The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on March 5, 2009, in the Council Chambers located in City Hall on the 9th floor. Commissioner Henry Brown, presiding called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – Commissioner at Large Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three Commissioner Henry Brown – District Four

Absent:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District One Commissioner Norma Smith, Chairperson – District Two

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Director Stephanie Maldonado, Administrative Aide Kevin Carroll, Code Enforcement Officer James Henry, Recreation Supervisor Mark Martinez, Tree Maintenance Supervisor Trina Tyson, Program Assistant

Approval of the Minutes

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

Public Comments

Perry Williams stated I have some booklets and tapes to pass out. The tapes are tapes of events I'd like to introduce to you. My name is Perry Williams, I'm also known as the Perry Winkle Show. I was at the Market Street Festival dressed as a clown so you wouldn't recognize me. I would like to introduce an idea for a Community Theater for children at the Inglewood Playhouse. The programs I am giving you are proposals in reference to that with information about me and some of the programs I've created and developed throughout my years in theater. I've often been an advocate of Children's Theater and the introduction I gave you will tell you a little bit about me. I often work out at that park and I've been involved in a lot of theater, and I think I can make an improvement as your Artistic Director there and that is what I'm proposing. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Agee stated I think I remember you from Market Street and I need a little time to look at your program and maybe next month we can discuss it a little bit further because I'd like to read through your literature before I make a decision.

Commissioner McLemore stated I'd like to look through it also.

Commissioner Brown stated I totally agree I think that it is a beautiful package that he has put together. Several other Commissioners are not present and we do need to have ample time to look at your proposal and see if it is cost effective to the Commission. I appreciate you taking your time to present your package to us. We will definitely take a serious look at it and get back to you through the staff here.

Perry Williams stated can I say one other thing? The tapes I gave you are children performing. It is what I did with the Casa Program that Assemblywoman Moore was responsible for creating. I took the children and put them on TV and let them have that experience. It was the Perry Winkle local show and that tape will give you some examples of the children performing.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like for staff to make sure the other Commissioners get a copy of this so that when we meet again we can discuss this a little further.

Sabrina Barnes stated we have copies for them.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you sir. Any other public comments?

Thadd Ballew stated good evening, my name is Thadd Ballew and I represent Inglewood Junior All American Football Association. I'd like to say good evening to the Commissioners, ladies and gentleman. I'm here representing them. We are a football youth organization that has been in the Inglewood area for 40 years in fact we want to proudly let you guys know that this is our 40th year as a football organization representing Inglewood in youth football and cheer. I've been a coach there for 30 years, I've been the Athletic Director for over 15 years, and I'm now currently the Business Manager. To begin with our program is not about football, it's about building character in young ladies and young men. Scholarship is our number one concern. Our Orange County conference is the best football of Southern California. Inglewood competes well. Out of six divisions we had two divisions that made it to the Super Bowl this year and won. Our girls went to the conference and won four 1st place championships along with seconds and thirds. They went to Las Vegas February 12th, and our girls won four Nationals. This program is run basically by the parents of the players and cheerleaders that pay for the children to pay. We don't have any outside funding coming in. Everything we do we have to do with what we charge the young men and ladies to play. Last

year not only were we victorious with what we did, but we did this without the help of Inglewood Unified School District who wanted to charge us \$48,000 for 10 weeks of football which is ridiculous, we couldn't afford to put that burden on our parents. We had no other outlet. All 13 of our teams had to go on road trips for the whole season. It made a lot of our parents disturbed. They want to know what the tax payers are voting on, they can't seem to get any help from the community. Mr. Agee has always been kind to us, Mayor Dorn who I saw at the Veteran's Celebration during Veteran's Day which I am a Vietnam Veteran; I fought for this country in South Vietnam for four years. Basically they had mention to us that you might have an option of helping us get a youth football field in this community. We do need one, we are here to stay, and we are here for the long ride. I'm getting old but the young coaches that are coming in are doing just as good a job and it is not all about football. We are helping these young men and women become positive adults and help this community grow and we'd like to get some help from the people that are voted into the Offices of Inglewood. Thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated it is so good to see you here. It's been a hard struggle. I can't understand why these kids can't get the support and why they don't have a home court, but its looking pretty good right now. Maybe staff will go into it a little bit deeper, but I feel good about it and I know what you are producing. You are keeping a lot of kids off the street and I want to see you get some of the things you deserve because you have been here a long time. I intend to do anything I can and I want to thank you for coming in tonight.

Commissioner Brown stated I have to ditto what Commissioner Agee said. I think at our last meeting our Director indicated that we are working very diligently to get an all surface football field. I know it's been a dream of Commissioner Agee's and we fully feel what you are doing. I have one question; did you say young ladies play football?

Thadd Ballew stated no, they are the cheerleaders. They go to competitions and nationals all year until the month of February. I've been a part of this program for 30 years; this was my way of becoming a mentor. My baby is now 39 years old so you can imagine he was probably 7 or 8. Coach Henry was even a coach in those days. We truly have a lot of people who are dedicated that come out of Inglewood. We do this for free; there is no one in our organization that receives a dime. We are like 24/7, we care about these kids. Orange County which is a great football conference stress the importance of grades, scholarship patches and awards. These kids are thriving; they are showing us their reports and telling us how they are doing in school. We don't tolerate bad grades, you can't play and have a bad report card, and you can't participate if you don't go to school. We have 13 teams, that's over 800 kids out of this community every year. All we want to do is get a little help. We would like for someone to give us some kind of commendation or appreciation for our 40 years. We'd like to have something real nice in the community.

Commissioner Brown stated anyone else?

Bill Smith stated my name is Bill Smith and I live at ___. I want to thank this Commission. I didn't know that Parks and Rec did tree trimming because I've been fighting the Chief of Police until I saw Ms. Smith on Saturday at the opening of the substation. The trimmers were out there this morning and I want to thank whoever put a fire under those people to come out and do it.

Commissioner Brown stated now that is the kind of news we like to hear. Thank you so very much.

Stewart Bailey stated hello Commissioners, I'm going to make it real quick. I want to congratulate the Football Association of Inglewood, they are right they do need some kind of recognition. Maybe you can have the dedication of the opening of the field at the same time. Another thing I do want to congratulate you all on the tree trimming, they went down my street from 100 to the 500 block of West Queen Street and did an excellent job. I'd like to thank Ms. Barnes for West Coast Arborists; they did a great job with our trees and did it like that (at the snap of a finger). Everyone have a great weekend.

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes stated thank you Commissioner. To all of you who made comments, thank you very much. Sir, I didn't get your name but our Tree Supervisor is here and he and his crew do an outstanding job. Mark Martinez as well as other staff who working to make sure your needs are addressed do an outstanding job. Thank you for being here.

We will get our meeting underway We will start with our Parks Section Mark Martinez is reporting.

Mark Martinez stated good evening.

The following is the Tree Maintenance Schedule for February, March, April and May:

February

Siminski Park (23rd – 26th)

March

Florence Avenue from Cedar Street to Manchester Boulevard $(2^{nd} - 6^{th})$ Oak Street from Eucalyptus Street to Florence Avenue $(9^{th} - 20^{th})$ Special Requests $(23^{rd} - 31^{st})$

April

City Service Center (1st – 10th) Rogers Park (13th – 24th) Special Requests (27th – 30th)

May

Vincent Park (4th – 14th) Darby Park (18th – 22nd) Special Requests (25th – 28th)

West Coast Arborist, Inc.

March

CD1 – complete trimming grid 2 (Van Ness Avenue through 12th Avenue from Manchester Boulevard to Century Boulevard

CD2 – complete trimming grid 2 (West La Brea Avenue through La Cienega Boulevard from 64th Street to Centinela Avenue)

CD3 – complete trimming grid 1 (La Brea Avenue through Portal Avenue from Beach Avenue through Arbor Vitae Street)

CD 4 – complete trimming Grid 2 (Crenshaw Boulevard through Freeman Avenue from Century Boulevard through 119th Court)

Status on Capital Improvement Projects

Basketball Restriping/Installation of Basketball at Darby/Vincent Parks

Pending approval of Short Form Agreement

Artificial Turf Installation at Vincent Park

 On February 24, Mayor and Council Members approved the submittal of a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Grant program and Adidas Corporation to seek funding for the installation of artificial turf at the Vincent Park Soccer Field

Replacement of Playground Equipment

Bid opening on March 11th

Commissioner Agee stated the basketball hoops at Centinela Park, have they been replaced yet?

Mark Martinez stated no, I don't believe they have been replaced. It is pending approval.

Commissioner McLemore stated the playground equipment is being replaced at what park?

Mark Martinez stated throughout the city. They've gone through all the parks to see which ones need to be repaired and replaced.

Commissioner Brown stated my only comment is the public comments were said quite well in regards to tree trimming. We notice the difference in our community. I want a little more information about the artificial turf at Vincent Park and the status.

Mark Martinez stated as of right now the turf went to the Council and Mayor for approval, everything is falling in order. I think Ms. Barnes can give you a better answer to that.

Sabrina Barnes stated sure and if you don't mind, I'd like to go back and start with Commissioner Agee, in regards to that basketball stands and the restriping - that item went out to bid. We do have a contractor who has submitted all of his particular information, the short form agreement has been circulated for approval and we are waiting for some finally signatures and then once we receive the signatures we'll be able to give them notice to proceed. We expect that to come any day now.

Regarding the playground equipment, we were audited last year and we did a survey of all of our playground equipment. At some of the parks all of the equipment will be replaced, and other parks such as Siminski which is in your district we'll just be replacing certain parts of the equipment because that was the equipment that was replaced most recently along with Rogers Park. We have bids that will be open March 11th. We had approximately 25 vendors out about two weeks ago, they went around the city and looked at the various equipment and are preparing their bids right now that are due March 11th. Following that we will make a selection, go to Council and then start the work. We are hoping that we can engage in multiple vendors so we can get the work done quicker. We are very conscious that it can possibly impact our summer months so we will be taking that into consideration once we start our scheduling.

With regards to the athletic field, we are actually submitting two grant applications. One to the State for the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant - and to Adidas. The Adidas grant will allow us to have artificial turf installed at one of our fields by mid July. The Land and Water application, if we are successful there, will provide down payment monies that will go towards the installation of the turf on the second field. Once the fields are in place, while one field will be permanently striped for soccer, it will allow us to do temporary striping to accommodate football and the second field will be striped and be used for multi purposes. I will also allow for football play. Once there is artificial turf laid, our down time will be shorter and we will have better, broader use of the fields. I hope that addressed all of your questions.

Sabrina Barnes stated at this time we have our distinguished Supervisor who is over Sports and Physical Activities.

James Henry stated good evening Commissioner and audience.

Junior High Basketball

The Junior High Basketball Program will begin its season on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Boys and Girls from Monroe, Parent, Warren Lane, Crozier and La Tijera will compete amongst each other. Games will be played on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at both Rogers and Darby Parks. The program will run 8 to 10 weeks which includes playoff and championship games.

Youth Track and Field

The Sports Division will begin accepting registration for the 2009 Track and Field Season on Saturday, March 7, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at Rogers and Darby Parks. The program will provide track and field instruction with an emphasis on sportsmanship and etiquette. Boys and girls ages 5 to 14 are encouraged to join. The cost is \$20 per child.

Cesar Chavez Day Celebration

Everyone is invited to attend the upcoming Cesar Chavez Day Unity March, Recognition Ceremony and Celebration taking place on Saturday, March 21, 2009. The Unity March will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Warren Lane Elementary School. Marchers will take to the streets at 10:30 a.m. and will march to Darby Park where the celebration will continue from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Maria Elena Chavez, the niece of the late Cesar Chavez, will serve as the Guest of Honor. Nautica De La Cruz from our local radio station "KJLH" and Pepe Salas from our local Spanish station "WRadio" will serve as the Masters of Ceremonies for the recognition ceremony and celebration. This year's entertainment will include special performances by Mariachi Guadalajara, El Venadito Estrada and the Bob Desena Latin Jazz Band. Other activities include interactive and carnival style games face painting, arts and crafts, and exhibitors. The event will also feature the annual soccer tournament – featuring the 6th Annual Cesar Chavez Day Cup. Parking for the March and celebration is available at Hollywood Park – Gate 8. Shuttle service will be provided throughout the day.

<u>Inglewood Games Skate Park Competition</u>

On Saturday, April 11, 2009, Darby Park will host the 4th Annual "Inglewood Games" Skate Park Competition from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to compete in 12 different categories and 25 divisions. Last year's event attracted over 350 skaters from all over Southern California. Don't miss this exciting event! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Update on Siminski Park Gates

At the last commission meeting, staff reported the various issues and challenges that staff was experiencing while trying the secure Siminski Park. We are happy to report that for the past month we have not had any issues in securing the park. The lock was changed from a key to combination lock. This has prevented any tampering and damage to the lock core.

We are also working with the Police Department to help remove the homeless and loiterers in the park. PD has increased patrol and the residents have indicated that this has made a <u>big</u> difference. The department will continue to work with PD in making sure the park is safe and secure for all patrons.

We also reported at the last commission meeting that we were working with the Parks Section to cut back trees to allow for more lighting. The trees have already been cut and this will definitely assist PD in identifying trespassers in the park.

We are also replacing all signage in the park. The current signs are old and fading. We expect the signs to be replaced by next month.

James Henry stated that is all I have for now. I hope to see you all at the Cesar Chavez Day Celebration at Darby Park on March 21.

Commissioner McLemore stated when is Siminski Park opened and closed?

James Henry stated dusk til dawn.

Commissioner McLemore stated for the track and field program do you have to be an Inglewood resident to register for that or can any child join it?

James Henry stated its open to the public.

Commissioner Agee stated glad to hear about the Skate Park event, I'm sure I'll be there; it is a very good and successful program every year. I hope we have more people that come out and see these kids perform because they deserve it.

Commissioner Brown stated in regards to the new route for the Cesar Chavez parade, how does that route differ from the previous years, it comes from Warren Lane now?

Sabrina Barnes stated yes, last year was the first year that we tried that new route and it seemed to work very well. It also allowed us to accommodate requests from residents who indicated it was a great impact to them when we would close off 90th Street. It will originate at the school. This route provides good congregating area. People can actually gather along Crenshaw if they want

to see the march. We've not had any complaints and we are actually quite pleased with the changes.

Commissioner Brown stated good report, very thorough.

James Henry stated thank you sir.

Sabrina Barnes stated we will now have our Human Services report; we have Trina Tyson here reporting on their behalf.

Trina Tyson stated good evening Commissioners.

The new bus pass sales program, MTA is transitioning to a new system for selling bus passes, they are transitioning to the TAP program and that is the Transit Access Pass. Special machines will be installed at our Cashiers Office at our Senior Center and staff will be trained to use it. It is a way of automating bus pas sales so that there is no more paperwork and stickers.

The new Senior Center housing project is going ahead swiftly now. The Human Services division managers have provided input as far as the layout and the furnishing of the Senior Center portion and consultants from Hearing --- International are requiring information needed for bidding to general contractors by the end of this week.

Human Services worked with the Sculpture Conservation to submit an application to be considered for the National Preservation Award for 2009. If we are selected we will know in October.

The Inglewood Police Activities League (IPAL) and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department will be hosting the 2nd Annual Jorge P. Aguilar Soccer Tournament. To date we have 13 teams registered coming as far as El Centro and Anaheim to our local areas Long Beach and Compton. We are looking forward to that.

Trina Tyson stated that concludes my report for this evening, any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated do I understand that you are going to have ground breaking pretty soon at the Senior Center Complex?

Sabrina Barnes stated I can't give you a firm date, but you can be confident that we will be breaking ground soon.

Commissioner Agee stated its close?

Sabrina Barnes stated it is very close. We have tremendous movement and we are really excited in terms of where we are with the progress of the project now that it's back on track and I think you will be too.

Commissioner Agee stated you know I've attended the City Council meetings for the past 15 years. I know when they started it and I know how much hassle its been to get this project underway. It's been 8 or 10 years and its been up and down, I'm so happy that this project is getting underway and the senior citizens are afraid that they won't live long enough to see it. If they break ground soon, I'm pretty sure most of them will live to see it and so will I. I'll be very happy to see that complex finished, thank you.

Commissioner McLemore stated for the bus passes how is the new information being distributed to the seniors so that they will know?

Trina Tyson there has been literature in our Senior Center Newsletter, literature passed out when the seniors go to the center to purchase their passes and the cashiers are informing them as well as our Care Management section. MTA has also put out literature in the paper.

Commissioner McLemore stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated comments in terms of the Community Care giving Café.

Trina Tyson stated what that was, was an event that took place in February. It was in collaboration with another organization giving caregivers an opportunity to get together and celebrate each other. It was a good opportunity for them to share their experience with other caregivers. In short, it was a day of respite and honor.

Commissioner Brown stated and the fund raiser for the Senior Nutritional Program?

Sabrina Barnes stated as you all know and this is not just impacting the City of Inglewood, it is a national problem that seniors and individuals in general are being impacted by the financial crisis. As such, we are seeing a growing number of seniors that we haven't seen before coming to our meal sites. We are budgeted for and allowed to serve so many seniors per day based on our contract. We are not having to do this daily but its concerning to us to have to do it at all. Some times we have to turn people away because we don't have enough meals. As such, staff has come up with a fundraising campaign such that we will be able to go out and solicit individuals. We are starting first with individuals who have history with our program. For example maybe it was someone's mother who was on the program, we are contacting that child or we're contacting that person that was on the program but maybe they no longer need the service.

We believe that they'll have a strong connection and may be willing to donate. We realize it is a hard time to be asking for money, but we also believe that for this worthwhile cause someone would be willing to give up their Starbucks for a week or so to make a difference. It takes a really modest amount to feed a senior. We put together a modest target amount just to start. We are doing a pilot right now, we are identifying approximately 100 individuals that we'll send mailers to and see what the return is and then we will expand the program and do it more globally. This is one of the many efforts we are looking at. We are also talking with the City Administrator making sure he knows what the current situation is and what our needs are. We have done some projections on what it will take to feed seniors based on what we've been dealing with currently and any projections with a modest 10% increase to get through this fiscal year. Our senior center nutrition program funding comes primarily from the county and the city provides some subsidy for that. When the numbers increase we are challenged because our program is catered and we only have some many meals. When we get back into our new home, it will be less of a challenge in that we will control the food service. We will be again preparing our own foods. In the kitchen we have economy of scale in our favor, where we would be able to buy more and do more. But also we are looking to introduce an enterprise component to that such that we'll be able to fundraise. Commissioner, maybe you'll recall but we use to actually provide meals to other Senior Centers, so that will be a resource for us.

Commissioner Brown stated yes and you did mention that you were sending letters to people asking for certain amounts?

Sabrina Barnes stated they have an option. We give them I believe its 4 or 5 options. One to say yes, they will help us to provide a meal in a loving and caring way and it tells them for example (and I don't have the exact numbers in my head), but it'll say \$20 will feed a senior for a week, and so on and so on. It gives them an option of what type of giving they would like to commit to.

Commissioner McLemore stated how can we contribute to feeding the seniors?

Sabrina Barnes stated we can provide you the same information. Right now we are in Legal for approval, just making sure the verbiage is correct because we are going to be soliciting funds and if we tell individuals A, B, and C will happen as a result of your donation, we need to make sure that is sound so we anticipate by the end of this month the packets will be ready for presentation and mailing. We will definitely keep you abreast and of course we will be touching bases with our friends and we are going to make sure you all as Commissioners have the information because some of you have expressed the willingness to help us beat some doors to help us get some funds. Daily, donations are accepted at the centers. If a senior drops by they can put in a donation but like wise if you'd like to drop by and pay for a meal for a couple of seniors, modest donations are taken there if you have a larger sum that you want to give right now we will

accept it with the proper documentation and the program will kick off at the end of the month.

At this time we will hear from our Community Beautification Section, Code Enforcement and Graffiti, Kevin Carroll.

Kevin Carroll stated good evening Commissioners, Director, public and staff. As you know we have an ongoing process of task forces that we do twice a month and our results as of 2/12/09 are:

We detained 9 illegal vendors; we did 3 NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System inspections, retrieved 48 shopping carts, and tagged and located one graffiti location. On 2/23/09 we detained 5 illegal vendors, 1 property maintenance inspection, 2 NPDES inspections, and 39 shopping carts. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated very good job.

Commissioner McLemore stated you all have been busy.

Commissioner Agee stated what do you do with the shopping carts?

Kevin Carroll stated we take them over to the city yard and those that belong to various businesses come and retrieve them and those that don't, Lord knows where they go.

Commissioner Agee stated you've got a good idea.

Sabrina Barnes stated Commissioner Agee with regards to the shopping carts, Alma Bryant who is our Code Enforcement Superintendent, is working on a shopping cart ordinance which will regulate and mandate how the carts will be attended to. Ideally we want the individuals that own the carts to be responsible for managing them. There will be some penalties and repercussions as a result of them not being managed properly.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated I'm kind of going back, I did see number seven, you didn't mention a mural update and I've been hearing words that we are going to expand our mural, is this true? Or are they rumors that are flying around?

Sabrina Barnes stated there has not been any discussion about expanding the mural. This update per say has to do with the signage. The main signage at the site was I'll use the term taken out. It wasn't hit by a car, we just know we found it on the ground and the Public Works department had to move it. We are working on the repair process so we can get it back. If you pass by the site right now you

will see cones and frames at the location where the major signage goes. We are working to get that back in place.

Commissioner Agee stated I understand that they did a pretty poor job on posting that sign, it seems like maybe the kids coming home from school may have just leaned up against it and it fell over.

Sabrina Barnes stated you are correct Commissioner. If you look at the sign you would actually think its concrete, but its very light weight.

Commissioner Agee stated it's not concrete.

Sabrina Barnes stated it is certainly not concrete.

Commissioner Agee stated I think you need to call the contractor back because they did a poor job. I don't know what the contract reads, but kids leaning against the sign should not affect it.

Commissioner McLemore stated what does the sign say?

Sabrina Barnes stated it is the Transportation Mural marker sign. It identifies the donors, gives credit to the county and the funding sources, to the participating departments, and provides some history about the mural. It is the major signage for the site.

That is it for the individual division reports. I would just like to acknowledge and give kudos not only to the Fire Department and Police Department for their efforts but also for the efforts for our department staff that provided support at the recent fire at the Locust Street complex. We can not discount the impact the police officers had and how they put their lives at risk as well as the fire folks but with that said when they were out of the building safely someone had to attend to those seniors and it was Parks and Recreation staff. Two of them are here tonight, Trina Tyson who is supervisor by day, was bus driver by fire event. Mr. Carroll came to the rescue to make sure seniors were able to get on the van. We had individuals who were confined to wheelchairs and there was a lot that went into getting them transferred to the holding site for that evening until they were able to get situated and Red Cross took over, getting them fed and to the temporary housing site. We actually had a disaster shelter set up at Rogers Park. It was up from the fire date which was February 24th and it shut down last Thursday when the seniors were relocated to a hotel. The seniors were actually relocated back to their homes yesterday so all those seniors that we had been personally transporting as well as those that were traveling on their own now have access back to the housing complex. So again, great job done by our staff. We've long talked about what would happen in the event of an emergency and there is nothing like on the job training. You can sit at the table and try to strategize but this was a real test. There were a lot of lessons learned that we will take from this effort and put into effect for use hopefully never but we'll be ready in the event something happens. That is it for me. Thank you very much for your time this evening.

Commissioner Brown stated I'd just like to give you kudos, this made a lot of news and the bad part of it is we did lose one resident in the tragedy and I think that tragedy asks us as a city, do we really have an emergency plan in action. That was a fire but there can be all kinds of other disasters and this may give us the chance to really look at it because it seems like Parks and Rec are the ones who will have to come forward to provide shelter, food and the whole nine yards. We need to really look at that very seriously.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to know the status of the racquetball court at Darby Park.

Sabrina Barnes stated the bid for the project which includes the racquetball courts, the gymnasium floors at Darby Park as well as Rogers Park is out to bid. We don't have the bids back yet. Once the bids return then we will know what the schedule is going to be. Keeping in mind Commissioner Agee that I am very aware of your desire to make sure we don't have to wait to get racquetball courts done. We will be coordinating the schedule such that it happens after basketball is done but we've made the request that we do not want it (referring to the racquetball courts) to have to wait because basketball season won't end until the beginning of May?

James Henry stated yes.

Sabrina Barnes stated so as soon as we can before that, we're not expecting to wait until May to get it done. Whenever we can give the notice to proceed, we'd like them to start moving.

Commissioner Agee stated you know I always like to say we use preventive medicine. I've been out there two or three times, my opinion is the drains that drain the water right next to the court was clogged up and the water backed up into the racquetball court. That is my belief as to how water got in there. In the future I would think it would be a good idea to keep those drains open or else when they fix the outside they fix it so that the water won't go inside the building. My opinion is the contractor did a shabby job, it doesn't like look like a professional job that was done. You know I use to do this type of work and that is what I see. Make sure that they do it right because if not you are going to have the same problem all over again.

Commissioner McLemore stated so all the seniors are back? I have a love for seniors that is why I keep bringing it up. So they're all back in their apartments

now and everyone is ok? And have all the repairs been done from the fire? How did the fire start or do they know?

Sabrina Barnes stated all of the repairs have not been fully done. It's repaired to the point of where they can get back into their homes, the major hold up prior to them going back in was the replacement of a number of doors, I believe over 60 doors that had to be replaced because of damage as a result of the rescue efforts.

Commissioner McLemore stated do you know how the fire started?

Sabrina Barnes stated they believe it started in the particular room where the life was lost but it is still under investigation. We've not been giving any formal findings at this point.

Commissioner Brown stated my only closing comment is in reference to the Commendation for the football team, I don't want it just to be brought to us and do nothing about it and maybe it will be our chance as this group has come to us before many times that we can just have a nice little celebration before Council in the Community Room and have some punch and cookies and give them their due acclaim and allow them to present their young people with trophies. And let's do it up right, with some good PR for a change. I'm always upset about the level of PR that goes out from my city from the kind of recreational activities and you look in the newspaper and its real small. We have to do a lot better because with that our taxpayers feel that their money is not really being wasted, they can see things happening and to have a football program that is keeping 80 kids off the street. There are 100,000 gang members between Inglewood and Watts, 100,000 and here is a program that the objective is not only athletics but education and we don't step up to the plate to show them appreciation the volunteers and all, something is wrong with that picture. With that I ask for a motion that this meeting stand adjourned.

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission meeting be adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner McLemore seconded.

Commissioner Brown stated Commission meeting stands adjourned and I thank everyone for coming.