

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PHASE II
DESIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069**

6:00 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Staff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited following the Call to Order.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, Keith Anthony, Jim Ballard, Kathleen Becker, Roy Firestone, Erik Guzman, Roy Huebner, Jake Mason, Mark Lehman, Sabrina Nagy, Anny Semonco, Caroline Swan, Lydia Strong, Bernice Levin, Ruth Tittle,

ABSENT: Joel Becker, Tracy Steinkruger, Madeleine Rackley, Hunter Haliniak, David Aghaei, Councilmember Duran

ALSO PRESENT: City staff: Jeffrey Huffer, Francisco Contreras, Bobby Safikhani

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mark Lehman and seconded by Jake Mason to approve the August 6th, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion approved by Committee with Ruth Tittle and Roy Huebner abstained. A correction was made to the minutes to reflect the absence of Mark Lehman.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ELENA GOLDENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, brought forth a petition regarding the pool aspect of the design and also spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

KELLY GULLETT, LOS ANGELES, spoke regarding iTennis.

RICHARD GIESBRET, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concerns regarding noise impacts and also in support of a connection from El Tovar. He also spoke regarding the retaining wall on the North alley. He also spoke regarding signage and access in regards to the commercial properties surrounding the park.

MANNY RODRIGUEZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

RICHARD BLONS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

KATHY LUBISNKY, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the pool aspect of the design and an off leash dog area.

BEN SHIELDS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the pool aspect of the design.

ANGELA FLURRY, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

TOBY ANN CRONIN, spoke regarding an off leash dog area and the grand staircase.

MICHAEL WOSTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

CATHY BLAIVAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

LAUREN MEISTER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN PRESENTATION:

- 1) Five items were added to the project scope by Council at its July 21, 2014 meeting. These include:

San Vicente Gardens

- a) Adult Fitness Equipment
- b) Park Presence on El Tovar
- c) Freestanding restrooms in the park
- d) Grand staircase and respite deck

- 2) Council requested that the design team study the following three items:
 - a) Study additional parking opportunities within the proposed parking area.
 - b) Study/assess the inclusion of a dog area in the park.
 - c) Confirm the inclusion of a multi-use sport field in the park.

The following provides a summary of the Design Steering Committee comments:

Jake Mason:

- Good to see that the dog park is being explored
- Install space heaters on the pool deck
- Split stair option for San Vicente looks really good.
- Prefers to see all 3 bathroom options in the park
- All in agreement of full "West Hollywood" sign on top of building, not "WeHo."
- Likes the Earth option. Hybrid is good too.
- Concerned about too much light coming through gym.
- See-thru drop down dividers are great.

Mark Lehman:

- Wind and temperature on roof deck is a concern. Think about a system on the west side. Prevailing wind tends to be from west off the ocean.
- Dog park is a great idea.
- Love the respite deck as shown. A good alternate. Put a café on respite deck.
- Split stair on San Vicente is great.
- Exercise zones – could they be closer to the basketball courts? A lot of active energy in this zone of the park.
- Likes the Sky building option. Liked Earth and Hybrid as well.
- Likes the Kalwall option if it works.
- The promenades won't have new trees, would like to see something added along the promenade at the library.
- Children's play area, like the inclusion of hand ball walls.
- Green walls, concerned about the long term maintenance. What does it look like in 20 years or after Santa Ana winds?

Erik Guzman:

- Dog owners tend not to pick up after the animals. Will there be offensive smells? Concerned about unintended consequences.
- Likes Option 2 of San Vicente stair/walk.
- Children's play area looks good.
- Earth option is favored. Hybrid option is good.
- Respite deck looks great.
- Would like to see dog park by basketball courts.
- Staff input on the design is sought in other meetings at city hall.

Caroline Swan:

- Dogs in park make her nervous. Gets afraid when she sees dogs off leash.
- Pool
 - The flow of the experience needs to be good.
 - Need adequate facilities to accommodate the flow and high turnover of pool users.
- Likes option 3 for stair landscape
- Likes Robertson Commons – Option 2
- Does not favor green grow walls
- Fewer stairs on the whole is better for accessibility.
- Like the Sky option, the Kalwall, glass stairwells and colored stairs.

Jim Ballard:

- Likes the terrace on the side.
- Likes the weight of the Earth option.
- Diffused light is important. Ribbon windows in the gym is not good.
- A wall on the west side of the pool is good to protect against the wind, but the view is important. That is why the pool is on the roof.
- Didn't like the San Vicente Entry options. Could it be simplified?
- Would put a dog park by the basketball courts – more active area.
- Kids play area needs to be perforated (Tiny Tots), opened up for views.
- Think about security and vandalism. Homeless encampments.

Kathleen Becker:

- Wind on the deck is an issue.
- Gender neutral changing rooms need toilets.
- Ramp down to respite deck and 18" seat walls need railing for elderly who are not as steady.
- Staff visibility needs to be thought through.
- Option 2 & 3 are good. Likes Hybrid option with terrace.
- Think about West Hollywood sign being read backwards.
- Likes the Kalwall option and Billboard Glass Wall options. For heat gains. Maybe a combo of the 2 options.
- Likes the mural on the sky options.
- Color on the interior stairs is nice.
- San Vicente loading zone does not have direct access for all accessibility. Maybe something from the middle too. A more direct access from the central loading zone would be good.
- Kids play area – will it have an entrance from San Vicente?

Roy Huebner:

- Like the activation and engagement at the front of the building.
- Likes split fitness areas.
- Likes the split stair option at San Vicente
- Likes Earth option, Hybrid is nice as well.
- Not a fan of Kalwall. Likes the mosaic with sunshade.
- Likes respite deck.
- Need to encourage consideration of the dog run. Pushing it to the edge is wise.
- Green wall may be too much "of the moment" and not stand the test of time.
- Likes West Hollywood sign below the roof element.
- Need as many restrooms as possible. Further away from building is best.

Bernice Levin:

- Dressing rooms at pool deck is great.
- Will bikes be allowed? Typically don't allow riding bikes in the park.
- Dog park will be wonderful in an enclosed space.
- The split stair at San Vicente – don't understand it. Need railings down the middle of the stairs for seniors.

Anny Semonco:

- Need more accessible restrooms.
- In favor of the dog park
- Changing rooms on the pool deck need signs to give priority to seniors and disabled.
- Likes Earth, Hybrid, Kalwall, colored stairs and sloping walks.
- Accessible walkways closer to drop offs at the split stair.
- Likes respite deck and Robertson Commons.
- The more you can make accessible, the better.

Lydia Strong:

- Need the dog park. Best area is by the basketball courts.
- Likes the split stair, Kalwall, Earth option, movable shade on the respite deck.
- Can we get all 3 restroom options?

Roy Firestone:

- Like to see a restroom accessible from the children's playground.
- Likes the grow wall.
- The split stair in the middle doesn't make sense.
- Likes the greening of Robertson Commons
- Tot Lot seems stuck in its spot. Seems like it a central hub and will just take up space.

Sabrina Nagy:

- Pool – Would like a wall on the west end for weather protection
- Like Option 2 and the Earth option and mosaic glass wall.

Keith Anthony:

- Robertson Commons needs to be open to the park beyond. Need to be able to see heart of the park from Robertson.
- Fitness equipment – big area away from the kids play area is good.
- Public Facilities Commission voted for council to consider dog park.

Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman:

- Council has concerns and has directed staff to study the dog park.
- Likes tree porches, but there are safety issues with grade differential dropping off at the top of the wall.
- Robertson Commons is much improved. Public art may be better on San Vicente.
- Fitness equipment away from kids play. More on San Vicente.
- San Vicente gardens feel like an afterthought, because it was. Needs a fresh look.
- Likes recessed kids play, but skateboarders are a concern.
- Wall on Melrose, functional but needs aesthetic treatment.
- Need west wall on pool deck for weather protection.
- Likes all restroom locations, but they cost money; need to evaluate the needs and the budget.
- Respite deck is good but the colors shown are too stripey.
- Likes Green option and Earth option but not the Hybrid option.
- "Private individual changing rooms " sounds better than "Gender Neutral"
- Concerned about heavy glass emphasis in the gym.
- Concerned about heat gains in glass elevators

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

ELENA GOLDENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on several components of the Project, including:

- Inclusion of more solar panels.
- Suggested a café under the grand stairs
- Including a water feature in the park
- Addition of more changing rooms on the roof

BOB SHIELDS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on several components of the Project, including:

- Concerns regarding noise from the pool deck
- Pool needs shallow and deep ends.
- Concerns regarding foul smells in the interior staircase

MANNY RODRIGUEZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area

LAUREN MEISTER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the south wall of the building.

KATHY LUBINSKY, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on several components of the Project, including:

- Concerns regarding decomposed granite
- Concerns regarding rain and water issues on the respite deck and grand stairs.
- Restrooms need to allow a parent and a child to enter.

CATHY BLAIVAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding activities for seniors.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Lehman:

- 4 finalists have been chosen for the AIDS Monument. They have made presentations to the FAM Design Steering Committee and a finalist will be presented at the October 6th council meeting.

ITEMS FROM STAFF

Francisco Contreras mentioned there will be two additional Steering Committee Meetings scheduled for:

- Thursday, November 6th at 6pm
- Tuesday, December 2nd at 6pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

The West Hollywood Park Phase II Design Steering Committee adjourned to their next scheduled meeting, which will be held on November 6, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069.