have taken place the last two April's and one scheduled for this coming April 19th. The tree plantings that took place were primarily at Vincent Park and took place over the course of the last year to year and a half. Commissioner Eldridge asked shouldn't that be a part of the date that should be in the report. Ms. Barnes acknowledged that it was not there and in the future dates will be included. Commissioner Withrow stated she has been to several of SJLI programs and has been to the Healthy and Sustainable Community meetings they have had and some people in the community have asked me how they are doing this in the city because their experience with them was somewhat not happy and they have participated in the community garden and SJLI did not follow up with their contractual agreement they made. Ms. Barnes asked which garden. Commissioner Withrow stated one of the home gardens and when I was at Queen Park people made comments about that one not being maintained all the time and asked if they receive any stipend or grant money from the city in order to do that. Ms. Barnes stated none that she is aware of but to her understanding they have a number of funding sources that fund their projects. She reiterated that she is not aware of them receiving any funds from the city and they are not receiving any funds from our department. Commissioner Withrow stated she only brought it up and asked for this information because she knows it seems like they are doing wonderful things but I hear things coming back about their follow up afterwards not being professional and I am a little concerned that it will cause a bad reputation for the city by partnering with them when some of the things they are doing are not good. She asked is there any accountability for this type of program similar to like a head counting program. Ms. Barnes stated as it relates to the city she is not aware of them being mandated to report to us but when we have an activity we document our own numbers for our own purposes, we don't necessarily get involved with their reporting because they operate independent of the city. In terms of the relationship with the garden when we finished the garden we maintained accountability by constantly staying in contact with SJLI. Early on there were issues with the maintenance at Queen Park but recently there has been a better effort in terms of them keeping their volunteers rallied and maintaining the garden. Ms. Barnes stated she can only speak to the experience we have had. Commissioner Withrow stated that's the thing some of the other things like the tree planting in Vincent Park where they partnered with Tree People, unfortunately majority of those trees were vandalized and are no longer there. She researched and found that it was Tree People's responsibility for not planting with a thoughtful plan. Commissioner Withrow added she is concerned that the Inglewood Healthy and Sustainable Inglewood Collaborative is a huge important project/grant and knows Tree People has a major grant and needs to work with a non-profit group in the city and is just concerned that when this project is finalized and starts being implemented that there is better accountability mandated for SJLI in the future, if that's possible. Ms. Barnes stated she is assuming that whatever plan they come up with will have to get formally presented and adopted by the city for formal endorsement. If we are to support it and take it on then those things will be determined at that time. Commissioner Eldridge asked if the park across from Morningside High School is part of this program. Ms. Barnes stated that was initially the first garden they planted but it was not maintained due to issues with the property ownership. Commissioner Withrow stated she believed that it is school property and SJLI was no longer allowed onto the property to maintain it.

Public Comments

Jim Withrow asked if the new fencing going up at Siminski Park is to replace existing fencing and are plans available to view. Juan Mata stated yes.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner McLemore thanked everyone for their thorough reports and their hard work. Commissioner Withrow thanked everyone for coming every month and preparing their reports.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.