

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on February 4, 2010, in the Council Chambers located at City Hall on the ninth floor. Chairman Norma Smith, presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

### **Roll Call**

#### **Present:**

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District One  
Commissioner Norma Smith, Chairperson – District Two  
Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three

#### **Absent:**

Commissioner Willie Agee – Commissioner at Large  
Commissioner Henry Brown – District Four

#### **Staff:**

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

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Commissioner Giardina made a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections and Commissioner McLemore seconded, motion carried.

### **Public Comments**

**Nancy Cryder** stated hi, I am Nancy Cryder and I live across the street from Center Park. You are doing a lot of construction work with KaBoom and they are also having a meeting which I have to go home and try to get into. I was at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the first meeting I wasn't able to attend but did go to the last two or three. I was the only one at the second meeting and all we talked about was what we needed at the park. They wrote it out and then the third meeting over at Lockhaven I was the only one and we wrote it all out. The last meeting was over at the church on 104<sup>th</sup>. Some of the people there didn't even have anything in Spanish and the few who we knew didn't quite understand what was going on. In fact my whole neighborhood, I made copies for and gave them out so they would know what was going to go on; they didn't even know. Like today, they called and said KaBoom is going to be on at 7p.m. and your meeting is at 6 p.m. This whole thing is starting to be a joke in my opinion. I want the things for the kids, I don't have kids but I am for the kids. I really would love to see something nice. Everything I ask for is for the children and also the people there that night, wanted the trees and the park to look nice for the children. I guess we have to go and get another grant which is really sad but I don't even know how to explain this because it is really sad. And I hope that someday you guys really come to Center Park and see it. I can tell

you what it was years ago. It was a beautiful park, lights and everything. People could walk and enjoy their selves and also have picnics on the weekend, people could go over and read and really enjoy themselves. But now it is really sad about what is going on. It is not going to work out; at least that's what all my neighbors say and nobody talked to the school, talk to the parents at 2 and 3 o'clock. They could've said hey what would you like for your kids. That never happened. I did today and everyone said if they are going to put chips in there my child is not going to be there. One staff member for the city said well if they get sick, just sue the city. I said isn't that a stupid comment. It's sad and no matter what I say, you guys are going to do whatever you guys do. I see the plans out there; they look nice if we keep it up.

**Diane Sambrano** and I live on the opposite side of the park and I guess one of the frustrating things to me is the lack of notice. Six meetings in two weeks and as much as someone tells me it was not for a deadline, I know that staff members believed it was. This was during Christmas, were we expected to stop our lives for two weeks to go play what do you want in your park, I don't think so. I guess one of the frightening things to me about this is that fast forwarding to the KaBoom experience we actually bussed children to 104<sup>th</sup> as a field trip from Kew Bennett. If that is what we call a field trip, I think we need to change the way we word things. Of course the sad part to me at that experience was that there was a woman there who thought that I'm always negative because I didn't want wood chips because if you watch television, everyone will tell you that is where the razor blades, hypodermic needles and all the other bad stuff is hidden and she thought I was negative because I wanted that. She says well don't you do anything positive, well considering my parents were the ones who help create that park, considering I use to live under the pine trees and have lived across the street from it for that last 50 some years. We know everything that has been at that park, bathroom because we got the petition, the light at 111<sup>th</sup> and Yukon is there because I had it out with the old engineer because kids were getting hurt, she didn't even know where 111<sup>th</sup> was. So I have a real concern that we listen to people who don't frequent the park about what the park needs and I guess the really sad thing is that we even had a staff member there who said I would like to see a gazebo, well you know what, no one in the community is interested in a gazebo and that person has only been there on clean up days. That is frustrating. This morning we received a phone call about tonight's teleconference, are we supposed to always be waiting for city staff to call? I don't think so and I think that is really among the most frustrating adventures and I would hope that in the future that concern for the residents of this community preempts the time schedule of city staff. We've already lost so many unfortunate things and to even with (I have pictures in the car on the camera) the netting that is this tall is what was suppose to be securing all of the cement, pipes and plastics that was torn up directly next to an elementary school. Do we really think the children were not going to learn to climb the orange netting? Thank you.

**Commissioner Smith** stated I'd like to thank both of you for comments.

### Director's Report

**Sabrina Barnes** stated we will follow the agenda, and we have Mark who will be reporting on capital improvement projects and other items under the Parks division.

**Mark Martinez** stated good evening.

## Capital Improvement Project Update

### Hardy Slope

- Installation of the irrigation system has been completed. Native/drought tolerant plants are being planted this week. Signage will be posted within the next couple of weeks. Completion of this project is slated for February 11.

### Center Park Improvement (Prop 84)

- The staff report and resolution is on the February 2 Council Meeting Agenda. Staff attended a technical workshop conducted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation last Thursday, January 28. Public Works provided a rendition of the Center Park Improvement Project estimated at \$2 million. Grant application is scheduled to reopen on March 20.

### Renovation of Athletic Fields

- Darby Park Multi-purpose field is currently closed for renovation. It is anticipated to re-open on February 15. Vincent Park Football and Soccer fields will be closed from February 15 through March 19.

### Lighting Improvement Projects at Darby and Vincent Parks

- Parks Maintenance/Construction met with a light coordinator who is currently working on a project with the City of Los Angeles. This project will provide for a contractor to survey the lighting/electrical needs of Darby and Vincent Parks athletic fields.

### Tree Maintenance

- Currently the Tree Maintenance Section is assisting Public Work with the curb and sidewalk repair project. During the month of February, they will be trimming trees in District Two. They are scheduled to trim ficus trees in District Three during the months of March and April.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated next under Recreation we have Arrick Turner.

**Arrick Turner** stated good evening.

## Black History Month

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the City's annual Black History Month Celebration. The event will take place on Saturday, February 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Darby Park. This year's celebration offers an opportunity for all Americans to pay tribute to the significant and long-lasting contributions that African Americans have made. The event is free to the public and will showcase the talents of our local youth including praise dancers, spoken word artists and winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King Speech Contest. Highlighting this year's event is a presentation featuring the "Voices of the Past and Present." This performance will include live portrayals of famous African American achievers. The event will also include an art exhibition. For more information please contact Darby Park at (310) 412-5391.

## Cesar Chavez Day Celebration

This year's annual Cesar Chavez Day Celebration will take place on Saturday, March 20. The event will kick off at 10 a.m. with a small program facilitated by Inglewood Unified School District at

Warren Lane Elementary School. At 10:30 a.m. marchers will take to the streets for a unity march. Marchers will go up Arbor Vitae to Crenshaw Boulevard and down to Pincay Drive to Darby Park. A recognition ceremony will take place on the grounds of Darby Park at 11:00 a.m. the ceremony will begin with an inspiring keynote address followed by the highlight of the day which showcases the winners of the 2010 Cesar Chavez Day speech contest. At noon, the celebration will get underway with live entertainment, interactive and carnival style games face painting, arts and crafts and vendor booths. The event will culminate at 4:00 p.m. For more information on this event please contact Darby Park.

### Youth Basketball

Youth Basketball begins on Saturday, February 13, at Rogers and Darby Parks. The program serves children ages 5 to 12 with a 6 to 8 week program.

### Lockhaven Community Center Classes

The Lockhaven Community Center is currently offering classes for senior citizens. The first session of classes began on January 4. Classes are held on Monday and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The class is taught in a small setting with a maximum of 12 students in each class. Seniors are taught basic computer operations, word processing, how to browse the internet and how to set up an email account. The next 8-week session will begin on March 1. To register for the next session or for the additional information, please contact Darby Park.

**Commissioner McLemore** stated for the computer classes for the seniors, they register at Darby Park?

**Arrick Turner** stated they can register at any facility to participate in it, but Darby Park is the key location.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated just for further clarification, the preferred registration site is at Darby Park because they are the primary coordinator for the class. On to Human Services, Trina Tyson.

**Trina Tyson** stated good evening.

### New Be Well Program

We received a grant from Kaiser Foundation Hospitals Southern California Region that will support an enhance intensive version of the Be Well program.

A series of 16 classes will be offered for seniors 65 and over at Darby Park from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning Tuesday, March 9 and ending June 2010. The program which will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays includes one hour of exercise taught by a certified fitness instructor and one hour of nutrition education, featuring a senior oriented curriculum on nutrition, medication management and behavior modification taught by registered dieticians, pharmacists and psychologists. In this enhanced version, there will also be Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for reducing depression for a randomly selected group. A series of orientations will take place at Darby Park from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays in February: 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Care Giver Café

The second annual Care Giver Café will be held on Saturday, February 13 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the senior center. Information and resources for caregivers will be available and there will be gospel and classical music, lunch and raffle prizes. Barbara Morrison, renowned jazz and blues singer will perform.

### Stimulus money for meals

We have received stimulus funds for meals at our four sites and for home delivered meals. These meals will account for over service and eliminate waiting lists, but they are giving us extra funds for cold suppers for our clients of hot home delivered meals (our frailest clients) and frozen weekend meals to all our home delivered clients. For a limited time we are able to serve a continental breakfast program at Inglewood, Lennox, and Hawthorne sites. These extra services will continue until we reach the budgeted amount.

### Door through Door Transportation

On Monday, February 9, 2010, we will begin the Door through Door transportation for severely handicapped clients who need assistance from trained drivers and personal attendants in order to access transportation. This is a grant from MTA with the city as the lead agency and Circle of Friends Adult Day Health Care Center (COF) in Inglewood as subcontractor. COF has trained our personnel in providing physical assistance and transfer training, passenger safety, and vehicle safety. There will also be training in how to work with specific disabilities of the targeted population.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I am just so encouraged that we were able to get some money for these programs, they all sound very exciting.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated just adding to the stimulus money piece, this allows us to eliminate all of our waiting lists and feed all of the seniors so this is exciting for us and staff has had to transition quickly so that we can maximize the experience. We have to make sure the seniors know we will provide this as long as we have the funds for it.

**Commissioner Smith** stated the last time we had asked you about this program, we were asking for you to track the number of seniors that you would have to turn away on a regular basis.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated we have not had to experience that where we have had to turn away.

**Commissioner Smith** asked approximately how many seniors come through there everyday.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated it varies. Immediately I can tell you about the Inglewood Center which maybe anywhere from 80 to close to 100 a day and sometimes it is more depending on if there is an activity there. I don't readily have the numbers for all the other sites, but typically Ladera is our smaller site and it may range from 45 to 55 and Lennox and Hawthorne hover in between there.

We will now go on to the oral report regarding follow up items.

Commissioner Giardina may want to weigh in here, but we did hold a meeting with her, Rita, Boytrese and I regarding the Circle Park water feature.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I would just like to say that I think that somewhere during the extensive wait, there were new renditions made that did not come to the Commission about the walk ins to the park and those kind of things so we reviewed that and he (referring to Boytrese) was under the impression that had to be part of that because that was what was being shown in the renditions. We worked it out, we have a better idea and are moving forward trying to maximize the money, put some more trees in the park. We are clear about what we need versus what we don't need so we are going to have a second meeting and I invite other Commissioners that would like to weigh in to come because we are getting closer to what it was that we intended to do there and it is exciting now that we are actually in movement and I am grateful for it.

**Commissioner Smith** stated I would like to attend the next meeting so can you please inform me of it.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated regarding the item of the playground replacement equipment. Two things, on Tuesday night, the Mayor and City Councilmember's did approve the resolution for us to submit the grant application for Prop 84 and I want to be clear on the fact that we are undertaking two different processes. A slightly longer term process with 84 which is reference to the meetings that were held which was a condition of the grant application that we go to the community. The grant application itself said that we had to have four meetings. It didn't dictate how we had to have them, you could actually put it on someone else's agenda and show up and tell them about the project and solicit some information. We tried to take that a little bit further and we did call for six meetings that were during the holidays based on the fact that we needed that information to start writing a new grant. We clearly had in our minds as staff what the park should look like, however that wasn't a condition of the grant, we needed to hear from the community and while the response from the community wasn't what we expected to be or what we wanted it to be, I will say that it is somewhat typical when we call for a meeting that we do expect for a large crowd and unfortunately we get what we get. Two of the meetings were not very well attended at all however we did have occasions that we met with the PTO at Worthington Elementary School which we had an audience, we met with the parents who participate in the Lockhaven Preschool program which was an audience and we were also at the park and spoke to children who are participating in the Fit N Play programs and other programs there such that we did build up feedback enough to develop a proposal and from that is how we came up with the scope of work which includes assign a walking path, additional picnic tables, bbq pits and areas where families can be in a more intimate setting, restrooms that will include the doors, security lighting cameras. That is all based on the grant application. Our numbers right now are hovering right around \$1.5 million. We will know approximately six months after the deadline which is March 1 if we receive that and then we will proceed from there. That project also included playground equipment. One thing we will be able to do is recoup some of the monies that have been expended regarding KaBoom and we will also be able to expand upon the playground project such that if we wanted to add additional features, replace the wood chips that will be there, that is the vehicle we will have in place to do that. The KaBoom Project is a whole separate entity from the meetings that we have had. We did hold a meeting which was required by KaBoom to have a design day which I mentioned the last time. We did bus in kids from district four since they are immediately beneficiaries of the park there. It was not a field trip, we had to get permission whenever we take them off of campus and there was a

field trip type slip that the parents did have to sign to authorize us to move them and the reason why we moved them is because our sponsor has advertising policies does not allow us to be in the schools so while we had planned to have the meeting at Worthington, we were not allowed to do that so we had to move it to where we could have adequate parking because again we were expecting a nice crowd of parents. The first part of the meeting the kids actually drew their dream play space and while we may have had slides and jumpers, one thing they said clearly is that they wanted a climbing wall and so from that we were able to establish the features the children wanted. From that design night we also met with parents that agreed to come and hear about the project and if they were interested in participating they put their name on a sign up list. Our project manager is based out of D.C. so I would dare that we would not want to start a meeting at 10 p.m. so the time was design by the group that was there and said Thursday's were best at 7 o'clock when most people are out of work. Our project manager said that his experience is that most people might do it on their lunch time; he was use to having daytime meetings. So yes, we do have a conference call that starts in exactly 30 minutes, that other staff will be on and if I'm on it that is fine and if I'm not the meeting still goes on because we have several projects going on at one time. With that the design date generated the three design projects that you have out there. We have them online for individuals, we are doing email blasts, and we have information at the main libraries and the Crenshaw library to make sure as many folks as we can get to can have the opportunity to vote on the designs. Based on what the community weighs in on saying which is the best design that will be the one we go with. Again, the designs are based on the feedback from the children saying this is the type of playground we would like to have.

Regarding other parks, that is Center Park. On Tuesday the Mayor and Council voted to reject bids that we had taken last year after he had received some preliminary quotes. We were told initially that to replace our playground at several of the parks would hover over \$700,000 dollars and we received the bids back at \$1.2 million so already there was a major difference in what we thought we need and what we have to have. In the meantime we are still firming up funding. We applied to the county for some funds. We asked for at least that \$1.2 and we received \$600,000 so with that we had to prioritize the parks. The good thing is that we got the KaBoom award so we can take that off of the list. Vincent Park alone is about \$450,000 for the 5 playground structures. So it came off the list and allowed us to address seven other sites, four of them being totally replaced, the others replacing bad components, sterilizing, cleaning, refreshing and us dealing with the resurfacing of all of the sites. We will be sending out a new RFP, our directive is to have playground in place by summer so it is being reviewed and a 1 bid document that will generate two bid packages so we can split it and work with multiple vendors concurrently. We are working towards getting other monies back on grants that just have some outstanding paperwork. We will apply again and expect to get additional funding to cover Vincent Park. With that we will also be adding Rogers Park because at the time when our initial bids went out that park was not in a state of disrepair, gradually the matting is getting to be torn and we want to refresh that equipment so we will be adding Rogers Park. We anticipate the next phase of replacement to begin after the summer. In the meantime at Vincent Park we are going to be looking how we can freshen that up to get through the summer to make it as safe as possible and by end of next year all playground equipment will have been replaced.

**Commissioner McLemore** stated so you are redoing the equipment according to those that need it the most?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated right. We have some equipment at our parks that have not been replaced in years; as a matter of fact they don't even make that equipment. We will be replacing all of the equipment at: North, Ash, and Queen. At Siminski Park, equipment will be freshened up to give it a new look and feel. At almost all the instances the surfacing has to be addressed. We are getting rid of the sand, wood chips with wood fiber.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated I think that it is very exciting that we are moving forward to rehabilitate the parks. I just know that we (the school district) are working to make sure that we make Center Park happen in terms of KaBoom, even recruiting volunteers. I think that it is a valid concern that even after we rehab it ,that the wood chips might create a problem and so I would just hope that everyone is cogence about the fact that we do need to consider the surface primarily because it doesn't do any good for use to create these environments and they aren't safe for the kids. With the issues that we have had in the past, just knowing that we can go and try to do that and with the grant money for the resurfacing, it is a lot we have going, very exciting and I hope that we can keep this momentum and stay on this timeline so we don't lose this year, it is only February but its almost over.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated as part of the KaBoom process we will be working with a certified playground inspector and we have to have a certified maintenance plan and so we will be getting their recommendations to make sure that they are telling us the best maintenance practice. Just in general because this did come up on Tuesday night and it was made clear to us that we need to keep monitoring the situation such that we are on top of it and if it looks like we need to go back and get rid of that surfacing then that needs to be made clear to the Mayor and Council so they can provide some direction.

**Commissioner Giardina** stated exactly and I think that the Commission would help in terms of us being abreast of it so we can make sure we inform our Councilperson to keep it in an expedited mode rather than allow it to linger.

**Commissioner Smith** stated my only comment is I agree with the two residents that they should be notified ahead of time, I know how I felt when they were redoing La Tijera and the only notices that went out was the one going to the kids and a lot of the kids don't even live in the area. The residents around there unless they heard about it by word of mouth. if you can figure out a way that as soon as you know that there is a grant or something going on in our community or any community, notify those people right away in both English and Spanish. Any further reports?

**Sabrina Barnes** stated not at this time. Please cast your vote. If you are available via email we can send you a link that you can blast that to your neighbors or what have you to help get the word out. We have a very short turn around time so while we would like to mail to every single resident we don't have that luxury with this project because we have to hurry and quickly get this going. We hope to make a decision by early next week.

#### Public Comments

**Nanette Marchand** stated good evening. I had a call today from a lady who is a frequent visitor to the senior center and she had some very distressing comments and incidents about the I-Trolley. She recognized that during the holidays there were some inconsistencies because the trolley was

being used for other events and programs. But since they've resumed after the holidays, nothing has gone back to normal as she thought it would. The seniors wait outside the center at 1p.m. and very often the trolley is not there. They will go inside and be told to wait about 10 to 15 minutes and often times its 30 or 45 minutes. They were told that the trolley takes a number of residents to a facility where they can swim like at 12:30 p.m., thereby giving them enough time to get to the center. Then there have been other times when they are on the trolley and they make a diversion and take someone way out of the way or pick up someone that was not in the lunch group. They have also been told that the other drivers who have the shuttle buses that transport people to medical appointments and other appointments outside the city has caused a delay in them coming to relieve the trolley person, like they can't get in touch with the trolley driver. In one instance they were told that the shuttle bus was an hour and a half late because a lady that was picked up fell and when this same woman who relayed all this to me checked with a supervisor he said he didn't know anything about a fall. A lot of excuses and things and is really depressing mostly the women who are waiting on the bus. Most of them are waiting out there on their walkers. In one instance there was a woman in her wheel chair, and I am not familiar with the trolley having a wheelchair lift, well the driver said he didn't have the key for the lift and I'm thinking there is no lift because I have been on the trolley. Anyway, I'm just bringing to your attention that there are a lot of problems right now and this particular woman one time just walked home and on other occasions took the bus or cab and she wants someone to address these ongoing concerns.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated I will make no excuse for that because clearly a lot of what you said is not the function of the trolley so I will definitely follow up on that. I will just note that the trolley is supposed to follow a fixed schedule and typically it hits a location around the same time.

**Nanette Marchand** and she is familiar with it, she said it is from 1 to 4 p.m. she is extremely familiar with it because she has relied on it for so long and it is out of its routine and is now making it very difficult.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated I won't doubt that it is out of its routine, again, no excuses, we have two drivers down and what we will have to do is when we have instances where we have multiple trips, the trolley offers the most flexibility that we can pull it, and so I'm not going to say that that is not happening but the regularity of it would be a problem and that is something that needs to be addressed.

**Nanette Marchand** stated the other issue would be that they aren't giving them any information and I think that escalates their distress when they can't get any answer from inside. Even if the trolley is not coming that day, they are not told so they are standing out there.

**Commissioner Smith** stated Ms. Marchand will you please notified the lady who reported to you to take down names because it does no good if you report it and everyone says they didn't do it. Any further public comments.

**Diane Sambrano** stated among my concerns with the KaBoom event particularly for our school board member is that one of those days will be utilizing the end people from our school and I hope that they understand about those instructional moments that we talk so much about are appreciated as well because I think that some times we have two different opinions about how

instructional moments should be used and the school does not have a particularly high and wonderful test scores.

**Commissioner Smith** stated I know I said any item, but this has to do with Parks and Rec item, but right now you are talking about education.

**Diane Sambrano** stated I understand that because the KaBoom project, to my understanding is utilizing the young people from the neighboring school during the Friday afternoon construction day and the importing of 175 volunteers to that already congested area which we have significant congestion in that area everyday anyway, plus an additional 175 volunteers for the area is a drama for the area because of the KaBoom project interplaying with the school next door with theoretically shares that property throughout the week. It is an interplay of both, we can not separate one from the other because if in fact we bought that off to access for the school, that changes how that park is used. Today we have young people from the school using the park for recess, lunch and whatever else. Is the only situation that only occurs in the city as far as I know and so because it is an interagency adventure it does impact both.

**Commissioner Smith** stated any further comments. None.

**Sabrina Barnes** stated I skipped Carroll.

**Kevin Carroll** stated that is ok, I have nothing to report and I give it back to you.

#### Commissioner Comments

**Commissioner Giardina** stated just to be brief and say that we heard that, we heard the public. I think what we will do with the trolley is to at least convey the information that we are down two drivers and that the schedule is a little irregular and hopefully the people will be a little bit patient and we will be a little more informative in terms of how we give the information about what the schedule is and we hope that we do a better job accommodating them. This is going to be quite a stretch and juggle for this particular day (referring to KaBoom build), just the logistics and really trying to do this. This is going to be a very challenging endeavor so we would just hope that as the day approaches, we are synchronized and coordinated. We hope to have assistance from not only Code Enforcement but from IPD and hopefully notification will go out to the schools as well as the community that there is going to be an event and hopefully it will not be a disaster but we are going to be able to coordinate it so that there will be some positive results at the end of the afternoon. We hope not to use the children but to incorporate 50 or 60 volunteers to come and assist the assembly of the equipment. It is going to be a very challenging event and I hope that we get some sort of advertisement out in hopes that we can put it together in a fashion that will be usable for the children. With that I just want to thank staff for your hard work and everyone out there, please let them know we are proud of the work you guys do all the time, we do a tremendous job.

**Commissioner Smith** stated I would like to thank the public for coming and sharing your reports with us. We will try to do better on getting reports and information out to you in English and Spanish.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.