

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 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 6:30 p.m.
 - A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Karliss.
 - B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Rogers (she/her)

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Director of Public Works (she/her); Scott Smith, Acting Facilities and Field Services Division Manager (he/him); Erin Hamant, Senior Administrative Analyst (she/her); Stephanie Martinez, Recreation Services Manager (she/her); Ric Abramson, Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager (he/him); and Debbie Gonzalez, Commission Secretary (she/her).

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Vice Chair Payton.
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approved the June 11, 2025, Agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Krishna, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ragno - Y
Commissioner Cottrell – 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 May 14, 2025. **Motion by Commissioner Ragno, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and approved with one abstention.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ragno - Y
Commissioner Cottrell – Y
Commissioner Krishna - Y
Commissioner Jackson – Y
Vice Chair Payton – ABSTAIN
Chair Karliss – Y

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION PROCEDURES OVERVIEW

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an overview of the election procedures to select the next Chair and Vice-Chair at its next regular meeting.

Staff presented the election process for Chair and Vice-Chair in preparation for the July 2025 elections.

ACTION: Received and filed.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MEMORIAL IN REMEMBRANCE OF LIVES LOST TO SUICIDE IN THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive and consider the recommendations by the LGBTQ+ Suicide Memorial Ad Hoc

Subcommittee regarding a City Council Directive to install a memorial for the individual lives lost to suicide in the LGBTQ+ community at a park space in West Hollywood.

Staff presented recommendations made by the LGBTQ+ Suicide Memorial Ad Hoc Subcommittee regarding a City Council Directive to install a memorial for the individual lives lost to suicide in the LGBTQ+ community at a park space in West Hollywood.

The Commission provided feedback highlighting the importance of emphasizing education, ongoing efforts for prevention, and visibility in the design. They requested coordination with the Human Services Commission and spoke against using the word “memorial” to avoid memorializing individuals, instead, using the word “monument.”

Commissioner Cottrell stressed the importance of having at least 2 suicidologists and mental health experts fluent in LGBTQ+ needs involved in the process.

Vice Chair Payton suggested including other mental health professionals other than suicidologists.

A motion was made by Chair Karliss and seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

A friendly amendment was made by Commissioner Ragno. The friendly amendment was accepted.

ACTION: Approve a monument in remembrance of lives lost to and affected by suicide in the LGBTQ+ community at a park space in West Hollywood and edits to the recommendations presented by the LGBTQ+ Suicide Memorial Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

CONDITIONAL YES, but only if the following are included:

1. That the City of West Hollywood contracts with 2 highly experienced suicidologists and relevant mental health professionals who are also fluent in LGBTQ+ community needs, throughout the planning and implementation process. It is especially important for these practitioners to help the city construct the language on and about the monument.
2. That there are thoughtful opportunities for those with lived experience to give input into the planning and implementation process.
3. That it [whatever the monument turns out to be] does not memorialize any specific individual but should be thoughtful and non-specific.
4. That it be in a location that invites quiet contemplation, is visible and public in a way that combats stigma, and located in an area

that will maximize exposure/visibility to queer youth.

5. That ongoing education and access to crisis resources are well integrated into the monument (including a digital component), and emphasize comprehensive community education, resources, and support.
6. That public education and outreach about the monument is integrated into the unveiling.
7. Collaboration with the Human Services Commission and the City's social services providers.

Motion by Chair Karliss, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ragno - Y
Commissioner Cottrell – Y
Commissioner Krishna - Y
Commissioner Jackson – Y
Vice Chair Payton – Y
Chair Karliss – Y

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- Staff provided an update on the Plummer Park Dog Park and the West Hollywood Dog Park turf replacement project.
- Staff provided an update on the ARC pool closure and program adjustments, Recreation Summer programming and events, and upcoming protests in West Hollywood.
- Staff provided an update on the upcoming Public Engagement meeting for Plummer Park Visioning and Healthy City by Design Symposium.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioners thanked staff for a great Pride event and gave kudos to maintenance staff.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

at City Hall Community Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard,
West Hollywood, CA 90069.

DocuSigned by:

Debbie Gonzalez

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Debbie Gonzalez, Recording Secretary

DocuSigned by:

Nicole Payton

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Nicole Payton, Chair