

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
May 11, 2016**

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

**A. ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Commission Rodriguez, Commissioner Dolan  
Commissioner Omelczenko, and Commissioner Bass  
and Chair Saur.

**ABSENT:** Vice Chair Rorie and Commissioner Buckles

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steve Campbell, Facilities and Field Services Manager,  
Helen Collins, Sr. Administrative Analyst in the  
Facilities and Field Services Division.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**ACTION:** Approve the May 11, 2016 agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Dolan, seconded by Commissioner Omelczenko and unanimously approved.**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION:** Approved the minutes dated April 13, 2016 as amended:

**Motion by Commissioner Dolan, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and unanimously approved.**

Amended as follows:

Commission Omelczenko requested the following changes to the minutes (changes highlighted):

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

GREG WOODSELL, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke regarding Hart Park and how well the City does in maintaining the Park. He also stated that there are some issues with drinking alcohol at the Park at the picnic tables.

MICHAEL ~~WOJTKIELWICZ~~ WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke regarding ADA, ground cover and shade at Hart Park.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Public Safety

**2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph:** Commissioner Omelczenko inquired about how things are at Havenhurst and Formosa Park. Lt. Smith responded that they receive a limited number of calls and regarding Formosa and no calls regarding Havenhurst. With the additional assistance of the Security Ambassadors and help from the neighbors, these pocket parks are being monitored for safety.

**4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph:** Commissioner Dolan inquired as to what has fallen into the misdemeanors category? Sgt. Klaus stated the things like possession and burglary. Commissioner Dolan thanked the Sheriffs for all their hard work and inquired if there had been an increase in packages being stolen from mailboxes. Lt. Smith mentioned that they did have some issues with mail theft, but it is going down now.

#### B. Major Capital Project Prioritization and Implementation Timeline

Staff provided an overview of the Project Prioritization and Implementation Timeline as presented to the City Council.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

MICHAEL WOJTKIELWICZ WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke about 1343 N. Laurel Park and the preservation of mature trees. He stated that transforming Laurel Park into housing does not work. He then discussed the public process that was done regarding Laurel Park.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke about 1343 Laurel and how it should be higher on the list. She went on to discuss the Plummer Park Project and talked about the visioning process.

CATHY BLAIVIAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – stated that she felt that 1343 Laurel should be at the top of the list. She also discussed the Plummer Park Project process. Ms. Blaivias stated that what she finds alarming in terms of Plummer Park is that the language is still the same in terms of the approved Phase I Plummer Park. She then explained that she does not understand how there can be an approved plan when a major element, the underground parking has been taken away.

#### END OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Paragraph 1:** Commissioner Dolan asked if the Porte-Cocheres at Laurel Park will be removed; staff stated that there is nothing on paper yet and at some point it will come back to the Community. Commissioner Dolan then gave an update on the Street Media Project as the Commission's representative. He spoke about the great ideas coming from the Committee such as artwork and interactive lighting.

**Paragraph 2:** Commissioner Rodriguez spoke about his attendance at the 8120 Santa Monica Boulevard Public Meeting. He stated that the idea to place interim at the location is a terrific idea and the proposed artwork will pretty up the parking space as well. He went on to discuss 1343 Laurel and stated that he felt the survey was flawed; he mentioned that the location could be a park and housing and just leaving it as just a park would be a tragedy.

**Paragraph 4:** Commissioner Omelczenko stated that he was away when the Major Capital Project Prioritization and Implementation Timeline item was presented to the City Council on February 17, 2016; but wished he could have attended. He went to say that Public Facilities Commission should have seen the Major Capital Project Prioritization and Implementation Timeline item report in January, prior to it being made available to the Council. He then stated that he was concerned about the process and he felt the Commission should have been part of the process.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Omelczenko made a motion to request that in the future the Public Facilities Commission be briefed on the timeline prior to it going forward to the City Council.

C. Facilities and Field Services Division Capital Projects

**Last Paragraph:** Commissioner Omelczenko inquired if the new Theatre would be under the purview of the Commission. Staff stated that the operation would fall under the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and the facility would be part of the purview of the Public Facilities Commission just like recreational facilities.

**12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commissioner Omelczenko thanked staff for Arbor Day. He then spoke about trees and new developments, and inquired about the Commission's purview in relation to the removal of those trees that sit in the City Parkways (the planted areas between sidewalks and curbs).

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Thanked staff for the new plantings at Plummer Park. She also suggested that there be a statement included on the minutes that a recording of the meeting is available.

MICHAEL WOJKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD: he mentioned that he appreciates it, when Commissioners look at items outside of their purview. He went on to discuss a petition for off leash dog beaches.

CATHY BLAIVIAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD: she thanked staff for the beautification of the Vista Street side of Plummer Park. Ms. Blaivias wanted to reiterate her comments from the April 13, 2016, Public Facilities Commission meeting in reference to the Major Capital Project Prioritization and Implementation Timeline agenda item. Ms. Blaivias went on to state that what she finds alarming in terms of Plummer Park is that the language is still the same in terms of the approved Phase I Plummer Park. She then explained that she does not understand how there can be an approved plan when a major element, the underground parking has been taken away. Ms. Blaivias stated that this is what she wanted to be reflected in last month's minutes.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE.**

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.**

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE.**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Hart Park Off-Leash Dog Park Committee

Staff provided an overview of the history and process of appointing new members to the Off-Leash Dog Committee. Staff then introduced the two prospective appointees: Kerrigan Hennings and Greg Woodell.

Commissioner Rodriguez as a member of the Committee and the interview process provided an overview on the qualifications of the two prospective appointees.

Commissioner Omelczenko inquired about the purview of the Committee and would it include the new Dog Park at West Hollywood Park. Staff stated that at some point the purview of the Committee may need to be revisited and possibly adjusted.

**ACTION:** Appoint Greg Woodell and Kerrigan Hennings to the Off-Leash Dog Committee.

**Motion by Commissioner Bass, seconded by Commissioner Omelczenko and approved by Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Omelczenko: Yes  
Commissioner Bass: Yes  
Commissioner Saur: Yes  
Commissioner Rodriguez: Yes  
Commissioner Dolan: Yes.

Mr. Hennings thanked the Commission for the appointment.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

MICHAEL WOJKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD spoke regarding his tenure as a member of the Off-Leash Dog Committee. He then spoke about the ADA items at Hart Park. He mentioned that the good news is that with the help of the Public Facilities Commission, Councilmember Horvath, Mayor Meister, the Commission and staff, that money is being allocated to support upgrades.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENT

B. Landscape Median Design Concepts

Staff gave an overview of the project and then introduced Steve Lang from MIG, the Facilities and Field Services Division's, On-call Landscape Architect.

Mr. Lang reviewed the direction received from the Commission previously regarding the median design process. He outlined the direction as follows: 1) encourage safety and encourage crossing at the crosswalks; 2) use of materials that have the ability to survive the parades/events; and 3) incorporating the use of drought tolerant and California friendly plantings and to save existing trees.

Mr. Lang went on to present two schemes, one was referenced as the Steel Ribbon Scheme and the other as the Post Ribbon Scheme.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD: she inquired if grey water is being considered.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Discussion:

Commissioner Dolan mentioned that the City is currently working on a Streetscape Media and Wayfinding Plan and with that there is signage and other elements and he is interested knowing how the proposed schemes would integrate with the Plan. Staff noted that both projects are still in the conceptual stages but once more details are available there will be coordination. Commissioner Dolan stated that he liked both plans but does have some concerns about the Post Ribbons and tripping hazards. He also mentioned his concern regarding Buffalo Grass as a tripping hazard.

Commissioner Dolan inquired if there is any intention to use Grey Water. Mr. Lang mentioned that if it is available; care needs to be taken regarding the salt content when selecting plant material. Staff mentioned that the project will look to include different methods of collecting water such as rain and run-off. Commissioner Dolan also recommended in reference to the Landscape Median Design that two or three examples that were shown could be incorporated from Doheny Ave. to La Brea. Each concept could be highlighted by district along Santa Monica Blvd. All were outstanding and all could be used.

Commissioner Rodriguez inquired about the distance between the Post Ribbons; Mr. Lang responded that it is 4-6 inches. Commissioner Rodriguez

mentioned he would like to see if the Post Ribbons could be lite from the inside like LAX and inquired if the Post Ribbons would work in narrower medians. Mr. Lang stated that he would have to look at the individual medians, but the height of the Post Ribbons could be varied. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that the presented concepts are a good start.

Commissioner Bass asked for clarification, stating that it was mentioned that the Steel Ribbons are not wide enough to sit on but what about the Post Ribbons, would they be wide enough to sit on. Mr. Lang responded that it would be relatively thin and he stated that it would not be where, someone would go and sit. Commissioner Bass stated that his only concern with the Post Ribbon, since it was mentioned that it can be painted that it does not become hokey. He then concluded that he is thrilled with the direction.

Commissioner Omelczenko requested clarification, stating that he understood that the Post Ribbons could be varying heights but what about the Steel Ribbon. Mr. Lang responded the heights could vary as well. Commissioner Omelczenko expressed concern about plant safety and people sitting on the Post Ribbons in the median. Commissioner Omelczenko then inquired about the Ocean Friendly Garden and the location, staff stated it is roughly at the nose cone at Doheny. Commissioner Omelczenko spoke about the current use of the walking path in the median at that and asked what the intention is for the path. Staff stated that the path would remain. Commissioner Omelczenko inquired if the existing silk floss trees would remain. Mr. Lang stated there is no intention to remove the silk floss trees.

Commissioner Saur stated she likes the plant palette however; she does not care for the Post Ribbons. Commissioner Saur expressed concerns about emergency vehicle access across the medians if the Post Ribbons were to be installed. She also, does not believe this will stop people from crossing the medians.

The general consensus of the Commission was that this is a step in the right direction and Mr. Lang should incorporate the Commissions input in developing the design. Mr. Lang stated the goal of MIG is to create an iconic design that will be identified as West Hollywood.

#### C. Water Conservation Consultant

Staff introduced Ms. Marianne Simon of the Green Garden Group (G3), a City Water Consultant. Ms. Simon provided an educational presentation on the Water Shed approach to water conservation and its applications.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD: he thanked Ms. Simon for her presentation and then he spoke in regards to the City's Community Garden Program and water conservation opportunities.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Dolan thanked Ms. Simon for her incredible and very informational presentation. Commissioner Dolan recommended that similar to G3's examples of water reclamation, drought tolerant plants and green landscaping they could be installed in one of the City's larger parks for the benefit of the community to see and replicate within their own personal property.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that the presentation was fascinating. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he thought he knew everything about drought tolerant prior to the presentation made by Ms. Simon. He then spoke about his previous experience with G3 and its attendance at last year's National Night Out to promote its Garden Guru Program.

Commissioner Bass stated that he is very interested in the concepts presented as part of the presentation. He then went on to inquire about the mosquitos and pooling water, Ms. Simon responded that the water is quickly absorbed so it is not a concern.

Commissioner Omelczenko stated that he loves learning new things and unique things. He stated that the curb cut floored him. Commissioner Omelczenko spoke about his concern with rapid development, which results in the disappearance of smaller homes which, then results in massive developments which take away the yards needed to develop the sponge; as discussed in the presentation.

Commissioner Saur thanked Ms. Simon for the presentation and stated she is happy to see the City working with G3.

9. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR-NONE.**

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.**

11. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:**

Staff asked the Commissioners to confirm with staff, if they are interested in riding on the City's CSW Float.

Staff reminded the Commission about the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Automated Parking Garage and Community Plaza on May 24, 2016.

Staff let the Commission know that they will be receiving paperwork to sign up for direct deposit of the Commission Stipends.

12. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

As the Commission's representative to the Street Media Project Design Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Dolan provided an update.

Commissioner Rodriguez had no comments.

Commissioner Bass expressed his interest in the direction Christopher Street West is heading in regards to the event shutting down public facilities for an extended period of time and the impact it has on the turf and plantings. He went on to say that it makes him wonder if the event is something the City should entertain in its Public Facilities; if in fact it is turning into a Music Festival. Commissioner Bass went on to say that he believes the City should have a Pride Event but he does not believe that the Park is the place for a Music Festival, even if it is run by a non-profit. Commissioner Bass spoke about an item on the upcoming Council Agenda Item that would restrict Councilmembers and Commissioners from using electronic devices during meetings. Commissioner Bass stated that he is completely on board with what he is assuming is the motivation behind the item but he is concerned with the long reaching implications and he just wanted to alert the Commissioners if they have opinions regarding the item.

Commissioner Dolan wanted to piggyback on Commissioner Bass' statements and he went on to express his concern about Gay Pride being billed as a Music Festival. Commissioner Dolan concluded by saying he is very excited about the opening of Automated Parking Garage and Public Plaza.

Commissioner Omelczenko stated that he wanted to share his opinion regarding Christopher Street West, the 2016 LA Pride Music Festival. He went on to say that he attended a Transgender Advisory Board Meeting, and the City staff at the meeting stated that the City does not have any input into the programming of the event or how the Festival is run. Commissioner Omelczenko stated that he knows that when contracts are issued to groups like G3 for example, stipulations are written into the contract. He stated that these Festivals and Parades do have an impact on our public facilities; Commissioner Omelczenko requested a de-brief following the Festival to find out what the impact will be on the greenery, plantings, medians and trees. Commissioner Omelczenko encouraged his fellow Commissioners to go on the City website and take a budget survey.

Commissioner Rodriguez requested to provide input after hearing Commissioner Bass and Commissioner Dolan's comments regarding CSW. He stated that the Festival has changed from its original premise and he mentioned that there is a



difference between a Music Festival and a Festival with music. When it turned into a Music Festival it should have been brought to the Commission to review because a Music Festival has different impacts on the public facilities.

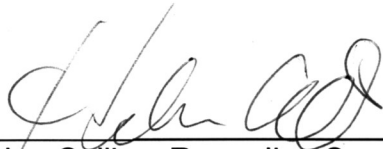
Commissioner Saur stated she appreciated the Commissioners input on the CSW Music Festival issue.

Commissioner Bass recommended that a de-brief of CSW be agendaized for the Commission's July meeting.

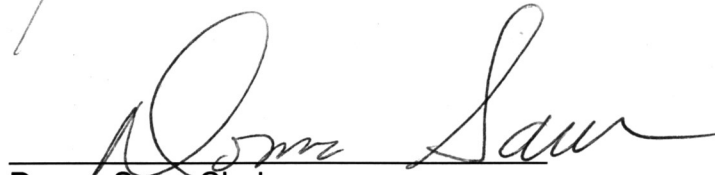
Commissioner Saur expressed her concern with the condition of the grass at the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned, at 8:31 pm to their next regularly scheduled meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Community Meeting Room (CMR) at, West Hollywood Park, located at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.



Helen Collins, Recording Secretary



Donna Saur, Chair

**A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request. (Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)**