

**MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

6:30 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING

***IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS), AB 361 HAS AUTHORIZED PUBLIC MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE VIA TELECONFERENCE WHEN STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Polachek called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Isaacs (she/her); Commissioner Karliss (he/him); Commissioner Larry (he/him); Commissioner Solomon (he/him); and Chair Polachek (she/her).

ABSENT: Commissioner Torres (she/her); Vice Chair Mason (he/him).

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins (she/her), Facilities and Field Services Division Manager; Erin Hamant (she/her), Senior Administrative Analyst; Ric Abramson (Ric.), Urban Design + Architecture Studio Manager; and Garen Yolles (he/him), Architectural & Urban Designer.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Larry.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the May 11, 2022 Agenda.

Motion by Isaacs, seconded by Karliss, and approved unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the prior Public Facilities Commission meeting dated April 13, 2022.

Motion by Solomon, seconded by Karliss, and approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Erickson, WEST HOLLYWOOD, welcomed the Commission back to its first in-person meeting and thanked the Commissioners for their hard work.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Larry shared that he participated in last weekend's community clean up.

Commissioner Isaacs shared she attended April's annual tree planting event and thanked staff for their hard work and was glad to see the youth volunteers.

Commissioner Solomon shared information and encouraged the community to attend the City's second pickleball clinic, and pickleball will host its first round robin tournament in June.

Commissioner Karliss shared he attended April's annual tree planting event, he asked for the unplanted traffic calming circles in the city to be temporarily planted while the Commission works out the permanent planting palette, and shared his appreciation for the City's recent pet vaccination clinics.

Staff read a message submitted by Commissioner Torres to the Commission.

Chair Polachek shared she attended April's annual tree planting event and encouraged folks to visit the new coast live oak tree planted at Plummer Park, and noted the improvements have begun for the Melrose Streetscape Project.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLUMMER PARK PILOT OFF-LEASH DOG PLAY AREA DESIGN

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the proposed pilot off-leash dog play area at Plummer Park and provide input on the design.

Staff provided a presentation on the proposed pilot off-leash dog play area at Plummer Park and the related Council Directive. The project site area adjacent to the Plummer Park tennis courts was selected by the City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Programming components include a separated dog play areas for small dogs and large dogs, wood mulch chips, agility equipment, customized perimeter fencing, lighting and seating elements, and a linear orientation. Two trees will provide shade with an existing mature tree to remain in place and one new tree to be planted. Staff noted the future of this temporary project is a part of the larger community visioning effort about the future of Plummer Park, and that this work will commence within the next year.

Chair Polachek asked about fencing and the existing cinder block wall and asked how this project works in tandem with the larger Plummer Park planning work. Staff answered both questions.

Additionally, Chair Polachek proposed replacing the wood chip material

with artificial canine turf. Staff confirmed this is the input they are seeking from the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chair Polachek asked for public comment.

Noel Busby, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared they live nearby and has a dog. They shared examples of why they would prefer the alternate project site area that was initially under consideration by the City Council Ad Hoc Committee. Their concerns for the proposed site included the size of the two dog park play areas, keeping the existing cinder block retaining wall, and the wood chip material.

Romeo Garcia, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared they live nearby and has a dog. Their concerns for the proposed site included keeping the existing cinder block retaining wall because it takes up too much space, the wood chip material, and the people who smoke nearby the proposed play area.

Rachel Starr, LOS ANGELES, shared they live nearby and has a dog. They expressed their preference for the alternate project site area. Their concerns for the proposed site included the sizes of the play areas and not having enough room for both dog types, the wood chip material, and the loud dog noises for neighbors and tennis/pickleball players.

Sean Noyce, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared they live nearby. They expressed their preference for the alternate project site area. Their concerns for the proposed site included the existing mature tree because avocados are toxic to dogs, the overall size, and programming more flexibility in the use/hours.

Luz Briseno, LOS ANGELES, shared they live nearby and has dogs. Their concerns included dog allergies and the wood chip material and overall cleanliness. They shared an example of frequently finding human feces in the park grass.

Chair Polachek thanked members of the public for providing their comments.

Staff provided follow up comments, explained why dog play area is being used rather than dog park, and shared the proposed date for this item to go before the City Council for approval (June 6, 2022). Staff noted this proposed pilot off-leash dog play area would be completed in 2023.

Commissioner Karliss asked for the wood chip material to be replaced with artificial canine turf and expressed that he liked the separated dog play areas.

Commissioner Solomon expressed his preference for the Commission to consider both sites rather than only the proposed site. He supported the proposed temporary site and asked staff and City Council to be open to consider other sites in the park for dogs in the future. Other concerns shared were the nearby public restrooms cleanliness and possible queueing lines and the fire lanes adjacent to the proposed site. Staff responded to various comments.

Commissioner Isaacs asked about the dimensions of the small and large dog play areas, agreed the wood chip material should be replaced with artificial canine turf, and shared safety concerns for the agility equipment in the dog play areas which can be dangerous without instructors to guide and teach the dogs. She also asked a question about the seating equipment. Staff answered the question.

Commissioner Larry thanked the public for bringing logistical aspects for the Commission to consider. He agreed the wood chips should be replaced with artificial canine turf and expressed concerns for flexible seating options and theft.

Chair Polachek agreed that having more space and not less is preferred and emphasized that the permanent location will be thoughtfully planned and designed in the upcoming Plummer Park project. She agreed the wood chips should be replaced with artificial canine turf and advised staff to consider project timing so the outdoor restroom upgrades can take place soon especially with more park patrons anticipated to use these new dog play areas.

Commissioner Karliss asked about noticing the neighbors and community outreach efforts. Staff noted related outreach occurred during the City Council Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

ACTION: The Commission recommends the City Council to 1) consider artificial canine turf (not wood chips), 2) remove the agility equipment (for space and safety reasons), 3) consider the intensification of use and that there is only one nearby public restroom in need of upgrades, 4) consider both Site 1 and Site 2 simultaneously as pilot locations (with the final location to be determined at a future time during the planning process of Plummer Park), and 5) consider fixed seating (not moveable seating).

Motion by Polachek, seconded by Isaacs, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

**Commissioner Isaacs - Y
Commissioner Karliss - Y
Commissioner Larry - Y
Vice Chair Solomon - Y
Chair Polachek – Y**

B. REVIEW PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER PERGOLA

SUBJECT: The Commission will consider staff's recommendation to repair the pergola and remove and re-establish the plant material in front of the Plummer Park Community Center.

Staff provided an overview of the item. The existing trumpet vine growing on the pergola is unwieldy, considered flammable, and is blocking the building sign.

The Commissioners had no questions.

ACTION: Repair the pergola and remove and re-establish the plant material with new.

Motion by Solomon, seconded by Karliss, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

**Commissioner Isaacs - Y
Commissioner Karliss - Y
Commissioner Larry - Y
Vice Chair Solomon - Y
Chair Polachek – Y**

C. KINGS ROAD PARK DOG PARK LISTENING SESSION

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive information on a Council Directive to hold a public listening session about the proposed off-leash dog park area at Kings Road Park.

Chair Polachek and Commissioner Solomon recused themselves from the meeting for this item due to living in close proximity to the park site.

Staff provided an overview of the item and background on the Council Directive. Staff recommend the Commission to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to assist staff to plan and hold a public listening session about the proposed off-leash dog park area at Kings Road Park. Anticipated meetings include: (Meeting 1) plan the public listening session, (Meeting 2) hold the public listening session, and (Meeting 3) prepare the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to the full Commission.

Consensus: The Commission selected Isaacs and Karliss to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

ACTION: Establish an Ad Hoc Committee to assist staff to plan and hold a public listening session about the proposed off-leash dog park area at Kings Road Park.

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

Staff added Public Facility Closure Policy/ West Hollywood Park Dog Park Closures History as a future agenda item.

Staff asked the Commissioners to notify staff if there are park/ public restroom issues. Staff also noted the Plummer Park Community Center restrooms will reopen for public use starting in June 2022.

B. SELECTION OF COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE COMMUNITY SAFETY FOCUS GROUP

City Consultant is seeking a Commission representative for a Community Safety Focus Group session.

Consensus: The Commission selected Commissioner Solomon to serve on the Focus Group.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Isaacs and Larry and Chair Polachek enjoyed seeing everyone in person and thanked everyone including members of the public for a productive meeting.


Commissioner Karliss asked about meeting security and if the Commission will be invited to participate in June's Pride Parade. Staff confirmed that at the next meeting and for all future in-person public meetings there should be a security guard present, and staff will share information about the Pride Parade once .

Commissioner Solomon encouraged everyone to come out to the upcoming pickleball clinic.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities Commission meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to its next regular meeting* which will be on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 and 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

DocuSigned by:



42914B2510A6477
Erin Hamant, Acting Recording Secretary

DocuSigned by:



3F3956FD7933443
Elaine Polachek, Chair