



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
Meeting
November 27, 2023**

THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD HAS ADOPTED SUMMARY AND ACTION MEETING MINUTES, WHICH PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN AND POINTS OF DISCUSSION ONLY. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ANY ITEM SUMMARIZED IN THESE MINUTES MAY BE OBTAINED BY ACCESSING THE ARCHIVED RECORDINGS OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETINGS AT www.weho.org/city-government/city-clerk AND SELECTING ACCESS CITY RECORDS.

Land Acknowledgment: “The West Hollywood Historic Planning 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.”

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Ostergren called the meeting of Historic Preservation Commission to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Present: Davidson, Dubin, King, Sotsky, Zvi, Vice Chair Charlie, Chair Ostergren.

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Doug Vu, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Commission Staff Liaison, Alicen Bartle, Project Development Administrator, and Gabriele Gonzales, Acting Commission Secretary.

Presenters: John Lesak (Page & Turnbull), James Mallery (Page & Turnbull), Lisa Gimmy (Lisa Gimmy Landscape Architecture), Scott Utterstrom (Xten Architects)

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Moved by Commissioner Sotsky, seconded by Vice-Chair Charlie and unanimously passes.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

ACTION: Approve the Historic Preservation Commission agenda of Monday, October 23, 2023 as amended. **Motioned by Chair Ostergren, seconded by Commissioner Davidson and unanimously passes.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT.

LYNN RUSSELL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the public process related to Temple Beth El and the request for a continuance. She suggested education of this matter as it relates to the public and commissioners and have it agendized.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR. None.

8. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR. None

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DESIGN UPDATE FOR THE LAUREL HOUSE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE RENOVATION PROJECT

Alicen Bartle, Project Development Administrator introduced the project, presented the staff report dated November 27, 2023, and stated the City Council approved the start of a schematic design for the renovation of Laurel House and Park, which will include an artist-in-residency component. She then introduced the team that will present the schematic design.

John Lesak, Historic Architect from Turnball & Turnbull introduced his colleagues James Mallery (Project Manager), Lisa Gimmy (Landscape Architecture), and Scott Utterstrom (Design Partner Xten Architects), and the team presented their approach to the project for the landscape, main house, servant's quarters, and garage.

The Commission requested clarification and expressed concerns regarding the interior character-defining features, accessibility of the cottage and its intended archive, possible on-site parking, staircase replacement, garage door replacement and modification of their openings, the property's period of significance, elevator location in the main house, life/safety systems and fireproofing of the cottage, security, and resident access.

The Commission then inquired about their purview, level of review, and lack of access to the plans and documentation. Staff informed them that after further approval by the City Council in early 2024, the project would return to the Commission for a certificate of appropriateness potentially in November 2024.

The Commission then commented about safety and privacy issues for the residents when this building is adapted for public use that should be considered and addressed and recommended that the documents are more legible and easier to read.

LYNN RUSSELL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about concerns regarding the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission's expertise in overseeing this project with historic significance, and the name of Linick-Weisman House not being used.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on behalf of the West Hollywood Preservation Alliance and suggested the documentation include a table identifying character-defining features that are being preserved or removed, asked the programming and use to focus more on history, expressed the Historic Preservation Commission's purview on the project is very important, and emphasized the name Linick-Weisman House, rather than Laurel House.

CATHY BLAIVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on the history of the house, agreed that it should be called the Linick-Weisman House and that it should first be a historic preservation matter first, with the use and programming secondary. She also requested that representatives from the Historic Preservation Commission at the other Commissions' meetings when this project is presented.

Vice Chair Charlie stated excitement for project but had concerns about parking. He then recommended that for future presentations, the plans and documents be improved for visual quality, laid out better, and provide more details even in the preliminary phase. He also questioned the space allowances for reading rooms versus archive space.

Commissioner King expressed concern about how the property should be used, that protection and restoration of the property not get lost in the project, to make sure that Laurel House is protected as a historical resource, and for Historic Preservation staff to take a lead on the project.

Commissioner Davidson spoke in preference of Linick-Weisman House instead of Laurel House, emphasized the importance of this being a historic property first and preserving it, and agreed that clearer pictures and details be provided in the future.

Commissioner Zvi expressed the importance of this project being completed correctly to preserve the property's history and character-defining features, the desire for a museum aspect to the house with a history room, as well as concerns with all of the different aspects about how the property will be used.

Commissioner Sotsky expressed that he would like a list of character-defining features and details of what is being preserved clearly, and the need to be concerned about things that are out of the Commission's purview.

Commissioner Dubin expressed the need for programming about the history of Laurel House to be included for the public to see, learn, and understand where they are, emphasized having the right expertise for preserving the landscaping since it is a character-defining feature in this project.

Doug Vu addressed the Commission to provide clarification that when the project returns to the Historic Preservation Commission in the future for a Certificate of Appropriateness, detailed plans and specific information about the alterations to the property will be provided, and the project will be required to articulate how it complies with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings.

Chair Ostergren expressed support for the City using the name Linick-Weisman House for the property to recognize its history and honors Elsie Weisman's gift.

The Commission paused for a five-minute break.

B. STREET SIGNS AND PLAQUES FOR DESIGNATED CULTURAL RESOURCES

Dou Vu, Senior Planner/HPC Liaison presented current photographs of street signs and plaques for designated cultural resources and a brief history to open the requested discussion item by the Commission.

Commissioner Dubin recommended that every designated property should have a plaque, even if it doesn't have a Mills Act contract. He inquired about costs of the plaques, suggested the City possibly cover the cost, recommended that properties have both the street sign and plaque, and emphasized the importance that signs contain details about the property for people to be educated.

Commissioner Sotsky inquired if the cost of plaques could be included in the designation fee.

Chair Ostergren requested clarification in the staff report about how many plaques had been installed since 2012, and recommended that a designated property automatically receive a street sign that is paid for and installed by the City.

Commissioner Zvi inquired about the exact number of designated properties that don't have plaques.

Vice-Chair Charlie recommended that a designated property in the City automatically have a plaque installed and paid for by the City, use more technology moving forward and possibly add a QR code that the public will be able to use to read in detail the history of property on their device.

Doug Vu suggested making the street signs for designated properties more consistent in their information and details.

Commissioner Zvi suggested possible walking tours in the City of West Hollywood and that some of the revenue from the tours can be applied to purchasing the plaques for the designated properties.

Commissioner King emphasized the importance that once the property is designated historic, it be marked for the public to notice and appreciate, and the property has options about what that marker will look like to choose from.

Commissioner Davidson agreed that a marker to show the designated property is a way to honor the City's historical places.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on behalf of the West Hollywood Preservation Alliance, read the emailed public comment concerning the restart of installing street signage for historic properties, thanked Commissioner Dubin for bringing the subject for discussion, emphasized the need for consistency of information provided on the signs, and to provide signs to designated properties that are currently missing them.

CATHY BLAIVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanked Commissioner Dubin and spoke about continuity of the information and that she liked the QR code idea, and referenced the information provided on the plaque at Tail o' the Pup as an example of how this business honors its history. She also shared how Long Beach details some of their designated properties and agreed that brass plaques should be installed at the discretion of the owner with the City paying for it.

LYNN RUSSELL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on being in full agreement the City should cover the costs of street signs and plaques, and agreed on the consistency of details on signs that should include the name of the building, street address, the architect, the year built, and the year designated.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. REAPPOINTMENT OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR THE CITYWIDE HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE R2, R3, AND R4 MULTIPLE-FAMILY ZONING DISTRICTS

Antonio Castillo, Senior Planner, spoke about the ad-hoc committee creation and its specific purpose and tasks.

Commissioner Amy Zvi volunteered for the position and was appointed.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on behalf of the West Hollywood Preservation Alliance, congratulated Commissioner Zvi and spoke about looking forward to the ad-hoc committee meetings, seeing the administrative draft, and the list of potential buildings eligible for historic preservation for discussion.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF.

A. Planning Staff Update.

Dou Vu, Senior Planner/HPC Liaison provided an update on tentative items that may be scheduled for upcoming Historic Preservation Commission meetings.

He confirmed the meetings on Monday, December 25, 2023 and January 22, 2024 will be officially canceled, stated a special meeting is a possibility for January 2024, and that the Commissioners will be notified if that is the case.

He then provided updates as requested by the Commission for: 1305-1317 Crescent Heights Boulevard in that the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval was denied by the City Council, and the public due process with the City has been exhausted; The Lotus at 1216-1224 La Cienega that was brought to the Historic Preservation Commission on August 27, 2018 to update the maintenance plan and consider the inspection schedule; for the French Market that was entitled on December 5, 2019 and received an extension which will expire on December 5, 2023 unless one more eligible extension request is filed; and Robertson Lane that was entitled on June 4, 2018, last amended on August 15, 2022, and that the applicant is working with staff on an additional amendment that will require approval by the Planning Commission. Finally, he introduced Kasey Conley, the Division's new Associate Planner to the Commission, and she briefly provided information about her background.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanked Doug Vu for the project updates, recommended future discussion about not allowing early demolition permits for historic properties, and then referred to the email submitted for public comment concerning the project at 910-916 Wetherly Drive.

LYNN RUSSELL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the scope of the Temple Beth El appeal at 1305-1317 Crescent Heights Boulevard and the accuracy of the review that was conducted in response to confirm the historic ineligibility of the property.

14. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Vice-Chair Charlie, thanked staff, the public and presenters, inquired about notification to the public for Historic Preservation Commission meetings, and welcomed Kasey Conley.

Commissioner Dubin inquired about Robertson Lane and stated concerns.

Commissioner King reminded about the West Hollywood Day State of the Community Mixer, reiterated having departments and divisions help write a history for the City's 40th anniversary, and mentioned two items regarding the National Trust's bill in Congress for the Designation of Route 66 National Historic Trail and historical preservation advocacy to help overcome the housing crisis.

Commissioner Davidson welcomed Kasey Conley, thanked staff and commissioners.

Chair Ostergren welcomed Kasey Conley.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

*The Historic Preservation Commission will adjourn to a regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, February 26, 2024** beginning at **7:00 P.M.** at **Plummer Park Rooms 5 & 6, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood CA.***

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 27th day of November 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner:

NOES: Commissioner:

ABSENT: Commissioner:

ABSTAIN: Commissioner:

DocuSigned by:
Gail Ostergren, HPC
31739106E1FC41C3

GAIL OSTERGREN, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Doug Vu
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DOUG VU, COMMISSION LIAISON