

A meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on February 6, 2014 in the Council Chambers located on the 9th floor in City Hall. Commissioner Willie Agee presiding called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee, Chair – Commissioner at Large
Commissioner Halimah Ginyard – District One
Commissioner Juanita Withrow – District Two
Commissioner Cynthia McLemore – District Three
Commissioner Gene Eldridge – District Four

Staff:

Sabrina Barnes, Parks, Recreation and Library Services Director
Michael Falkow, Assistant City Manager
Stephanie Maldonado, Administrative Aide
Teresa Estrada, Recreation Superintendent
Juan Mata, Parks Supervisor
Thomas Uwal, Transportation Supervisor

Approval of the Minutes

Michael Falkow stated the recording Secretary typically is the person who would note a quorum on behalf of the Commission. He also stated that he noticed that public comments comes after approval of the minutes and noted he is fairly confident the public has a right to comment on the minutes before they are voted upon so that the Commission may also take into account the public comments on the minutes when they actually vote. Mr. Falkow stated he didn't hear a motion to request for approval of the minutes or comments and explained in order for there to be comments you must have a motion on the floor.

Approval of the minutes from the November 2013 meeting was tabled until March 6, 2014.

Commissioner Agee called for a motion to approve the minutes from January 2014. Motion made by Commissioner Eldridge; seconded by Commissioner Withrow. Commissioner Agee called for comments or questions. Commissioner Eldridge stated there were a couple of typographic errors that we can overlook. Commissioner Eldridge shared his many years of experience as a part of various entities and organizations such as Ladera Heights Civic Association, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as well as other boards and commissions he has served on. He said he wanted everyone (referring to the Commission) to understand that he has a pretty good track record and has earned the right to be here (on the Commission). Mr. Falkow asked Commissioner Eldridge what are his concerns about the typos. Commissioner Eldridge stated I cannot address them as I understand the minutes were tabled. Mr. Falkow explained that if there are no content changes to the minutes they can be adopted as presented, but if there are things that needed to be changed, then those corrections can be provided to staff now. Commissioner Agee called for the vote for the approval of the minutes from January 2014. Commissioner Eldridge made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Withrow. The minutes were approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Ginyard, Withrow, McLemore and Eldridge
Nays: Commissioner Agee

Mr. Falkow stated as a point of reference that the best way to do the vote is to allow the recording secretary to call for a vote so the Chair doesn't have to call for his own vote.

Public Comments

None

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes gave a staff report recommending the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend the Mayor and Council Members authorize sponsorship of the 2014 Inglewood Relay for Life scheduled to take place on June 7-8, 2014 at Crozier Middle School in an amount not to exceed \$3,500. Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to accept the recommendation; motion was seconded by Commissioner Withrow. Commissioner Agee asked if there are any comments. Commissioner Eldridge stated last year he donated and was under the impression the event was put on by Councilman Franklin but now understands the city is sponsoring the event and would like to continue to donate. Ms. Barnes stated it is a citywide event. Various Council Members do participate and have for years. She encouraged the Commissioner to continue to donate. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Ginyard, Withrow, Agee, McLemore and Eldridge
Nays: None

Juan Mata gave a verbal report for the Parks Division regarding the following capital improvement projects:

- Vincent Park Lighting Project: a pre-bid conference was held on January 21. No proposals we submitted; therefore, we have rescheduled a new advertisement date for February 13, 2014. The pre-bid conference date is scheduled for February 20, 2014. Bids will be opened March 5, 2014.
- The lighting repairs at Vincent Park tennis courts have been complete. Public Works rewired nine 9 poles and replaced 28 lights. Edison replaced 10 lights on the light poles that were out throughout Vincent Park. Public Works has also started replacing lights on the light poles that are out.
- Rogers Park baseball fields lighting is being retrofitted from 1000 watt lamps to the new 750 watt metal halide lamps. These lamps will provide the same light output but will save the city 16,000 watts of electricity when both fields are on. This project will be completed by the end of the week.
- The Darby Park lighting project bid date has been rescheduled to March 19, 2014, based on new project developments.
- The Siminski Park Fencing Improvement Project job walk is scheduled for February 11, 2014, with the proposals due on February 18, 2014. We anticipate this project to be completed sometime in April.

- Circle Park water fountain has been fixed and is up and running. Wires were rerouted. We also changed a pump and replaced the breaker.
- North Park light poles are working, but the solar lighting is still out. A meeting was scheduled with contractor for today, but he never showed. The meeting will be rescheduled.

Commissioner Withrow asked if 19 were the total number of lights fixed at Vincent. Mr. Mata stated yes. She asked if the lowering of the wattage at Rogers Park is in compliance with Edison. Mr. Mata stated yes. Commissioner Withrow thanked Mr. Mata for the update on the lighting at North Park. Commissioner Eldridge stated great job. Commissioner Agee stated you are doing a fabulous job. We are finally getting things done in the parks, and I am happy. Sabrina Barnes stated just to clarify we were addressing the immediate lighting issues at the parks, but there is a larger lighting improvement project also underway.

Teresa Estrada gave a brief report regarding the following Recreation Division items:

- Darby Park facility has recently been retrofitted with new windows, most notably in the gymnasium and lobby. These windows have enhanced the appearance of the facility giving it a newly polished look. Along the walkway, leading up to the building entrance, two new light posts were installed to provide additional lighting along the walkway and parking lot. The main entrance of the building also received a makeover. The front patio area of the facility was enclosed with store front glass and electric doors installed. The front entrance renovation also included a new ceiling, lighting, and floor tile. Next on the list is the renovation of the Pre-School Room at Darby Park. This room is in desperate need of a makeover. Because the room is so old, prior to beginning any reconstruction, Public Works is testing for mold, lead, and asbestos. Once the results are in, Public Works will review and determine how to move forward. An update, including an estimated time frame will be provided at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Withrow asked if the windows that were changed were energy savers. Ms. Estrada stated she believes they are.

- The City's Youth Basketball League will begin its season this Saturday, February 8. We have a total of 36 teams and will be serving over 380 youth ages 4-14 this basketball season. All games will be played at both Rogers and Darby Park. The season will culminate on April 12. I encourage you to come out and see what great skills these kids have.
- The City of Inglewood will collaborate with the Latino Diabetes Association to launch a campaign in an effort to stop the epidemic of diabetes and obesity in our local communities. As part of our partnership, the City will host a 6-week series of diabetes prevention workshops. The workshops will include free diagnostic testing, and assistance to those wishing to learn more about preventing and/or managing their diabetes through healthy living, healthy cooking, and exercise classes. The workshops will also provide information and tools to individuals and families with limited healthcare resources. Participants will be referred to free or low-cost health care clinics and health insurance programs. They will also be given life-saving and comprehensive diabetes prevention and self-management information by Certified Diabetes Educators and healthcare

professionals. Tests will be available to anyone insured or uninsured and of any ethnicity. Classes will be held for six consecutive Saturday's at the Veteran's Memorial Building from March 1 through April 5 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Flyers promoting the classes will be available next week.

- The Recreation Division is currently making plans for Summer Day Camp. In past years, CDBG funds supported Summer Day Camps at the various park sites. Funding allocated this year was drastically reduced. The department largely relied on those funds to conduct summer programming. This year we will be looking to engage contractors to provide summer day camp and augment services normally provided by the department. Recreation staff will meet with local agencies and outside organizations to review and discuss proposed variety camps. Proposed themes include; educational, music, sports, and performing arts.

Commissioner Withrow asked if it is possible for us to ask if the Latino Diabetes Association can partner with a restaurant or two here in the city to do healthy cooking because a lot of Mexican restaurants use lard. Ms. Estrada stated she will ask. Commissioner Withrow asked if this information will be online. Ms. Estrada stated yes. It is part of a larger campaign, and once everything is finalized information will be provided. Commissioner Agee stated you are doing a terrific job. I'm really happy about Darby Park.

Thomas Uwal gave an update regarding the following Human Services programs:

- The month of December was very special at the Inglewood Senior Center. The Center was beautifully decorated with a giant tree at the centerpiece. Lots of holiday cheer was provided by many community groups such as students from Carousel School, Morningside High School, and Crozier Middle School.
- The I-Line Shuttle was totaled as a result of a fire on January 13, 2014. Firefighters showed up in about five minutes, but the fire engulfed the vehicle in minutes. We are looking into replacing the vehicle. In the meantime, we have deployed a back-up vehicle.

Commissioner Eldridge asked how he can find out the procedure to get transportation, as he knows a mother and daughter who are severely handicap and are in need. Mr. Uwal stated contact our Transportation Assessor who will assess them according to their needs. She can be contacted at 310.412.4382.

Public Comments

Jim Withrow expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Director Barnes for addressing the lighting issue at North Park.

Wanda Brown, City Treasurer also commended Director Barnes who has always been so helpful to her with her City Treasurer Student Intern Program and providing transportation. She also wanted to commend her on the youth basketball program stating the city really needs to have more programs and suggested staff consider approaching business owners for funding assistance. She also mentioned that one of her students was shot and killed recently. His family is unable to bury him at this time due to financial issues. She indicated she is collecting donations.

Hugo Granadino resident of Inglewood came to thank the Commission for the repair of the Circle Park fountain. He was told there was a possibility of the fountain being turned off because of multiple complications and thought it was such a shame because it is such a beautiful fountain and wonderful place to sit. Mr. Granadino shared a quote and a recording that he took of the running fountain.

Stewart Bailey stated Councilman Franklin will be scaling down his participation in the Relay for Life event. He asked if the lights at Rogers Park are on all night until the next day, or do they go off when staff leaves. He commended CVS for pulling cigarettes out of their stores.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Ginyard thanked Ms. Barnes, Teresa, and staff for doing a good job; she sees the improvements in the parks.

Commissioner Withrow thanked the audience for their comments. She especially appreciated the comments regarding Center Park's lovely fountain and is amazed and impressed with the staff for getting it fixed so quickly. She's looking forward to Relay for Life and is glad to see it is called Inglewood's Relay for Life. She will advise her Neighborhood Watch who participated in Gifts from the Heart. She said they are always asking what else they can help with and encouraged the other Commissioners that are active in their neighborhood watch to go to them and ask them to join the Relay. Lastly, she thanked Stephanie Maldonado for her assistance.

Commissioner McLemore thanked everyone for their thorough reports and stated to Sabrina and Stephanie, I think we need to tell you when you are doing something right because everybody has something to say when you are doing something wrong, but I think you are doing a fantastic job.

Commissioner Eldridge thanked Mr. Granadino for his touching comments that reminded him of his grandfather and is amazed to see such a young man respecting what his grandfather called a babbling brook. He went on to state the Commission should be working for the betterment of the city and the people we support. He noted he devotes a lot of his time, money, and effort toward this. Commissioner Eldridge stated he purchased five condensed versions of Robert's Rules of Order for everyone. He extended an invitation to everyone to stand up and strive to be Chair of the Commission. He said he was told we had to vote for chairman, vice chair, and secretary, and he brought it up a couple of times. He also asked for a closed meeting, an executive meeting session. The reason he did that was because he did not want to put anybody on the spot or embarrass anybody and thought that was appropriate but wasn't given that opportunity. He is still not going to put anyone on the spot by name because he has definite respect for each and every person present stating whatever you bring to the table, we are all going to eat. Commissioner Eldridge went on to say he is not challenging the authority here at all; he is saying that in case there is a problem you need to be prepared. We voted in this city to make changes recently - we changed your Council person and your Council person (referring to District 1 and 2) for whatever the reason was and if we are going to keep moving on. This city is on the verge of doing wonderful things in my opinion, and I want to be a part of it, and I encourage you (speaking to the Commissioners) to join me and try and make this a better place to live.

Michael Falkow apologized for not having the Commission's administrative manual but can share his experience with the Police Oversight. In their admin manual, it states every January an election is to be held whereby a Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the body. Mr. Falkow will have staff check what this Commission's manual indicates, and if an election needs to be held then so be it; term limits could also be listed in the manual. He stated Commissioner Eldridge, you mentioned a closed session and explained in order for that you must only need to speak on the following: personnel, real property negotiations, litigation (potential or existing claim). Mr. Falkow stated he can check with Legal, but he's fairly confident that there is no mechanism for this body to have or need a closed session. Commissioner Eldridge asked if he thought it would be good to have a closed session for a discussion regarding Commissioners and perhaps anything related. Mr. Falkow said that would be an honorable perspective to have a chat in private, but unfortunately the Brown Act does not provide an exemption for that. To do so is a violation of the Brown Act. If there was a concern that one wishes to bring forward, for example, if one does not like the way Commissioner Jones handles the meeting, he stated that would have to be agendaized. But to have a discussion about how Commissioner Jones conducts the meetings - you cannot have more than two Commissioners talking about it because if you have a 3rd Commissioner to talk about it, an open public meeting is required, or you violate the Brown Act. He went on to state it is highly unlikely you would want to do something like that because most of us are adults and would just go to that person and talk it out. If that is not possible, you can get someone from staff as an intermediary to assist (Ms. Barnes, myself (Mr. Falkow), someone from the City Attorney's office, or your elected official). But it wouldn't seem to be the right venue to air out those types of concerns in open session because it wastes the public's time. Mr. Falkow continued to give various examples of scenarios that violate the Brown Act stating if there is a concern with the way the meeting is being conducted, chaired, appropriate election, etc., allow us to look up the appropriate binding documents, and we will report back. Mr. Falkow thanked Commissioner Eldridge for offering copies of Robert's Rules for the Commission.

Commissioner Agee thanked Mr. Falkow. He went on to state he's been a Commissioner for 12 years, and the whole time he was on the Commission, we had one chair that would be sitting here today, but her Councilwoman lost the election. He stated if any Commissioner gets three people to call for a vote to vote me off as Chair there is no problem. Mr. Falkow stated that is not the way that works. The Commission itself doesn't not have power to vote off a member of the Commission; that can only be done by the appointing member. If the Commission does not care for the Chairperson or Vice Chair, they have to wait until the next scheduled election unless there is potential inappropriate conduct, then that should be something to take up with him or the City Attorney's office. Commissioner Agee stated my objective is to come to this Commission meeting to take care of the business of Parks and Recreation. I'm sure the rest of the Commissioners are not concerned with my personal life. I don't want to hear it myself. I come here to take care of business. The rest can wait until later, and I hope that by Mr. Falkow speaking to us tonight, we can settle some issues and go on to operate as a Commission and get the work done for the city. We had one Commissioner that was very upset by the way things were going, and she was threatening to leave. I thank God she stayed because she is a good Commissioner. I hope we can move forward, and I will be the Chair as long as I'm sitting here. If I am moved out then that is another story. Mr. Falkow stated if anyone would like to speak with me privately by all means feel free to do so at anytime. Sabrina Barnes acknowledged her team and their hard work.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.