

**MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC FACILITIES, RECREATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069**

6:30 P.M. – TELEVISED SPECIAL MEETING

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE PUBLIC FACILITIES, RECREATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER AND THAT IS CURRENTLY KNOWN AS THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IS THE OCCUPIED, UNCEDED, SEIZED TERRITORY OF THE GABRIELEÑO TONGVA AND GABRIELEÑO KIZH PEOPLES. (PRONOUNCED “KEECH”)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Solomon called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Solomon.

B. ROLL CALL

**PRESENT: Commissioner Jackson (she/her);
Commissioner Krishna (she/her);
Commissioner Mason (he/him);
Commissioner Payton (she/her);
Commissioner Ragno (he/him);
Vice Chair Karliss (he/him); and
Chair Solomon (he/him).**

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins (she/her), Facilities and Field Services Division Manager; Erin Hamant (she/her), Senior Administrative Analyst; David Fenn (he/him), Senior Planner; Stephanie Martinez (she/her), Recreation Services Manager; Michael Gasca (he/him), Recreation Supervisor; Rebecca Ehemann (she/her), Arts Manager; Marcus Mitchell (he/him), Public Art Administrator; and Michael Barker (he/him), Project Architect.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Rebecca Ehemann.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the September 13, 2023, Agenda.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y
Commissioner Krishna – Y
Commissioner Mason – Y
Commissioner Payton – Y
Commissioner Ragno – Y
Vice Chair Karliss – Y
Chair Solomon – Y

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the prior Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting dated August 9, 2023.

Motion by Krishna, seconded by Mason, and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson – Y
Commissioner Krishna – Y
Commissioner Mason – A
Commissioner Payton – Y
Commissioner Ragno – Y
Vice Chair Karliss – Y
Chair Solomon – Y

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Bartha, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about benches chained to the fencing at Plummer Park in the tennis court area. In their current placement, the benches are in the players' way and are not shaded.

Kali Rogers, WEST HOLLYWOOD, asked for additional shade solutions in the tennis court area at the 5-Story Parking Structure. Court 1 has access to shade and the other courts have to interrupt play to access the shade and cool down. They also asked for a parking validation machine to be installed in the rooftop area at the 5-Story Parking Structure to allow players to use their full two-hour open play time and minimize parking lot traffic jams.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. UPDATE THE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE ROSTER

SUBJECT: The Commission will consider approving the subcommittee roster adjustments for Commissioner Ragno.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the appointment of Commissioner Ragno to the Budget Standing Subcommittee and the LGBTQ+ Suicide Memorial Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

B. RECOMMENDATION BY THE KINGS ROAD PARK OFF-LEASH DOG PARK AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE

SUBJECT: The Commission will consider the Kings Road Park Off-Leash Dog Park Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the Kings Road Park Off-Leash Dog Park Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation to review the results of the Kings Road Park Listening Session and approve staff to present the public input to the City Council at a future meeting.

C. LOCATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL TOUR OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

SUBJECT: The Commission will review the proposed locations to visit on their Annual Tour of Public Facilities which will take place on October 14, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the tour locations for 2023.

D. OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an overview of public facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.

ACTION: Approve the September 13, 2023, Consent Calendar, and noted vote recusal by Commissioner Mason and Chair Solomon on Consent Calendar item B due to living within five hundred feet of Kings Road Park (conflict of interest).

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Vice Chair Karliss – Y

Chair Solomon – Y

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. *RELAX UR OK* AND *ONE LOVE* ARTWORKS BY SCOTT FROSCHAUER

SUBJECT: The Commission will consider approving the current locations of “*RELAX UR OK*” and “*ONE LOVE*” artworks by artist Scott Froschauer, on the Santa Monica Boulevard traffic median at Holloway Drive, as permanent placement of the artworks.

Staff provided a presentation and background on the two artworks by artist Scott Froschauer titled “*RELAX UR OK*” and “*ONE LOVE*.”

Commissioner Krishna asked why the artworks were at one time being considered for relocation. Staff explained that the installation locations were originally marked for temporary artworks but, during the exploration process led by staff and the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, the median locations for both artworks were determined to not be relocated.

Chair Solomon asked if the neon artworks could be turned off and on and if the neon lights have been reported as a nuisance. Staff agreed they can turn the neon lights off and on and no reports have been filed related to the lighting.

Chair Solomon explained that the purview of the Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission (Public Facilities Commission) is not to approve art, artists, or artistic components related to City artworks, which is the purview of the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, and asked staff which body is authorized to approve the location of City artworks. Staff explained that the Public Facilities Commission’s purview does overlap with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission because both bodies may approve proposed site locations for City artworks and installations, with the Public Facilities Commission specifically approving when proposed locations are at City facilities and in the public right-of-way. The Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission ultimately approved the median locations for both artworks because both locations were determined to be site specific and in line with the artist’s intent (inspired by the historic signage along Route 66 and placed on Route 66). This recommendation is now under consideration for approval by the Public Facilities Commission.

Commissioner Ragno asked if new artwork will be proposed for Kings Road Park. Staff identified a large volume of interest from the community during the Kings Road Park outreach efforts for new artwork at the park location. Staff will return to the Commission in the future once plans and site placements can be proposed.

Commissioner Payton asked staff for a definition of temporary art. Staff explained that temporary and permanent art can be placed throughout the city since the city at-large is the canvas. The major distinction between temporary and permanent art is that permanent art is under the City’s care in

perpetuity (or for so long as the City is owner) and joins the City's urban art collection.

Commissioner Solomon asked about cost and if the City currently owns the two neon artworks. Staff explained that the artworks are currently on loan to the City. The City is currently in the process to acquire the artworks, but the acquisition cannot be finalized until their permanent site locations are approved. The cost for both artworks are disclosed and on public record with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission.

Vice Chair Karliss concurred that the site locations for City artworks should continue to come before the Public Facilities Commission for approval.

Each Commissioner expressed their enthusiasm for the new permanent City artworks.

ACTION: Approve the permanent locations for the artworks "*RELAX UR OK*" and "*ONE LOVE*."

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Vice Chair Karliss – Y

Chair Solomon – Y

B. WEHO TARGET VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN UPDATE

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the development of the Draft West Hollywood Target Vision Zero Action Plan.

Staff provided a presentation and background on the City's Draft Vision Zero Action Plan which aims to eliminate traffic/transportation-related deaths with proactive planning. The Draft Plan is projected to go before City Council for adoption in Fall 2023.

Commissioner Payton asked about the timeline. Staff described that upon adoption in Fall 2023, the City would then begin to implement the vision zero action plan projects. Project timelines span from a few months to longer projects which may require engineering services, etc.

Commissioner Mason and Vice Chair Karliss called out specific intersections

and collision areas in the city to investigate.

Commissioner Jackson asked what actions neighboring cities are taking and if the City considered use of side streets becoming more dangerous. Staff reviewed a list of actions taken in the region and referenced best practices used by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Staff concurred that safety on side streets is under consideration and included in the Action Plan recommendations.

Chair Solomon encouraged regional collaboration, especially along Santa Monica Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard, and cautioned not to make West Hollywood a speed trap town.

Chair Solomon thanked staff for their presentation.

ACTION: Receive and provide feedback.

C. RAIL INTEGRATION STUDY FIRST LAST MILE PLANNING UPDATE

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the development of the City's Rail Integration Study First Last Mile Plan for the Northern Extension of the Metro K Line.

Staff provided a presentation and background on the City's Rail Integration Study First Last Mile Plan for the Northern Extension of the Metro K Line which aims to bring the Metro K Line light rail to the city and at an accelerated timeline. Three stations in West Hollywood are proposed and under review by Metro. The First Last Mile Plan identifies public infrastructure improvements to maximize light rail local use.

Commissioner Jackson asked how half mile and quarter mile distances were determined for the study. Staff explained that the distances are an industry standard and represent the willingness most people have to either walk, bike, or otherwise commute to a light rail station.

Commissioner Krishna asked if any of the walk audits were conducted at night. Staff confirmed nighttime audits could be more thoroughly investigated.

Vice Chair Karliss inquired what amount of Metro's ridership uses a bike to commute to the light rail. Staff described infrastructure like bike racks and storage lockers are among the needs for bike users. For specific bike ridership numbers, staff would need to solicit that information from Metro. Vice Chair Karliss asked staff to provide a brief review of the proposed stations in West Hollywood.

Chair Solomon asked if the audits included tree root/sidewalk conflicts. Staff confirmed the audits did not include tree roots or raised sidewalks. Staff noted that the City has proactive sidewalk maintenance and urban forest management programs.

Commissioner Mason asked staff to provide a brief review of construction impacts and the project's estimated timeline.

Chair Solomon thanked staff for their presentation and encouraged the public to attend the upcoming Metro K Line public meetings to advocate for the light rail to come to West Hollywood.

ACTION: Receive and provide feedback.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.
10. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR** – None.
11. **ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff spoke about the chained benches at Plummer Park and possible shade solutions for the tennis court area. Information was shared about the Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Showcase, Youth Halloween Carnival, and two upcoming outreach events about the Laurel House and Park Project.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
13. **ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

LIAISON FINAL REPORT ON PLAYHOUSE DESIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Karliss provided a short presentation and final report on the Design Steering Committee's work for the City Playhouse Project Concept Design. Commission liaisons included Vice Chair Karliss, Chair Solomon, and (former) Commissioner Polachek. The layout, floor levels, garden, and building perspective images were reviewed, and the liaisons answered various Commissioner questions.

LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

No changes were made to the look ahead calendar.

Commissioner Payton attended the WeHo Rec Expo, looks forward to the exciting Halloween activities, and she signed her daughter up for basketball.

Commissioner Ragno thanked everyone for a great meeting.

Commissioner Krishna provided a comment on Consent Calendar item D and asked staff what the Commission should be looking at related to their purview and the public right-of-way and pointed out that future annual tours should include a few of their new expanded purview locations. Staff agreed and can include new purview locations to visit on the next Annual Tour of Public Facilities. Staff also referenced that City Divisions will be providing presentations at upcoming meetings about their areas of oversight which relate to the Commission's new expanded purview.

Commissioner Mason shared that he is looking forward to Halloween Carnival.

Commissioner Jackson attended the Women's Equality Day WeHo Takeover, the City's Historic Preservation Celebration at Plummer Park, and the E.R.A. Feminist Art Show at Plummer Park.

Vice Chair Karliss attended the City's Historic Preservation Celebration at Plummer Park and mentioned the upcoming Planning Commission's agenda item related to private tree canopy standards.

Chair Solomon attended the WeHo Rec Expo and the City Council Plummer Park Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting. He also mentioned the upcoming City Council meeting which will consider opening new community gardens at Plummer Park. Staff provided a brief description of the community garden staff report.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m. to its next meeting, a special meeting which will be the Annual Tour of Public Facilities on Saturday, October 14, 2023, departing at 9:00 a.m. from the City Hall Automated Parking Structure, 1085 N. Sweetzer Ave., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

DocuSigned by:

Erin Hamant

Erin Hamant, Acting Recording Secretary

DocuSigned by:

Andrew C Solomon

Andrew Solomon, Chair