

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, February 3, 2005, in the City Council Chambers, located on the 9th floor, of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Norma Smith presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large
Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I
Commissioner Norma Smith – District II
Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director
Sikizi Allen, Senior Center Supervisor
Sabrina Barnes, Recreation Superintendent
Sandra Green, Administrative Secretary
Mark Martinez, Tree Trimming Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion for approval of the minutes from January 13, 2005 was made by Commissioner Giardina and seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Public Comments

None.

Communications

None.

Director's Report

Kevin Hawkins stated we recently had a monthly management meeting and I expressed to our staff that I am especially pleased with the product of our Annual Report. Looking over the year, I always say it's easier to grade managers when resources are abundant and times are good. Resources are scarce and all of you know it because of the intimate interaction you have with the Council. I'm always saying we've done more with less. Looking at the Annual Report, there would be no sign or indication that any of our services and program offerings have been diminished.

As a matter of fact, we've even sought to increase our activities and to me that is a reflection of the expertise of the Managers, Superintendents and Supervisors. They are to be commended, as I have previously commended them. They really make do with less to insure that the residents and the citizens of Inglewood do not suffer. If you haven't had a chance to look over the report please do so, it is a great story.

Parks Division

Lockhaven Project

We have 2 people from the Parks Division working on the Lockhaven Project, one from Construction and one from Vincent Park. They have been involved in the project for 5 weeks now and will continue for another 11 weeks. All of the demolition and structural gutting has been completed. Construction will begin from room to room. There have been issues in regards to the department not pitching in; our part is going good although we have run into some snags such as structural damage.

Skate Park

The cement foundation has been poured out at the Skate Park. A sealant, which will make the cement last longer will be applied. Equipment will be arriving soon and installation will begin on February 8, 2005.

Basketball Courts

Basketball Courts are completed and have been in use since December.

City Yard

Construction is being done at the City Yard on the Car Wash and Gas Station. We are responsible for the irrigation and some of the landscaping. Vincent Park is responsible for the remainder of the landscaping. There have been snags that have occurred and additional items being added on, but with that we anticipate being done with our section in a couple of weeks. The Car Wash and the Gas Station should also be completed at the same time.

Tree Maintenance

An abundance of mild storms, wind and saturation has taken its toll on Inglewood. We've had to remove broken limbs and trees that have gone down. We had about 6 trees that were damaged and removed from District 2 due to the tornado.

We had a separate incident at Vincent Park where the wind picked up and an 80-foot eucalyptus tree fell. It wiped out a car and power lines, but luckily it did not hit a house.

Mark Martinez stated the crew really should be commended; they have such a quick response time.

Commissioner Smith stated I like to commend the staff for all the hard work they did in the clean up of the tornado.

Mark Martinez replied we appreciate it.

Sister City Visit

A delegation of 5 from Sister City Mankessim City, Ghana West Africa, will be visiting us from February 14 to February 28. They will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Mayor is fostering the Sister City relationship. A staff report with the resolution will be presented to the Mayor and Councilmember's on February 8. The delegation will be presented to the Mayor on February 15, 2005. We anticipate holding the Welcoming Reception at Hollywood Park on February 16.

Commissioner Smith asked when was the gift ceremony taking place?

Mark Martinez replied February 16.

Commissioner Brown stated the report that the Director provided for us was very extensive. How was the staff meeting between the staff of Head Start Preschool and the staff of Parks and Recreation received? Was there any animosity?

Kevin Hawkins stated it was extremely successful.

Commissioner Giardina stated I commend you and your staff on a job well done. You have a rapid response time for removal of graffiti.

Mark Martinez stated we appreciate that. In all honesty, we did start up the graffiti crew but they are no longer with us. They are now with the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Giardina asked is there a hot line number we can have to distribute to Block Club Presidents? I do have to say, it is great how the graffiti crew do color match whatever it is they are painting over.

Kevin Hawkins stated the graffiti number is 310-412-8739.

Commissioner Giardina replied thank you.

Human Services

Sikizi Allen stated what is being distributed to all the Commissioners is the new edition of the Senior Center. You will see on the 1st page the layout of what the new Senior Center will look like in a couple of years, 2nd page is the layout of the front of the building, 3rd page is the view from Queen Street and the 4th page is the overall layout of the building. The last couple of weeks we have been working on the interior designing picking out carpets, etc. We have also met with SBC for telecommunications. They will be installing an extra line so the Seniors will have computer access. We've also met with Security in regards to how to access the buildings at both the new Senior Center and housing complex. We've also been working with the architects to really find out what our needs are as far as space, storage and the different amenities that will be available. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee asked would Commissioners be eligible to move into Senior Housing?

Sikizi Allen stated you would have to apply; there are only 58 units.

Commissioner Agee stated on the serious side, this is really exciting. Do you have a place ready for the Senior Citizens to relocate?

Sikizi Allen stated that is in the works. We are relocating to the Gold Mart Building on Market Street, however there is no kitchen there.

Commissioner Agee asked are they in the process of restoring the kitchen?

Sikizi Allen stated no, not at that site. We are still working on plans to install the kitchen, however in the meantime we will have meals transported to the new site.

Kevin Hawkins stated the aim is not to spend too much in terms of resources on a temporary structure; it really is just a measure to relocate all of our activities and programs. We've been long asking for much needed upgrades at the Veteran's Building, as long as it doesn't impact our services and activities that are there. We do a lot of joint things, so right now the aim is to go ahead and secure the Gold Mart as a temporary facility and provide much needed upgrades at the Veterans' Center, particularly the kitchen because that will stay with us as an investment in our own structure. We're also working on establishing a Relocation Task Force.

Commissioner Smith asked do we have a projected opening date?

Kevin Hawkins stated there is a window of 18 to 24 months.

Commissioner Smith asked from this April 6, 2004 date or from now?

Kevin Hawkins stated I'd say from now but April's only 2 months away.

Commissioner Smith stated no, this says 2004.

Kevin Hawkins stated that's an older rendering, and as you know that is the scale in terms of the groundbreaking day. We already have the property adjacent to the area squared away; we just need to start relocating our programs. We need to coordinate this move so we don't have an impact on our seniors that use our programs, which is our main concern.

Sikizi Allen stated we are working with the Culver City Senior Center Project to insure we do not make the same mistakes. They have passed along a lot of great information to us.

Commissioner Brown asked have we considered naming the facility? So we can start putting names into hopers to eliminate bumping heads like we did with the library. I know Maxine Waters is a person we can consider. She has really invested a lot in our city, especially in terms of bringing money into Parks & Recreation. Has that been thought of? Where do we stand with that?

Kevin Hawkins stated as part of the Relocation Committee that I talked about, we are going to basically outline all of our needs, ideas and topics. That is part of the agenda to make sure that there is a consensus and then present that here and to the Council. We are addressing it because that is another source of revenue that will add to the construction.

Sikizi Allen stated the project is currently titled Inglewood Intergenerational Center.

Commissioner Agee stated I think that is a really beautiful name.

Sikizi Allen stated currently that is only the name of the project.

5310 Grant

The 5310 Grant was submitted today, February 3, 2005, to the Department of Transportation requesting to fund 80% of the purchase of two new paratranist vans to expand our fleet. This is a unique opportunity to meet our growing needs.

Be Well Project

The Be Well Project that is funded by the Federal Government is going extremely well. Currently, there are 25 new members and 8 returning from our Pilot Program.

In October 2004, the City received a federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging for the "Be Well" Exercise and Nutrition Program for Senior Citizens. One of the requirements in the grant was to budget a meeting for all the grantees for coordination and technical assistance. The meeting will be held in Philadelphia on March 8 and 9, 2005. Linda Peterson, Bonnie Hart and Sikizi Allen will be attending.

A major national conference for the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging will be held March 10-13, 2005. Our three representatives will also attend that Conference and will report on the Be Well Program.

Commissioner Smith asked is that trip to Philadelphia in March?

Sikizi Allen replied yes, March 8.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd just like to say I'm very proud of you and what you are doing. I haven't been able to get over there and eat yet, but I'm coming.

Sikizi Allen stated the Mural Project is coming along. Last meeting we reported that we made it through the first round of the grant selection and now we're waiting to hear back to see if we made it through the second round.

Kevin Hawkins stated I just want to add, as reported before we submitted a grant to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board for \$160,000 for the Mural Restoration and we made the first cut. As part of the second round process we are required to answer a series of questions as well as schedule a meeting to host the folks from the State. We have scheduled that and I don't have the exact dates for it, but I want to say it is February 22nd. The State will come down and basically go over our responses and take a look at the project site; at that point we will have to reaffirm our commitment to the project. Once additional dollars are made available, we will be asking for those as well, even if not for the Mural Project. I just recently had a meeting with Public Works and the Inglewood PD to talk about the Mural process and what we anticipate is that we will have ground breaking for the Mural in November of this year. With funding in its place for this particular grant, it will cap off the project. With Public Works on our side; we are looking at having an interpretive kiosk lining.

Commissioner Smith asked when did you say the State is coming?

Kevin Hawkins replied this is not an exact date, but I want to say February 22. I will confirm that with you before they arrive.

Recreation Division

Skate Park Ordinance

Sabrina Barnes stated last commission meeting you were briefed on our progress with our Skate Park Ordinance. I'd like to talk about the rules and regulations piece of it. The Skate Park is scheduled for completion at Darby Park in mid to late April. Prior to us opening the park to the public, we must establish some operational rules and regulations that will comply with the California Government Code and the Government Safety Code. The California Government Code allows the City immunity for individuals that are injured while participating in a hazardous sport such as rifle shooting, archery or what have you. Although skateboarding and in-line skating has to be declared a dangerous sport, that particular code does not cover it.

There is a special code that is part of the Health and Safety Code, which qualifies us if we meet a certain criteria and they are: the injury is caused to a 14 year old or older person as a result of a stunt, trick or lunge, the property is owned by a public agency and that we pass an ordinance that requires users to wear safety gear and an appropriate sign for that is posted. We will be posting an ordinance on Tuesday, February 8, 2005 that will establish those rules, which will give us the immunity. Ideally it will amend the municipal code to require that individuals must wear safety gear, helmets, knee and elbow pads. Additionally it will provide for some common courtesies at the Park. Skateboarding and in-line skating are hereby considered and declared hazardous because of the Code. Individuals will be advised that they are skating at their own risks, the hours of operation, a parent must accompany anyone under 14, and you cannot skateboard on the surface when it's wet or while it is closed. Failure to wear knee and elbow pads will be grounds for citing. Also there are restrictions as far as no earphones, no loud music, and no spectators in the skate area, no unauthorized use of ramps, you can not bring your own equipment and make up extra components to the park. No food or drinks, no bottles, no smoking, no profanity. It will also indicate any violations of these rules are subject to the Park being closed. We expect to have everything in place by the time the equipment is completed. We've met with contractors Spohn Ranch, who is manufacturing the Skate Park equipment for all of our sites. They will begin their work on Tuesday, February 8 with 60 days to complete the process. They will actually be putting components together and preparing them for installation which will begin in April. Installation will take about 5-10 days. With that, we anticipate to have a Grand Opening of the Darby Park Skate Park in late April or early June. In regards to the other parks, we expect Rogers Park to open mid June with Vincent Park to follow. The City is accepting bids from vendors who will lay concrete slabs at both Rogers and Vincent Park.

Once those bids are closed in mid March, the contract will go to Council where they will have approximately 30 days to complete their work and everything will fall into place after that. We really are excited and hopeful that we will be able to adhere to the timelines that we have laid out to the contractors. We anticipate having skating in our City by the summertime.

Siminski Park

Sabrina Barnes stated we are excited to report all electrical repairs have been made. All programs and activities will resume back at Siminski Park on Monday, February 7, 2005. They will be relocated from Rogers Park back to their home site.

Sabrina Barnes stated outside of that, we are doing what we do daily, serving the children, adults and senior citizens at our Recreation sites. No major events are coming up this month. Next month we will be reporting on our upcoming Cesar Chavez event.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm so happy with this project. I've been waiting a long time for this. I'd like to recommend if you already haven't, go to the City of Lynwood and speak to Bob about their Skate Park Program. You should be able to obtain some information that will help you as far as the safety issues are concerned.

Sabrina Barnes stated we appreciate that. We did share in our research that we did look into rules and regulations at other Cities in the Los Angeles area like Lynwood, Downey and Paramount. We actually visited the sites, spoke to their staff and inspected their various structures. So, we did have models to follow as we prepared our program.

Commissioner Agee stated I figured you did that; I just wanted to make sure.

Commissioner Giardina asked how realistic is the children 14 and under coming with a parent or older sibling? Are we not going to allow anyone under 14 that is not accompanied by a parent to use the skate park?

Sabrina Barnes stated we are hopeful that the kids will be supervised. We will be launching an educational campaign at our sites, handing out flyers and brochures to help educate the public on safety measures. It's not about us saying they can't skate; it's for their benefit.

Commissioner Giardina stated I understand and I think that for the City's sake as well as for the users of the park, they need to understand it is a hazardous sport as you mentioned. As a result, there are certain liabilities that the City is going to accept. We're merely providing it as an outlet form for the children.

I'm just wondering how realistic is it for us as adults to think that the children who really want to skate which are the younger kids, will actually have a parent who will accompany and supervise them? I was wondering if we could have some sort of discussion about how to resolve that in terms of allowing younger kids to use it and still understand the City is not responsible. Maybe we can try and figure out a way to identify the City but at the same time allow usage to the younger kids. Maybe we can have a permission slip so that the parents will understand the City will not accept liability and the child will be using the park at their own risk. I hope that as the opening date comes closer, we are able to work on this bug for the younger kids.

Sabrina Barnes stated I will share that with legal. We are in constant dialogue with them covering our entire basis such as labor issues, drop reimbursements where we'd actually organize activities there.

Commissioner Giardina stated I think exclusion will be something that we do not want to be a part of. We will want to make sure everyone is included and I think excluding the younger children is almost seen as punitive.

Commissioner Smith asked once all the kinks are worked out, are you planning on bringing the rules and regulations back to the Commission so we can review it?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes, we will continue to update you in the process.

Commissioner Agee asked, which Skate Park will open next? Will it be Rogers Park?

Sabrina Barnes stated that's correct.

Commissioner Agee stated I was wondering, with the basketball courts at Vincent Park being in bad shape, why weren't they redone along with Darby Parks'?

Sabrina Barnes stated part of the basketball court at Vincent Park is slated for refreshing and resurfacing. It will not get the full on concrete slab like the other parks did. We will be working to resurface the ground that is already there.

Commissioner Agee asked how do you plan on doing that?

Sabrina Barnes stated we are working with Public Works, and we will be resurfacing the actual court itself.

Commissioner Smith asked wouldn't resurfacing just lead to more problems? Isn't it basically patching the area? The court has been in bad shape for quite a while now.

Sabrina Barnes stated with the resurfacing will come the leveling and filling of any cracks and holes. We have done successful resurfacing in the past.

Commissioner Smith asked what was the reason for that decision? Why wasn't a new floor decided on, as was decided and done at Darby Park?

Sabrina Barnes stated there were a couple of reasons for the decision. One being the urgency and economics for the projects that were already on the table. It is still a discussion. Looking at our resources and availability that will determine the direction the Department will be moving in.

Commissioner Smith stated just a suggestion; if we keep patching things up, we are wasting money. Until we are able to get the money to do it properly, maybe we should reevaluate the situation.

Commissioner Agee stated I second that motion.

Kevin Hawkins stated I think your comments are very helpful. In the case of Vincent Park, the basketball court renovation had a lot to do with the comments from the Commission and at the time it was something that needed to be done. A lot of things that need to be done are dependant upon available resources. At the time, we were prioritizing resources and the concerns based upon Commission's recommendations such as Darby Park's basketball courts needing to be fixed due to poor conditions, a Skate Park is needed there and surfacing and leveling needs to be done at Vincent Park. A decision was made on the allocation of the resources and the current availability. That project has not yet started, so everything that has been said will be taken into consideration. We will bring you the proposal, and at that time if it seems inadequate I will be the first to say so. But until that point, I ask respectfully that you reserve judgment. It was asked if the Skate Park Ordinance would be brought back to the Commission for review, all along throughout this entire process we have mentioned to you as part of the Skate Parks an accompanying ordinance needed to be developed and we would share that with you. In Tuesday's agenda we are introducing the ordinance. Your comments about the children ages 14 and under are very appropriate and Sabrina correct me if I'm wrong; a lot of what we are doing is piggy backing on the Government Code.

Sabrina Barnes stated that is correct.

Kevin Hawkins stated that is not a local municipal code; it is the Health and Safety Government Code that triggers this at age 14 and allows us to put up safeguards. Currently we are not reflecting the government code in our IMC but we can, and then the question is can we look at something on a local level to mitigate and reduce our exposure. That was something that was introduced as we were working with Legal and they took a hard look at that.

These concerns have been brought up again and again and they make a lot of sense. Skateboarders are not always going to be 14 and older and I can't sit here and tell you to close that gap of supervision because we'd be accepting liability. I hope that Legal will speak on it. I know we've been shying away from waivers and some additional things, but whatever we can do to reduce exposure we'll certainly do. All of your comments were very well received.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'm just concerned. I think that when the children see this park, they will be more excited than we are and will view it as an outlet and a resource to them. I think if you build something, they will come and when they come they will be chopping and salivating to get in. If there's a policy in place that is going to prohibit 10, 12, 13-year olds from entering, it will really destroy all the time, money and energy that was spent on this project. As much as we might shy away from a waiver, we have to have something. Something so the parents that are not present, will allow the child to use it at his own risk. Somehow maybe we will be able to modify the ordinance and enable it to allow usage but at the same time exempt us from liability. I don't believe that we'd want to do this, it's almost discriminatory.

Kevin Hawkins stated I'll never profess to being an attorney, but one thing is true, that you assume a certain amount of risk in everything you do and that's where the sign comes into place. We have things that do reduce our exposure. The other thing is that we are not talking about holding an event or competition at the Skate Park. We are talking about something that will be of good fun and use. If we don't have a Skate Park, our entire City will be a Skate Park. What we are trying to do is provide a creative outlet. Again, we are looking at the health and government codes and if there are any gaps that need to be closed then we will rely on our Legal Counsel to address it and advise us at that time.

Commissioner Giardina stated I feel like this is a healthy spot for us to have this sort of discussion because we brainstorm and talk about what we do and get different slants on what we are actually presenting. Being in the stage that we are in now, I'm just asking that those ideas are considered and implicated in the process as we go forward, because it is February now.

Sabrina Barnes stated we definitely hear you and again we will continue to dialogue with Legal. We will also consider dialoging with other Cities that are operating Skate Parks and see how they met these challenges.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm sure staff has done their research on this as I have as well. I understand what you are saying because I believe parents should escort 13-year-old children. We have to have rules. If parents do not care enough to bring their children to the Skate Park, then they shouldn't come. I have confidence in the research you've done. I think we should do what is best to protect the children and the park. I know we will have a lot of big signs so the kids are able to read the rules and regulations, so they won't make any mistakes.

Commissioner Brown stated Kevin there is only one thing I wanted to clarify and make sure I understood you when you said all the issues weren't worked out at Vincent Park for the basketball courts yet and before anything is done you will bring it back to us, correct?

Kevin Hawkins stated definitely.

Commissioner Brown stated I am happy we are discussing this now. If you look at your major television stations, X-games is the in thing and our young people as small as 5 years old are indulging in stunts. So we want to make sure that there is no liability on our part. It's good to say we would like the parents to bring their children to the park, but as adults ourselves we tend to go over the rules. We must insure we have our liability covered in case something does happen, we can't say we didn't address.

Kevin Hawkins stated I really appreciate your comments. There is no such thing as eliminating liability; we do feel like there is going to be some exposure. Shifting a little, did we answer your questions?

Commissioner Brown replied yes.

New Business

Commissioner Brown stated today I had the opportunity to attend an Adopt a School Program. I had the chance to sit with one of the distinguished educators at Highland Elementary. I know in our agenda we have Public Comments, but she has a major concern to bring before us. The school is located adjacent to Rogers Park and I asked Ms. Bryant to come forth and address us.

Commissioner Smith stated I wanted to make a statement first. I've allowed Commissioner Agee to do this before, so it is only fair that I allow you. From now on when you know someone who needs to speak before the Commission, make sure they are aware the Commission meeting begins at 6 p.m. If it is ok with the Commission, we'll allow Ms. Bryant to come before us and speak.

Ms. Bryant stated I've been in the district for a really long time now. In fact, I taught Mrs. Giardina's son. I've only been the principal at Highland Elementary since July and this is a year round school. I've worked on various projects before, but have never done this before so just bare with me. I wanted to tell Mrs. Giardina I'm happy that her leadership is carrying on in the City of Inglewood. While speaking with Mr. Brown I learned he is part of the "Path Way to Your Future" Program who has adopted our school. He had asked me what are our needs. I know money is greatly needed, but we also need adult volunteers.

Commissioner Agee left the Chambers.

We need extra bodies to work with our children on reading, math and extra curricular activities such as the programs that are regularly held at the park. This will help our students here in Inglewood to becoming better students and get them physically fit. I'm so happy to hear about all the activities you are working on to help take the children off of the streets. We have wonderful children at Highland, we just need more support from our community. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Ms. Bryant, though I'm still not convinced that these two didn't have anything to do with bringing you down here. I'd like to go on record, that Commissioner Agee abruptly left the meeting during the presentation given by Principal Dolores Bryant. Did Commissioner Agee mention to anyone that he had an important appointment to go to before he left?

Commissioner Giardina replied no.

Commissioner Brown stated Ms. Bryant did not talk about a situation in regards to the young men she has at her school. I saw in our report that we do have an outreach program and I'm hoping that a program can be extended to help some of those young men at Highland Elementary. There have been several shootings in the area of the school and it is good while we are safe in the walls of Rogers Park, but what kind of activity can be addressed to a Principal so that this does not escalate? That is why I asked Ms. Bryant to come and see if it possible that our recreational program can be extended to her facility.

Commissioner Smith stated thank you Commissioner Brown.

Sabrina Barnes asked is this specific to a time of day? I'm sure you are aware that we offer an after school program where we walk the children over to Rogers Park from Highland.

Ms. Bryant stated one thing I wanted to add is that many of our children are in activities at Rogers Park where they walk from Highland and they love it. There was one incident that happened on Monday, February 7, 2005 at 8:05 a.m. As we were preparing our morning assembly, while all the gates were locked, we had someone who was running from the police jump the fence. That individual did have a gun in the car. Can you imagine a person running through a campus of 800 children? We then immediately had to go into lock down while the police apprehended him. Luckily none of the children were hurt. I bring this up because as Mr. Brown mentioned we were not at all prepared for that type of an incident, we never even thought about it.

We do have a crossing guard, but we need parents to volunteer to make sure our children are safe in the area they attend school and the community they live in.

I also mentioned to Mr. Brown that we needed some mentors as well. Rogers Park is playing a big part in the community at Highland. In fact one of the tennis instructors has volunteered to give tennis lessons that cost \$40 per child for free. This is the type of service that Rogers Park is offering us and I just wanted to thank you for that.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you very much Ms. Bryant.

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like to say it's been years since we saw each other Ms. Bryant and I had no idea you were coming tonight. I'm gratified to know you have been promoted. I think we can help get the parents to accept responsibility in constructing a Parent Posse Program to help out around the school. Together, we are a very powerful force; divided, it's very difficult to operate. I thank you very much for your comments.

Commissioner Brown stated at this ceremony today, a certificate was passed out to one of our great staff persons. I took it upon myself to bring it here for Sabrina. We know she went above and beyond the call of duty with her work on the MLK event. The Adopt a School Program would like to present her with a certificate of appreciation.

Commissioner Smith stated take that frown off of your face, you know you deserve it.

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you very much.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd just like to thank the staff. We appreciate the hard work you do. You always go above and beyond the call of duty. It is very easy to strut your stuff with a flourishing budget, but when you are being tested the way we are with shortage of funds; it is gratifying to see this kind of professionalism in the workforce. I know some people here don't appreciate the working class and the union, but I think there's a lot of dignity and respect in all types of work. Again, I'd just like to commend you all on the work you do. For our children and our community, you do an outstanding job and I cannot go on the record enough thanking you all. I appreciate it.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Giardina speaks for the whole Commission. There was supposed to be an election of Vice Chair tonight, but due to our lengthy time and not everyone present, I want to give everyone the opportunity to consider the position. I'm going to ask that we postpone it until the following month, if that is ok?

Commissioner Giardina stated I'd like to make a motion to nominated Henry Brown for vice chairperson.

Commissioner Smith stated I like to post pone the appointment because there are two positions open and not everyone is present. I would like for everyone to have the opportunity to consider the position.

Commissioner Giardina stated I withdraw my motion.

Commissioner Giardina made a motion to postpone the appointment of Vice Chair and was seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Brown asked was there contact made with Council in regards to the appointment of the 3rd District Commissioner?

Kevin Hawkins stated yes there was. Councilman Morales wants to give extensive thought into whom he wants to appoint, he didn't just want to appoint anyone. The time frame for the appointment is unknown.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

