

A meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on April 3, 2014 in the Council Chambers located on the 9th floor in City Hall. Commissioner Willie Agee presiding called the meeting to order at 6:00 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
Stephanie Maldonado, Administrative Aide
Craig Civitello, Lead Park Maintenance Worker
Arrick Turner, Recreation Supervisor
Wayne Miles, Human Services Grants Manager
Keith Lockhart, Public Works Project Coordinator

Public Comments

None.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from March 6, 2014, Commissioner Ginyard seconded. The minutes were approved as follows:

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

Nays: None

Director's Report

Sabrina Barnes gave a staff report recommending the Parks and Recreation Commission receive and file the report which provided an update regarding the installation of artificial turf at Edward Vincent, Jr. Park and provide feedback to staff for future consideration by the Mayor and Council. Commissioner Eldridge asked what is the chance of those who are using the fields cough up some funds towards this project. Ms. Barnes stated we have approached the soccer groups years ago but not to this extent where it would close the funding gap. Also, at one point the city had a strong relationship with AYSO and at that time they did contribute money towards maintenance of the fields. Commissioner Eldridge asked if soccer is the only sport that would be using the field. Ms. Barnes stated it is a multi-purpose field and in 2009 the Mayor and Councilmember's approved recommendation of the Commission to designated one (1) of the fields a soccer field and the other a football field for priority use during football season. Commissioner Withrow suggested modifying the scope and seeking alternate funding stating she believes both fields should be a better quality of artificial turf like FIFA has. She asked if the department has done

any research about names rights as a fundraising possibility. Ms. Barnes stated we have not researched naming rights. Commissioner Withrow stated she spoke to someone from AYSO who stated if the fields were groomed (making sure there were no rocks and the divots are taking out, restriping done) there are leagues who are still willing to pay to use them. Ms. Barnes stated when we thought we were proceeding to construction we took out the entire infrastructure. Currently there is no water system. At the recommendation of one of the Commissioners, we looked at another local city's facility whose fields do not have turf. They are clay. We considered alternative surfaces but it was recommended against by the engineering firm. Commissioner Withrow asked if the city could look to Metro for some enhanced construction work there like a sound wall. Ms. Barnes stated she will make a note of that. Commissioner Agee stated this project has been an awful long time in the process and he's had a change of heart concerning the two fields and would like to see both fields get artificial turf because the dust is not good for our kids. Commissioner Withrow made a motion that option #3 - modify scope and seek alternate funding - be presented to the Mayor and Council and was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. Commissioner Eldridge stated with the current fiscal funding as it is he doesn't see how we can get additional funding but maybe we can get some funding elsewhere to complete this project. Commissioner Withrow stated she does feel like the city is in a much better position than a few years ago and knows that a lot of sports teams are now interested in coming to the city and the Mayor and Council members are well suited to negotiate with some of the pro-teams and as successful as the Forum reopening was she has every confidence they will be able to do that. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Ginyard, Withrow, McLemore and Eldridge

Nays: Commissioner Agee

Sabrina Barnes informed the Commission that their recommendation will be noted in the staff report to Council under Commission Comments and Recommendations so that the Mayor and Council know what your recommendation, however, they will still be presented with a full report with all the options.

Commissioner Agee offered a motion for both fields to be completed with the current funding however due to the lack of a second the motion died.

Craig Civitello gave a report and behalf of the Parks division regarding the following items:

- Vincent Park Lighting Project-scheduled to be awarded on April 8th with notice to proceed issued on April 15th and work to begin on or about May 5th.
- Darby Park Lighting Project-bid opened on April 2nd, bids are being reviewed, award date scheduled for May 13th.
- North Park Lighting-Public Works stated the contractor came over the weekend and have indicated the lights are working. Public Works will be out this week during the evening to double check on the lights.
- General maintenance-new basketball backboards have been ordered for Siminski Park and will go up during the week of April 7th; damaged skateboard ramps are currently being replaced at Vincent and Darby Parks.

Commissioner Withrow thanked Craig for his report and for going out of his way to check on the solar lights.

Arrick Turner gave a following report regarding the following items from the Recreation Division:

- SCMAF Basketball Tournament - On Saturday, March 22, four teams (2 boys and 2 girls) from the City's Youth Basketball Program attended the Bay Area Youth Basketball Tournament in Carson. All four teams took 2nd place and secured a spot in the SCMAF Championship Tournament. On Saturday, March 29, teams traveled to Downey, City Terrace and Garden Grove to play in the 2014 SCMAF Championship games. The boys division was eliminated in the first round. On the other hand, we are proud to announce that the girls team took 1st place. Congratulations to all the teams for their hard work and dedication to the sport.
- Diabetes Prevention Classes – In response to a previous inquiry by Commissioner Withrow, staff advised the Latino Diabetes Association currently does not partner with any local restaurants or eateries to provide an alternative menu for diabetic customers. The primary goal of LDA is to promote healthier nutrition choices for those with diabetes by providing information and resources on diet and nutrition, as well as providing cooking classes. The cooking classes teach participants how to plan and cook healthy meals for themselves and their families. The chef performs cooking demonstrations and offers healthy recipes, as well as alternative suggestions on wholesome ingredients. In order to encourage students to cook healthy at home, all participants who attend the cooking classes receive free cookbooks. Saturday, April 5 is the last class for the diabetes workshops. It is also the cooking class. If your schedule permits, plan to attend this wonderful workshop sponsored by the Latino Diabetes Association.

Commissioner Agee asked where the diabetes class will take place. Mr. Turner stated at the Veteran's Building. Commissioner Eldridge congratulated the girls team for winning first place.

Wayne Miles gave a report regarding the following Human Services items:

- The Food Services Manager position has been posted and applicants need to apply by April 14, 2014.

The Senior Center Advisory Committee (SCAC) for planning the new Senior Center has been regularly meeting on a monthly basis for the past two years. Their task is to guide the city, with community involvement, in the development of the design guidelines for the soon to be constructed Senior Center which will be located at 111 N. Locust Street. With the guidelines in place, in March of 2014, the City released its Request for Qualifications with the goal of soliciting information from architects interested in designing and constructing the center. Over the next six months the SCAC will be engaged in a set of four informational and educational community meetings that will provide detailed information from experts regarding the next steps of the process prior to construction. These workshops are open to the public and all residents are encouraged to attend. The meetings start at 10:00AM and will take place at Inglewood City Hall. The schedule and topics to be covered are as follows:

- Monday, April 21 – A review of all activities to be expected during the design process of the center.

- Monday, June 16 – What will take place during the construction phase of the project?
 - Monday, June 21 – The roles of the different parties that will be involved in the project and their interactions with each other and the community.
 - Monday, September 15 – Rules and Regulations and project requirements.
- The Department submitted an application to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NRPA is offering grant funds to support children's health through park and recreation out-of-school time programs. Grants are for a one-year period and range from \$25,000 to \$35,000 with additional nutrition literacy materials provided (valued at \$10,000). We are pleased to report that the Department has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$31,200 for out-of-school time programs. The funds are to be used to support your efforts to increase healthy meals served to children, provide evidence-based nutrition literacy to children, and implement nutrition and physical activity standards.

Commissioner Eldridge stated he thought a food service manager or a different company to prepare the food was already hired. Mr. Miles explained that the food service manager position is a personnel position as opposed to the caterer we contracted to provide meals for the nutrition program. Commissioner Withrow asked Mr. Miles to explain what the food service manager does. He stated it is a position within the nutrition division and oversees the senior nutrition program. Commissioner Withrow asked if that person is a licensed dietician. Mr. Miles stated he was not sure as he did not have the job announcement flyer.

Sabrina Barnes mentioned an item regarding the Siminski Park Restroom project will be going to Council for signature of a deed restriction and to authorize the Mayor to sign all future related documents regarding the grant project. This project includes the installation of a new fence and cameras which the Commission has previously approved.

Public Comments

Alicia Smith resident of District 4 asked for status on the Playhouse at Vincent Park. Ms. Barnes stated a couple of weeks ago a donation agreement was presented to the Mayor and Council for approval and it is now with the construction company. As soon as it is returned to the city they will provide us with a timeline. Ms. Smith asked if the supervisor position at Rogers Park has or is going to be filled. Ms. Barnes stated it has not been filled. Currently, Michael Davis is in an acting capacity. Ms. Smith asked if it was because of the city's finances. Ms. Barnes stated last year when the city announced the workforce reduction, we were provided direction to hold off on filling positions. We are now starting to release job announcements that previously had been put on hold. Ms. Smith stated she noticed the upswing of graffiti and contacted her about Darby Park and understood the Martin Luther King sign was tagged with graffiti as well and wanted to know was that taken care of. Ms. Barnes stated it had been removed. Ms. Smith stated it hadn't. Ms. Barnes asked if this was the same graffiti as previously reported. Ms. Smith stated the part that was tucked away on the wall by the Renaissance was not removed. Ms. Barnes stated she will take that up with her staff again. Mr. Turner mentioned it had already been taken care of.

Stewart Bailey stated he understands the shortfall with the fields and his comments are that the city needs to go to the Commissioner of the NFL and other sponsors like Reebok and Nike entities that will want to help the kids.

Jim Withrow resident of Inglewood also addressed the funding issue of the soccer field and asked if the stripping on the field is permanent or altered because if it can be altered then it can be striped for football season then removed and striped for soccer season. He thinks if it is stripped for both sports at the same time it would be too confusing. Ms. Barnes stated she couldn't recall if one was permanent and the other one was removable and explained to him that staff took numerous fields trips and found successful use of the multi-stripping approach. Mr. Withrow likes Mr. Bailey's suggestion of approaching various manufacturers of sporting equipment especially someone involved in soccer sports equipment production. He also thinks it would be necessary to move away from current federal funding source that has put a lot of stipulations on the use of the field. He explained that he works in a field that deals with that same agency and not only are they difficult to deal with but they also put unrealistic requirements which are expensive and don't necessarily work. He'd hate to see them dictate terms of the usage of the city's field. He thinks if we can get some sports production entities on board others will follow. Mr. Withrow thanked Ms. Barnes for being of great help to him and going above and beyond and providing him with all the information and documents he needed for his information requests.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Eldridge agreed with Mr. Withrow stating at most of sporting events there are advertisements on the wall and the city can approach teams to see if they are willing to advertise. It may generate some funds. He also stated he received a call from a staff person regarding the Cheerful Caregivers event on the April 26th and needs a place to refrigerate the food asking for staff to give him a call to remind him. Sabrina Barnes stated she will have Michelle Jordan contact him.

Commissioner Withrow thanked Sabrina Barnes and all of her staff for their reports and for providing information to Mr. Withrow. She also complimented the maintenance crew for the excellent job they are doing at North Park; their hard work is appreciated by the residents. She has every confidence that the fields at Vincent Park will get taken care of and the park will see improvements. She stated people from District would like to do I-Clean events inside our parks to help support city staff. She thanked staff for all their due diligence.

Commissioner McLemore thanked Ms. Barnes for the work that was done on the tree on Hillcrest. Ms. Barnes stated that was Public Works staff and explained that the tree crew moved over to Public Works last summer but they're still driving the Parks and Rec trucks. She noted she would pass along the accolades to Public Works.

Commissioner Ginyard commented regarding the statement made during public comments concerning the graffiti at Darby Park saying she knows that it was taken down the same day because she put in a call to Mr. Turner at about 8-9a.m. and she saw it was taken down within the hour. She observed the Be Well program at Darby Park and it is great to see it is servicing over a 100 seniors and it is a great thing to see at the park. She also thinks it is great to see 36 teams in the city's basketball program. She went on to state this past Saturday was opening day at Darby

and Rogers Parks and thanked Juan, Craig and Mr. Turner for going above and beyond to make the day successful for all.

Commissioner Agee asked Ms. Barnes for an update with the name plate for memorial obelisk. Ms. Barnes stated she has ordered the plaque and it will be installed in time for Memorial Day. Commissioner Agee thanked her for having the wall cleaned at the library stating it looks so much better and also thanked her for the wonderful job she and staff are doing.

Councilman Alex Padilla acknowledged and thanked the Commission for representing the community in the role they serve stating it is not only important here in our city but in surrounding communities because they see what we are doing not to mention we are blessed to have such responsive staff. He mentioned hearing Commissioner Ginyard's comment about Little League baseball and it is important we pay attention to them because they are our future. He went on to share that he and the mayor just returned from a vigil for a young man who passed and although it is a sad occasion it was good to see the community support that the family received. Councilman Padilla thanked the Commission again for their commitment and commend staff.

Mayor Butts stated there was so many years in the city when being on the Council and being on the Commissions was like being a dead can on the Titanic, there really wasn't the resources, the will, the cohesion, the leadership and corporation to make you feel like you were making a difference. *In recent years, we have come to grips with our challenges, developed a collective vision that has allowed us and will continue to allow us to develop the economic commerce that will generate revenues so that we can provide the services that our children, guests and visitors deserve. That is why it is more important than ever that we have people like yourselves that are willing to give yourselves and your time to assist in the developing that vision to be community leaders. One of the things that we have insisted on and are going to continue to insist upon is that people who have major projects in our city making major money that they give back.* He stated he is sure you have all discussed the playhouse and know that won't be the last because it is time for the people to come and do well to invest in our children and our parks system. He also stated the Commission is here at a very poignant time in our history as a city because this time will definitely be remembered as one of rebirth and renewal and thanked staff for all they do.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.