



The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, March 4, 2004, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Jamie Gutierrez – District III
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV
Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large

Absent:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I

Staff:

Rita Gardner, Parks Administration Superintendent
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent
Sabrina Barnes, Recreation Superintendent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 5, 2004

A motion for approval of the minutes from February 5, 2004 was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. Motion passed.

Public Comments

None

Communications

None.

Directors Report

Transportation Mural

Skip Halloran, Human Services Superintendent, presented a video of the work being done on the “History of Transportation” mural by the conservators at the Sculpture Conservation Studio. Mrs. Halloran reported that on March 2, 2004, Management Staff took a trip to the studio and were given a tour and demonstration on how the mural is being restored. The restoration work is on schedule, with the anticipated completion time in the summer of 2005. The second quarterly report, covering the months of October through December, was submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), which has to approve all the restoration protocols. OHP requires that the new wall built at Grevillea Park must conform exactly to the original wall at the Vincent Park site.

Skip Halloran asked if Commissioners had any questions and invited them to come out and view the progress as it occurs. The new wall will be completely built and the panels reinstalled. Commissioners will be kept informed of the progress.

New Senior Center

Skip Halloran displayed architectural plans for the new Intergenerational Center/Senior Housing Project to be constructed on the site of the present Senior Center. Mrs. Halloran stated there will be separate entrances and elevators for the public and the residents and a covered area in front for the loading and unloading of vehicles. There are patios and green space on the five housing levels. The Intergenerational Center will be on the ground level, with administrative offices on the second level. The overall “look” of the building will reflect the art deco look of the historic properties on Market Street. The large lobby and activity areas will have high ceilings, so that

these areas can be viewed from the second level and convey a sense of openness. Activity areas include computer lab, library, television room, poolroom, card room, care management area, and a large multipurpose/dining room. There will be a commercial kitchen. The third floor and the first floor of the residences will open onto a roof garden. Each floor of the residences will include eight one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units, all with private balconies. There will be a total of 58 units. Parking will be on three levels below the ground. Over two hundred parking spaces will be available with separate areas for the public and residences.

Commissioner Smith asked if there is going to be a patio on top of the Intergenerational Center for seniors that will be living there.

Skip Halloran responded there will be a garden areas, along the side of the building for seniors.

Commissioner Agee asked is the center going to be exclusive for senior citizens.

Skip Halloran responded it will be mostly for senior citizens, but intergenerational activities will also be conducted there.

Commissioner Agee asked if massaging will be available.

Skip Halloran responded no.

Commissioner Brown asked if there is going to be a fitness center.

Skip Halloran responded fitness machines will not be available but fitness classes will be.

Commissioner Brown stated in the last several City Council Meetings there has been discussions and controversy regarding the naming of the Main Library after Maxine Waters. It is recommended that the Senior Center be named after Maxine Waters, since she has helped the Department in obtaining grants. By naming the Senior Center after her it will generate interest.

Commissioner Agee stated that it is best to first build the center and then decide on the naming.

Commissioner Smith asked has there been any discussion about naming the Senior Center in the past.

Skip Halloran responded no.

Commissioner Smith recommended Commissioners to start looking at individuals who they would like the center to be named after and provide reasons why.

Skip Halloran stated architectural design work will take nine more months and construction will take approximately two years.

Commissioner Brown asked is the cost of maintenance included.

Skip Halloran stated at this time programs and maintenance are budgeted for the Senior Center, so it should not be difficult.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated progress and improvements look good and like Commissioner Agee said once the project is completed we can think about naming the center.

Commissioner Smith stated that the suggestion to name the center was made so Commissioners will have enough time to do some research. She stated when you bring a name to the board a reason for the suggestion needs to be submitted to back it up.

Skip Halloran presented information about the "Be Well" exercise and weight management program for seniors. Activities will begin on Wednesday, March 10, 2004. Funding is provided by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

Commissioner Brown stated that he visited the Inglewood Senior Center on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, and had lunch. While at the Senior Center he found out that there is a problem with the home delivery meals van. He stated the vehicle was purchased ten years ago and it has been well used and there are parts that Equipment Maintenance can not replace because of the age of the van.

Skip Halloran responded that it has been an ongoing battle for many years. The City garage has a truck they will allow the center to use. An

application will be submitted for one-time-only-money from the County to consider purchasing a vehicle. The County is aware of the need.

Commissioner Brown asked what can the Commissioners do to assist with this purchase.

Skip Halloran responded that the County is aware of the problem and they are working on it.

Commissioner Brown asked Commissioner Agee if he has seen the vehicle.

Commissioner Agee responded no.

Tree Maintenance

Rita Gardner, Parks Administration Superintendent provided copies of the Tree Trimming Schedule to Commissioners and stated that the Tree Trimming schedule is done on a monthly basis and it is be posted on the website, so the public may have access. The Tree Removal Policy is also available on the website.

Capital Improvement Projects

Rita Gardner reported on a list of capital improvement projects that were divided in all four districts like Commissioner Brown asked. She stated the first funding source is from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, which is from Yvonne Burke's Office excess funds in the amount of \$348,849. These funds will provide additional funding to complete the demolition/construction of two restrooms at Vincent Park. The Lockhaven Community Center renovation will be given additional funds to complete the entire renovation project. The funds may also be earmarked towards the Vincent Park Swimming Pool Valve Replacement Project that will replace the outdated valves in the swimming pool pump room and the installation of fencing or security bars at the stairwell entrances of the Veteran's Memorial Building.

Rita Gardner stated the second funding source is from the 2002 Resources Bond Act of Prop 40 Per Capita grant funds of \$506,000. These funds will provide for the construction of a skate park at Vincent Park when the designated area at this time is the flat piece of land above the park

offices. The other project that funds can be earmarked for is the Siminski Park restroom construction project. Lighting Upgrade Project, which provides for the upgrade of the interior and exterior lighting at the Veteran's Memorial Building.

Rita Gardner stated the third funding source is from the Roberti Z'Berg-Harris Grant (Prop 40) funds of \$311,674. These funds may be earmarked for the replacement of a storage/concession stand at Rogers Park (which is currently worn out) and the purchase of a new one at Darby Park, upgrading of lighting and plumbing fixtures at the Rogers Park outdoor restroom, resurface/repair of North Park tennis courts, and the construction of a volleyball court at Vincent Park.

Ms. Gardner stated that prior to the Mayor and Council Members' approval of the three funding sources for the various capital improvement projects, it is necessary to obtain approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Agee stated he would like to vote on each project individually.

Commissioner Smith stated no projects were mentioned for District 2.

Rita Gardner stated that North Park is in District 2 and the resurfacing/repairing of the tennis courts are included. Ms. Gardner stated that if Commissioners prefer these projects can be replaced for the Senior Center Intergenerational Project.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked if these are all Prop 40 funds.

Rita Gardner responded that there are two funding sources: two from Prop 40 and one from Los Angeles County Yvonne Burke's Office.

Rita Gardner asked if Commissioners wished to approve each project individually.

Commissioner Agee responded yes.

Commissioner Smith asked when presented to Mayor and Council Members is there going to be a breakdown of each individual amount.

Rita Gardner stated the staff report will to be formatted in that manner.

Commissioner Smith asked once the staff report is approved can Commissioners decide which way it should go.

Rita Gardner stated that once Mayor and Council Members approve the recommendation, staff must proceed with their recommendation. The individual funding sources have a limited amount of funds.

Commissioner Agee asked if each project can be named again so Commission can vote on it.

Commissioner Brown asked what is the total cost of the projects.

Rita Gardner stated the total cost of all the various capital improvement projects equals the amount of the monies available from the three funding sources. For the excess funds \$240,000 is earmarked for the Vincent Park restroom project.

Commissioner Agee asked is the cost of the restrooms at Vincent Park \$240,000.

Rita Gardner stated the bid was \$790,000 and there is \$620,000 in the budget, so \$240,000 is needed to complete the project.

Commissioner Agee asked what would be the total price.

Rita Gardner stated about \$790,000.

Commissioner Agee asked if the cost was for demolishing one restroom and building one.

Rita Gardner responded the cost was to demolish two restrooms and rebuild two restrooms.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked are these projects listed as goals for the year or are they immediate need.

Rita Gardner stated an executed agreement for the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District is due by June 30, 2004. An executed agreement consists of a governing body, which is the City Council, approve a grant application to define the scope of the project for the \$348,849. There is very limited time to have Council approve the funds for the various capital improvement projects.

Commissioner Smith asked do the parks need to be named specifically or just what the funds will be used for.

Rita Gardner stated that parks need to be identified.

Commissioner Brown asked can Public Works attend a Commission Meeting to talk about the cost of each project.

Rita Gardner stated a Project Engineer from Public Works will attend the next meeting.

Commissioner Brown asked what are the guidelines.

Rita Gardner stated the restrooms need to be upgraded per ADA compliance.

Commissioner Brown asked in which way.

Rita Gardner stated entrances are too narrow for wheelchair accessibility as are well stalls.

Commissioner Brown asked is it necessary to destroy the whole building.

Rita Gardner stated the building must be completely demolished because it is easier to tear down and rebuild.

Commissioner Smith asked to table the Vincent Park Restroom Project until a Project Engineer is present at the next Commission Meeting.

Rita Gardner stated Khanh Chu, Project Engineer will be asked to attend the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Smith asked if Kevin could also be present at the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Agee asked if Commission could vote on the rest of the projects.

Rita Gardner stated at this time voting has to be deferred since the Vincent Park Restroom Demolition/Reconstruction Project is part of the staff report. Mrs. Gardner expressed there is a very limited time frame, when staff report is presented to Mayor and Council after Commission approves the recommendations.

Commissioner Agee asked if the \$790,000 covered all the mentioned projects.

Rita Gardner stated it only covers one project, the demolition/reconstruction of the two restrooms at Vincent Park.

Commissioner Smith stated that this subject should be tabled until the next meeting.

Rita Gardner stated that she will make sure that staff from Public Works will be in attendance to advise Commission of the breakdown of the cost for the construction and demolition of the two restrooms at Vincent Park.

Recreation Activities

Bright Stars Reading Club

Sabrina Barnes, Recreation Superintendent stated new programs have been introduced at Rogers and Darby Park. The Bright Stars Reading Club began their first six-week session at Darby Park. Classes are held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The program is free and is offered to first, second and third grade students. The mission of the club is to develop and maintain a love and interest for reading in a fun and informal setting. The program promotes literacy awareness in children and enhances and reinforces what is being taught in school. The club is designed to be non-stressful for reluctant readers and also increase children's confidence towards reading. Each session is set up to be a fun experience for all of the children involved. Activities include: read-alouds,

independent and partner reading, grammar and phonics games, puzzles and arts and crafts.

Fit for Gold

Ms. Barnes stated the second program is Fit for Gold, a health and nutrition program that will get underway at Rogers Park. Inglewood High School students will be employed and assigned to work 3 days per week, 2 per day at Rogers Park, beginning March 15, 2004 through May 31, 2004. The youth will tutor, mentor, and conduct fitness activities with elementary school age children. The activities will include discussions about health and nutrition, and light calisthenics consisting of arm curls, jumping jacks, squats, hop scotch, and hula-hoop. No equipment or weights will be used. Fit for Gold selects and trains youth attending school in Inglewood, Lawndale and Hawthorne to tutor, mentor, and conduct fitness programs for elementary school age children. The Youth receive numerous hours of training from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the Friday Night Live Leadership Development Program, and Gold's Gym in partnership with South Bay One-Stop Youth Services.

Pre-School

Ms. Barnes encouraged Commissioners to visit the pre-school classes at Rogers Park since renovation is progressing well. Both classrooms have been relocated across the hall in the dance room and board room. Public Works is renovating the classes. It is anticipated that the renovation will take 2 to 3 months and will be on schedule.

Training and Research Foundation

Ms. Barnes stated the last day of the agreement with Training and Research Foundation is Wednesday, June 30, 2004, and is under review for renewal. They have received good response and had maintained enrollment throughout the process. It is anticipated that a draft of the agreement will be available for review/approval at the April Commission meeting.

California Park and Recreation Society District IX Awards

Ms. Barnes stated the California Park and Recreation Society District IX held their annual Awards and Installation Luncheon on Thursday, February 19, 2004. Teresa Estrada, Program Assistant for Recreation and Cultural Programs, was re-elected to serve on the board as the Communications Officer. Additionally, four Department staff were recognized for outstanding services: Gwen Maris (part-time), Ethleen Webb (part-time), Linda Peterson (part-time), and Mark Martinez (full-time).

Tree Master Plan

Rita Gardner asked Commission if they had reviewed the Tree Master Plan. She stated it has to be adopted by Commission and presented to Mayor and Council for approval. The Tree Maintenance system is going to be upgraded and accessible through the Internet.

Commissioner Smith stated the last thing mentioned regarding the Tree Master Plan was that residents had to decide if they wanted their tree replaced. Is that still the plan?

Rita Gardner stated that she does not recall, but will ask the consultant. The Tree Master Plan was designed to create an all Inglewood inventory trees. The recommendation is to replace the diseased trees with new ones that are conducive to the area.

Commissioner Smith stated that information was in the book that was provided to Commissioners.

Commissioner Agee stated that he would like to make a motion to approve the project.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated this program is good for the City because residents have the opportunity to make a recommendation of one out of five trees that fit their street. If a tree needs to be replaced than residents can look at the available options.

Rita Gardner stated this process has been taking place for the last six months.

A motion for approval of the Tree Master Plan was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion passed.

Cesar Chavez Day Celebration

Sabrina Barnes stated invitations were sent out to Commissioners for the 3rd Annual Cesar Chavez Day Celebration. The celebration will get underway with a Commemorative Unity March beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Hollywood Park on Saturday, March 20, 2004. Following the march, the City will begin its celebration at 12:00 noon at Darby Park. The program will recognize the life work of Cesar Chavez. The celebration is held in conjunction with the Inglewood Unified School District.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated students from his school are looking forward to this event and asked if there are any flyers of the different programs available at Darby Park.

Sabrina Barnes stated Teresa Estrada is in charge of the Cultural activities and she will be asked to follow up.

Commissioner Brown asked Sabrina to provide an overview of the Black History event.

Sabrina Barnes stated that throughout the month of February several Black History programs were held which ranged from doll making to youth art exhibitions. Black History Month events culminated with Councilman Price's 3rd Annual Cultural Awareness Celebration at Vincent Park.

New Business

Commissioner Brown stated he spoke with Kevin Hawkins regarding the Annual Report and was very gratified and what shook him up was the quality of work that staff performs with a minimum amount of staff. What happens is that a lot is done with less and when money becomes available that tends to be a problem, but would like to complement staff for their performance in 2003.

Commissioner Brown stated he attended the White House conference on the Faith Base Initiative. Since Skip is always looking for funding, I brought back a manual for her review, which includes various funding options. Some people said that a lot of cities are not doing any collaboration, which is necessary. Other cities have put on golf tournaments where money is

earmarked and are able to do other things and hopefully staff will utilize Commissioners' expertise to assist.

Commissioner Agee stated he would like to congratulate staff for the upkeep of the bathrooms at Vincent Park, and the way the parks are progressing. I feel good every time I go there, but a couple of weeks ago there was a bad experience. Twenty-seven baseball teams came from San Diego to play in a tournament and there was no park staff on site. All the toilets were stopped-up.

Rita Gardner stated I wanted to thank my staff because they were called away from church, and came directly to Darby, Rogers and Vincent Parks and took care of the problems in less than three hours. I am very proud of my staff.

Commissioner Agee stated I just hope that every time we have a big event at the park you make sure that there is staff on site.

Rita Gardner stated yes, lesson learned.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated the plans and price for the basketball renovation project at Darby Park looks good.

Rita Gardner stated according to Public Works this company has done good work.

Unfinished Business

None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.