

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 11, 2015**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Bass called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioner Goldenberg, Commissioner Ettman, Commissioner Rorie, and Commission Anthony, Commissioner Woodell and Chair Bass.

ABSENT: Vice Chair Saur and Commissioner Anthony.

ALSO PRESENT: Department of Public Works, Steve Campbell, Manager of Facilities and Field Services, Helen Collins, Sr. Administrative Analyst, Facilities and Field Services Division and Kevin Trudeau, Superintendent of Facilities and Field Services Division.

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Ettman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

ACTION: Approve the February 11, 2015 agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Woodell, seconded by Commissioner Rorie and unanimously approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

ACTION: Approve the minutes dated January 11, 2015 with the change of Commissioner Ettman's name on page 5 of the minutes from Commissioner Cole to Commissioner Ettman, as pointed out by Chair Bass.

Motion by Commissioner Ettman, seconded by Commissioner Woodell and unanimously approved.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Commented on the recent clean-up of the Detroit Community Garden and spoke about the trimming of the trees on Lexington. He also mentioned cell towers at the Sierra Bonita and urged the Commission to not consider affordable housing at 1343 Laurel Avenue.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke regarding dirt patches on the lawn at Plummer Park and about the containers in the north parking lot of Plummer Park.

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.**

6. CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE.

A. Gender Neutral Restroom

1. Signage

Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. West Hollywood Park Phase II

1. Update:

Francisco Contreras, Innovation and Strategic Initiatives Manager provided a detailed presentation and showed a fly through video of the current status of the West Hollywood Park Phase II Project. Mr. Contreras then entertained questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Ettman and Commissioner Anthony inquired about the timeline for the project. Mr. Contreras responded that he is working with the Design Team on the Construction Drawings, which he hopes to have before the Council by summer with construction starting in fall with an estimated completion in 2018.

Commissioner Ettman inquired if the back strip adjacent to the basketball courts could be incorporated into the Dog Park Plan since it was not going to be used for parking. Mr. Contreras replied that the Council has already approved the Dog Park layout, and it does not include the strip in the back. Commissioner Ettman inquired if the Commission could make a recommendation to that they go back and look at that strip. Mr. Commissioner Ettman went on to state that there is a great need for the Dog Park and asked about phasing of the project. Mr. Contreras stated that he is just starting to look at phasing with the Design Team.

Commissioner Rorie inquired as to how further planning of the Dog Park will impact the Construction Drawing process. Mr. Contreras stated that it will not interfere with larger project as they are on separate timelines. Nevertheless, the goal is to align the two projects as much as possible.

Commissioner Goldenberg stated that she thought the Multi-Purpose space under the stair was going to be a Café. Mr. Contreras responded that it is a Flexible Space for multiple uses but a café had not been designated for that space. Commissioner Goldenberg as inquired about the operational hours of the Respite Deck. Mr. Contreras stated that the operations have not been addressed. Ms. Goldenberg went on state that

she wished the play equipment was more colorful and asked if it would be possible to have round tables in the park.

Commissioner Woodell explained the process for the Construction Drawing process, letting the Commission know that it is difficult to make changes once into Construction Drawings. Mr. Contreras stated that they are working on the 50% Construction Drawings at this time.

Commissioner Anthony stated that he liked the presentation. Commissioner Anthony then asked if it would be possible for the Commission to see the Vision Boards from the Subcommittee process. He feels it would be useful for the Commission to see. Mr. Contreras stated that he will email pictures of the boards to the staff to distribute to the Commission. Commissioner Anthony also stated that the Fitness Equipment should not be disbursed throughout the Park the way it shown. Mr. Contreras responded that the bulk of the equipment is in one location with two additional smaller satellite locations as approved by Council and at this point in the process making changes is no longer possible without direction from Council.

Commissioner Goldenberg asked where the dressing rooms would be for the pool. Mr. Contreras stated that some rooms will be on the pool deck and larger changing rooms will be in an interstitial level of the building, one level below the pool. Commissioner Goldenberg inquired if it was going to be a shared locker room with other activities in the building and if so would there be enough space. Mr. Contreras responded that yes the locker rooms on the interstitial level will be shared with other activities in the building and that the Design Team has designed the rooms for all considering all activities that will take place.

Chair Bass stated that it was a great presentation but the Commission did request to see the presentation before it went to Council for final approval.

ACTION: Commissioner Ettman made a motion to ask the City Council to direct staff to explore the feasibility of using the land next to the dog park as extra space for the Dog Park and he requested that the construction of the Dog Park be prioritized when determining the phasing of the park construction.

Motion by Commissioner Ettman, seconded by Commissioner Goldenberg and approved by the following vote:

Yes: Ettman, Rorie, Bass, and Goldenberg and Anthony

No: Woodell

ACTION: Commissioner Anthony made a motion to recommend to the City Council to look at the possibility of location all of the fitness equipment in one location.

Motion by Commissioner Anthony, seconded by Commissioner Ettman and approved by the following vote:

Yes: Ettman, Rorie, Bass, and Goldenberg and Anthony

No: Woodell

B. Automated Parking Garage

1. Update

Donn Uyeno, City Project Manager, provided an overview of the status of the project and the recent Topping-Off Ceremony.

Commissioner Rorie inquired if there have been any issues so far with the project. Mr. Uyeno stated the project is on schedule and on budget.

Commissioner Goldenberg commented that she would like to see more colorful plantings. Mr. Uyeno stated the colors that come up in the presentation are deceiving there are pops of color from not only the plantings but also from other components in the project.

Commissioner Ettman stated that the space looks narrow. Mr. Uyeno stated the space is surprisingly large. Then it was asked if the area will get sunlight and Mr. Uyeno responded yes.

Mr. Campbell stated that there is currently a covered walkway against the building and which is deceiving regarding the size of the plaza.

Commissioner Ettman inquired if there we sufficient outlets in the plaza for public use. Mr. Uyeno stated that yes there are outlets and Wi-Fi from the current City Hall system.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Display of Public Art

1. Review Location

Andrew Campbell, Cultural Affairs Administrator went over the City's gift

policy for the Commission. Mr. A. Campbell reviewed his request of the Commission to approve the permanent location of the sculpture "Doggie Dog: Homage to Giacometti" by artist Tsipi Mani in anticipation of Council accepting the sculpture as a gift to the City. The sculpture is currently installed as part of the City's temporary art program on the southeast corner of the Library structure located at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.

ACTION: Commissioner Woodell made a motion to approve the permanent placement of the sculpture at its current location.

Motion by Commissioner Woodell, seconded by Commissioner Goldenberg and unanimously approved.

Mr. A. Campbell provided the Commission with the history of the Rocky and Bullwinkle sculpture which had been sited at 8218 Sunset Boulevard for more than 50 years and which is being offered as a gift to the City. He requested that the Commission approve the installation of the sculpture at the City's parking lot at 8778 Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Ettman inquired about the size of the sculpture and Mr. A Campbell responded that it is 16 feet tall and would be placed on a concrete base approximately 4-6 feet tall. The base would provide a place for installing a plaque and other information pertaining to the sculpture's history.

Commissioner Rorie inquired if there was anything that needed to be done to the sculpture to allow it to be placed outside. Mr. A Campbell stated that the person who restored it used three coats of automotive paint on it, so it is ready for placement outdoors. Mr. A Campbell went on to tell the Commission that the City does contract with a professional art maintenance conservator who cleans, maintains and conserves the City's art works.

ACTION: Commissioner Goldenberg made a motion to approve the permanent placement of the Rocky and Bullwinkle Sculpture at 8778 Sunset Boulevard as recommended by staff.

Motion by Commissioner Goldenberg, seconded by Commissioner Woodell and unanimously approved.

B. 8410 Sunset Boulevard

1. Request for Tree Removal and Replacement

Mr. Wayne Avrashow, spoke as the representative for the property owner

at 8410 Sunset Boulevard, Sunset View Plaza, LLC (Mr. Joseph Shooshani). Mr. Avrashow provided the history and process of the project. Mr. Avrashow then requested that the Commission approve his clients request to remove and replant the two existing trees at 8410 Sunset Boulevard to a location selected by the City, at the expense of his client. Mr. Avrashow went on to explain that his client would then plant two new trees in a very similar location on Sunset, in a manner and height that does not create a visual detriment to Sunset Plaza View.

Commissioner Rorie inquired about the history of replacing the eastern most palm. Mr. Avrashow provided a picture taken several years previously showing the tree in question, but no further explanation was given in response to Commissioner Rorie's question.

Commissioner Anthony asked if there had been any discussion on the proposed relocation of the two trees. Mr. Campbell responded that it has not been addressed yet.

Commissioner Woodell stated that he was in favor of the applicants.

Commissioner Ettman inquired if the trees in question will get and taller. Mr. Campbell stated that they may get fuller, but they are trimmed twice a year but they probably won't get much taller. Commissioner Ettman asked when they were planted and staff stated that they did not have that information. Commissioner asked Mr. Avrashow how much the replacement trees are estimated to cost. Mr. Avrashow responded, between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for the proposed tall Mexican Palms.

Chair Bass asked staff of the likely hood of survival when replanting the two trees. Mr. Campbell responded that the survival is good; however, the City has slowed down planting new trees in response to the drought.

Commissioner Goldenberg posed the question to Mr. Avrashow about what would happen if the trees they planted did not survive. Mr. Avrashow stated that the applicant would guarantee the survival of the newly planted trees.

Public Comment:

STEVE MARTIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Spoke in favor of the applicant and provided a brief history of the project from his days as a City Councilmember.

NORMAN CHRAMOFF, LOS ANGELES: Spoke in support of the applicant and stated that he was on the Public Facilities Commission when this was done previously.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Spoke in support of the applicant.

Closed Public Comment

Commissioner Anthony spoke in favor of the applicants request, however, he would like to see staff with the applicant on the placement of the relocated trees and bring the entire item back.

Commissioner Woodell stated that he supports the applicants request and he thinks that everyone gains.

Commissioner Rorie agrees that aesthetically this is the right thing to do, however, he is concerned about the Tree Removal Guidelines and how this decision affects them. He wonders if they Commission should look at amending the Guidelines.

Commissioner Goldenberg stated that she is in favor of the applicant because we gain two more trees.

Mr. Campbell comments that the Guidelines were developed 2007 in response to the previous issues. He went on to say that taller trees may create problems for other properties and that we would need to speak with them.

Commissioner Ettman states that he has the same problem with the Guidelines as Commission Rorie. He went on talk about recent approvals by the Commission and the public gain. He then stated he is ready to support the request, however, he agrees that we should look at the Guidelines.

Commissioner Anthony states that he thinks the Commission needs more information on the relocation of the existing trees. He does support the request with additional research on the impacts as well as the impacts on the surrounding businesses.

Chair Bass discusses his research in regards to the stated pedestrian experience and feels that the trees have no bearing on that experience. He recommends that the item be tabled until staff has the opportunity to work with the applicant.

ACTION: Commissioner Ettman made a motion to table the item to a date uncertain pending further review by staff with the applicant.

Motion by Commissioner Ettman, seconded by Commissioner and Commissioner Anthony unanimously approved.

9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: NONE.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CHRIS ROLCZYASKI, WEST HOLLYWOOD: introduced himself as a member of the group called Dudes with Dogs and stated they have a membership of 4,500. He went on to say that he is excited about the Dog Park in West Hollywood and stated that they should use a portion of the basketball court. He also added encourage Council to move quickly on the construction of the Dog Park.

CATHY BLAIVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Informed the Commission that Sierra Bonita is no longer under consideration for the installation of cell towers on the roof. She thanked staff for the presentation on West Hollywood Park and mentioned an upcoming Candidates Forum.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Mr. Campbell went over upcoming events and the Elton John AIDS Foundation event which will take over a portion of West Hollywood Park.

Mr. Trudeau, spoke about the obstacles of keeping grass alive at Plummer Park, citing the drought, boot camps and the high volume of use. He went on to provide an overview of the staffs plans to address the grass issues.

Commissioner Bass mentioned the boot camp use of the ropes on the grass.

Commission Goldenberg inquired if they could stop the fitness boot camps from tearing up the grass. Mr. Trudeau responded that Recreation is working on getting policies in place to regulate such us.

Mr. Campbell addressed the issue of storage bins in the north parking lot at Plummer Park. He explained some of the bins are from other sites currently under construction and they will be eventually relocated. He went on to state that the remainder of the bins are a mix of City and Red Cross Emergency Shelter bins which are required to be on-site.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. West Hollywood Park Phase II – Off-Leash Dog Area

1. Update – Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Ettman provided an update on the Sub-Committees activities which included a field trip to an indoor location that uses K9 Grass and he also provided an overview of the meeting the Committee attended on January 21, with the Design Team.

Commissioner Woodell commended City staff on the work being done on the sidewalks in his neighborhood and the recent tree trimming.

Commissioner Anthony thanked the public for their attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Rorie appreciated that the Automated Parking Garage was placed on the agenda as an item he had expressed interest in receiving an update on. He asked that the Chair consider adding an item to update the Tree Removal Guidelines sometime in the future. Commissioner Rorie also mentioned that Laurel Park has become a de-facto dog park at the south end of the park. Mr. Campbell mentioned that he will let Code Compliance know, so they can have Animal Care and Control patrol the area.

Commissioner Goldenberg stated that she thinks Laurel Park is a great place for an off-leash dog area. She thanked all of the presenters and the public for attending. Commissioner Goldenberg then stated that this may be her last meeting and she wanted to express her thanks for the time she has spent on the Commission. She also added that she still thinks that the City should consider Laurel for low income housing.

Commissioner Ettman remarked that Public Speaker Chris Rolczyk is a potential member for the Hart Dog Park Committee. Commissioner Ettman went thanked Commissioner Rorie for bringing up off-leash dogs and stated that Commission should continue to look for suitable locations. Commissioner Ettman stated that he wanted to thank Michelle Bell for a great Topping-Off Ceremony for the Automated Parking Garage. He concluded by thanking the Chair for running a great meeting with such a full agenda.

Chair Bass: He thanked staff for all of the presentations.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Woodell made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Anthony unanimously approved, at 9:15pm to their regularly scheduled meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Community Room at, West Hollywood Park, located at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.



Chair, Adam Bass



Helen Collins, Recording Secretary