

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

**CITY HALL COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, 1ST FLOOR
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069**

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 Karliss called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
 - A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Karliss.
 - B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Ragno (he/him).

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services
Division Manager (she/her); Erin Hamant,
Senior Administrative Analyst (she/her);
Stephanie Martinez, Recreation Services
Manager (she/her); Ric. Abramson, Urban
Design and Architecture Studio Manager
(he/him); Michael Barker, Project Architect
(he/him); and Marcus Mitchell, Public Art
Administrator (he/him).

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Jackson.
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approved the February 12, 2025, Agenda with the following changes: move item 9.B. before 9.A, and adjourn the meeting in the memory of Harriet Young Torres. **Motion by Chair Karliss, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y
Commissioner Mason – Y
Commissioner Krishna - Y
Commissioner Jackson – Y
Vice Chair Payton – Y
Chair Karliss – Y

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION: Approved the minutes of the prior Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting dated December 11, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Krishna, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y
Commissioner Mason – Y
Commissioner Krishna - Y
Commissioner Jackson – Y
Vice Chair Payton – Y
Chair Karliss – Y

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eileen O'Meara, WEST HOLLYWOOD, submitted an e-comment expressing concern with the City's Aquatic and Recreation Center swimming lane allocation policy.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

NOT EVERY PEARL HAS ITS OYSTER, A TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION BY HEIMIR BJORGULFSSON

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive a presentation on the concept design for a temporary art exhibition titled *Not every pearl has its oyster* by Heimir Bjorgulfsson and consider approving the proposed display location at Plummer Park.

ACTION: Approved the temporary art exhibition titled *Not every pearl has its oyster* by Heimir Bjorgulfsson to be displayed at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90046, from March 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026. **This item was approved as a part of item 3, Approval of the Agenda.**

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSION TRIBUTE TREE REQUEST IN HONOR OF RESIDENT
MARILYN CALABRESE

SUBJECT: Commission will review a tribute tree request in honor of resident Marilyn Calabrese and reach a final determination on if the City should move forward in accordance with the City’s Tribute Tree Policy Guidelines.

Staff provided an overview of the tribute tree process and request. Staff shared that the location and tree species are still under evaluation by the applicant and asked the Commission to defer to the Chair and Vice Chair the ability to approve these final items once the applicant makes these decisions.

The Commissioners asked follow-up questions to ensure the application was in line with the City’s Tribute Tree Policy and that staff are able to care for these longtime tree plantings/tribute trees.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Danny Roman, WEST HOLLYWOOD, submitted an e-comment expressing support for the tribute tree request in honor of Marilyn Calabrese.

Bill Cohan, WEST HOLLYWOOD, submitted an e-comment expressing support for the tribute tree request in honor of Marilyn Calabrese.

Staff confirmed it is and that all initial costs are paid by the applicant. Staff are assessing citywide tribute trees and may return to the Commission in the future to update the Tribute Tree Policy.

ACTION: Approved the tribute tree request; Final determination of the tree planting location and tree species will be made by the Chair and Vice Chair with staff and the applicant. **Motion by Chair Karliss, seconded by Commissioner Mason, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Krishna - Y

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Vice Chair Payton – Y

Chair Karliss – Y

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

A. HART PARK DESIGN UPDATE

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the Phase 1 Hart Park Improvements Project and provide input on the schematic design.

Staff provided background on the project outreach and a presentation on the schematic design for the Phase 1 Hart Park Improvements Project. Hart House is a historic resource and the park was last renovated in 1990 before ADA requirements were established. This project has historic resources and ADA requirements. The City of Los Angeles is owner and the City of West Hollywood holds a land lease agreement to operate the park. The park's current design was designated as temporary and future renovations will also require City of Los Angeles approval.

Staff provided two design options and asked the Commission to provide input on their preferred circulation route between Sunset Blvd. and De Longpre Ave., preferred off-leash dog play area reconfiguration, preferred parking lot layout, and the newly accessible AIDS Memorial and reconfigured fountain.

Staff shared that the park design is considered an active park because of the off-leash dog play area. Staff will develop park programming during Phase 2 public outreach. Staff also shared that the Option 2 circulation route the park can be secured/locked up after parking closure while still maintaining the circulation route between Sunset Blvd. and De Longpre Ave.

City Council requested staff to separate the hybrid dog park into two separate areas: small dogs and large dogs, based on previous public input received.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Halley Deleeuw, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed disdain for the proposed design options because separating the dog park into two areas for small and large dogs will decrease useable space for the dogs, and questioned why a plaza is needed in the new design options.

Guido Lipperi, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared they have been a longtime resident since 1989 and impressed with the proposed design options; they do not like the mulch, prefer to keep parking, likes the fountain wall concept, and prefers the small dog park area to be at least as big as the small dog park at West Hollywood Park.

David Yocum, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern for the square footage reduction for small dogs and shared their love for the current dog park.

Bob Claster, LOS ANGELES, shared they use the parking and visit the dog park 4-5 times per week, questioned why the City wants to change a

well-functioning park to a less effective one, encouraged the City to find less drastic ways to abide ADA requirements, and asked staff to display project plans at the park for users to see and provide further feedback.

Matt Bijarchi, LOS ANGELES, shared they have been a longtime Hart Park user since 1998 and asked if the City is trying to do too much in a park with already limited space, and they encouraged staff to include the present day dog community into the proposed plans because dogs in parks create an inclusive space.

Cole Rocca, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared they are a new dog owner and now using the park more frequently, they have experienced harassment at the park by the unhoused population, asked the City what the intention is for the plaza because users do not want to lose the current dog park size, and there is not a strong need for more trees in the large dog park because the dogs like to run.

Chair Karliss asked various questions about changes and ADA compliance and supported the City finding a different surface material to wood chips. He supported Option 1 circulation route in the middle of the park and appreciated its elegant entry that will enhance the park user's experience.

Vice Chair Payton asked if the City is required to keep all of the existing parking, if the current parking lot is monitored and if Code Enforcement is citing smokers in the park, stated their preference to expand the park's useable green space, and asked if the park design is for an active or passive park and what programming is being considered for the plaza/amphitheater space. She supported Option 2 dog area including the idea to make it a hybrid dog space.

Commissioner Jackson advocated the City to create spaces that can be utilized by many park users and shared disdain for the current state of the AIDS Memorial in the park. She supported overall Option 1 and the dog area layout in Option 2.

Commissioner Krishna asked staff about foot traffic and if data is available on park users. She supported Option 2 dog area including the idea to make it a hybrid dog space, the reconfigured waterwall, the Option 1 circulation route in the middle of the park, and suggested elevating the route so that the Option 2 dog area can be hybrid.

Commissioner Mason opined that residents would not want to remove preferential parking and that the parking lot is necessary, and supported Option 2 dog area including the idea to make it a hybrid dog space, the reconfigured waterwall, and Option 1 parking layout. He suggested adding a moveable divide that can be activated to separate the dog park areas

when desired and agreed that Block By Block should be at the park.

Commissioner Rogers shared their preference for Block by Block to have a kiosk at the park and asked questions about how the parking lot is utilized. She supported Option 2 dog area including the idea to make it a hybrid dog space and the reconfigured waterwall.

The Commission has an overall consensus for a single, consolidated entry into the park, green space is more important than parking spaces, a general desire for more park seating such as benches that overlook the dog park, and to evaluate an overhead shade structure because trees are hard to keep alive inside the dog park.

ACTION: Reviewed design options presented for the Phase 1 Hart Park Improvements Project and provided input to staff and the design team.

B. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the capital projects that were approved in the adopted FY24-26 biennial budget.

Chair Karliss asked staff to include the Kings Road Park Visioning Project as a future budget request.

Vice Chair Payton asked what happens to the budget if a project is not completed in the fiscal year it is funded. Staff confirmed that an incomplete project budget may be rolled over to the next fiscal year.

Staff will meet with the Budget Subcommittee to draft a recommendation for the Kings Road Park Visioning Project for Commission approval before the budget request deadline.

ACTION: Received and provided input.

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

PLUMMER PARK KIOSKS

Staff shared an update; the temporary kiosks have been installed at Plummer Park and programming will begin soon by Recreation staff.

Staff shared information about upcoming recreational programs.

Staff shared information about recent City Council direction related to items under the Commission's purview and about upcoming items going to City Council.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER – No changes.

BUDGET STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE (KARLISS, KRISHNA, RAGNO) – Members provided an update on their 12/20/24 meeting.

KINGS ROAD PARK VISIONING AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE (KARLISS, JACKSON, PAYTON) – Members provided an update on their 12/10/24 meeting.

Chair Karliss suggested the Recreation Division to release a Year in Review similar to the Arts Division.

Commissioner Mason shared that he is leaving the Commission and this was his last meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall Community Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

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Erin Hamant

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Erin Hamant, Acting Recording Secretary

Signed by:

Richard Karliss

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Richard Karliss, Chair