

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PHASE II
DESIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069**

6:00 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Staff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited following the Call to Order.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, Councilmember Duran, Keith Anthony, Jim Ballard, Joel Becker, Kathleen Becker, Roy Firestone, Erik Guzman, Hunter Haliniak, Roy Huebner, Jake Mason, Mark Lehman, Sabrina Nagy, Madeleine Rackley, Anny Semonco, Caroline Swan, Ruth Tittle, Lydia Strong

ABSENT: David Aghaei, Tracy Steinkruger, Bernice Levin

ALSO PRESENT: City staff: Jeffrey Huffer, Francisco Contreras, Bobby Safikhani

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Jim Ballard and seconded by Erik Guzman to approve the July 2nd, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion approved by Committee with Ruth Tittle and Roy Huebner abstained. A correction was made to the minutes to reflect the correct spelling of public speaker “Lauren Meister” instead of Laurie Meister.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MICHAEL WOSTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

LAUREN MEISTER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding an off leash dog area.

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – JULY 21, 2014:

- 1) Five items were added to the project scope by Council at its July 21, 2014 meeting. These include:

- a) San Vicente Gardens
- b) Adult Fitness Equipment
- c) Park Presence on El Tovar
- d) Freestanding restrooms in the park
- e) Grand staircase and respite deck

- 2) Council requested that the design team study the following three items:
- a) Study additional parking opportunities within the proposed parking area.
 - b) Study/assess the inclusion of a dog area in the park.
 - c) Confirm the inclusion of a multi-use sport field in the park.

PRELIMINARY SCHEMATIC DESIGN ELEMENTS

LPA and RCH Studios presented the Park & Building Schematic Design elements.

Roy Huebner:

- Robertson Commons – a combination of hard and softscape.
- How will Pride be accommodated?
- Grand Stair is great. Landscape on stair will be a maintenance issue. Consider artificial turf. People need more places to sit.
- Likes sky concept with Frit Glass
- Use durable materials
- Likes full text of the 'West Hollywood' sign

Erik Guzman:

- San Vicente stair case - skateboarders will love it. Consider ways to prevent skateboarding.
- Likes option 3 Earth, likes the cleanness of it
- Likes native plants and evergreen trees

Jim Ballard:

- Likes that Grand Stair is asymmetrical
- Likes the Glass option, but if can be a maintenance & cleaning issue. Consider durable materials
- Liked all 3 designs, but how will interiors be affected by the exterior options?
- Life option has water for the planting. This will have maintenance issues
- Can solar shades have P.V.?
- Likes full text on the West Hollywood sign

Joel Becker:

- Thought that a water feature was a part of the project - Council did not vote to include water feature. A water feature could be part of the 1% art or F.A.M.. A water feature was not recommended to Council by staff
- Respite deck needs more shade. Need to think about who will take moveable furniture in and out each day.
- Robertson Commons feels to stark, too much like a plaza
- Likes full text on the West Hollywood sign
- Prefers whichever trombe wall/screen option that provides the best acoustics screening for the pool deck.

Roy Firestone:

- When will art selection be final? Council has approved Philip K Smith. Work will start soon. Would like to see water integrated into the art.
- Permeable paving needs to be safe for bikes and scooters
- Likes tree porches with movable furniture to follow shade
- Playground seating areas need shade structures or tree canopies of shade
- Likes exercise circuit spread out around the park
- Play equipment in the park is important
- City Staff will be going out into the public for feedback
- Respite deck is limited by structural allowances. Ramp feels too added on. Look at LA Zoo. It feels bigger with more landscape
- Likes the Life option, would like to see this developed
- Needs restroom and staff services close to play areas. This is very important
- Need more shade in the park. Advocate more shade trees at the perimeter.

Hunter Haliniak:

- Likes all 3 options. Building vegetation is a maintenance and water issue
- Likes adult exercise equipment spread out
- Windows are a concern in the Gym. Sun glare can be a dangerous issue. Need sun control on the windows

Jake Mason:

- Love the tree porches
- Likes Robertson and San Vicente entries. Views and connections are good
- Robertson Commons could use more green
- Likes fitness equipment spread out. Walking WeHo vibe
- Likes consolidated children's area
- More shade trees in flexible meadow would get in the way
- Natural light in the gym is a concern. Need to control light. Need to be able to block out the sun.
- Would like drop down dividers, shades in gym
- Likes the Earth and the Life options. Likes the extra patio space in the Earth option.
- Will park staff be consulted on the layout and design? They should be

Lydia Strong:

- Likes circuit workout equipment
- Concerned about what will be lost to include a dog park - This is currently being studied
- Existing basketball courts, will they stay in lieu of dog park? Need to keep the committee informed on decisions made.

Caroline Swan:

- Prefer a consolidated area for fitness equipment. Would like pull-up and push-up stations
- Option one feels messy. Prefers Wood option, option #3, feels like it fits better
- Life guard stations at the corners, permanent stations are no longer industry standard

- Would like to see changing rooms on deck for seniors

Kathleen Becker:

- Likes what has been done to San Vicente
- Likes all 3 options, likes Glass option best for its modern look and pizzazz
- Likes terrace on community room option
- Tree porches are nice but need to consider hiding places and skateboarding
- How will staff keep eyes on park?
- Grand Stair, in inclement weather, how people get to building in the rain
- Respite deck – how will this be used in the rain?
- Likes circuit training
- Consider water reclamation system. - Water pumps don't currently exist. These can be very expensive. This is not currently being considered

Anny Semonco:

- Doesn't like fitness equipment next to the children's play area
- Ramp in respite deck should be for everyone, not just a separate path of travel.
- Likes Earth option. Would like to see more P.V.
- Earth option is more pleasing
- More color is better
- Picnic tables, metal benches don't look sturdy or stable. Furniture needs to last and be sturdy

Madeline Rackley:

- Grand Stair – it is hard to see where the main entry is located. Will there be signage? - All paths in the park will lead to the entry
- Staircase feels more delicate, looks better
- Space beneath the stair, will the be grand and open for security at night
- Likes the terrace option at the Community room
- More shade trees
- Living wall creates water and pest issues at the building
- Loves tree porches
- Smoking won't be permitted at the building due to LEED
- Would like dog park enclosed. Not comfortable with dog park not being enclosed
- Robertson Commons - would like more green

Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman:

- San Vicente area needs more work. Paths are nice but don't understand the stair. How could the area be more activated? Could fitness equipment be located over here?
- Robertson Area is awful. Don't get it. It should be a green space. Likes the art area, but there is too much paving
- Too much paving at the Grand Stair. Would like to see more grass and landscape. Make more park like
- Tree porches sound interesting. Need more refinement
- Move gym equipment away from the kids play area
- Respite deck ramp system – why not raise the deck up to be equal with pool deck? Need shade to be protected. Tensile structure maybe?
- Heated glass wall (Trombe Wall)? Don't want a hot box in the gym

- Glass at the pool deck – The Mondrian is great, why not make it like that? Meant for privacy to WeHo west
- Restrooms in the park – may need to be more by basketball courts and also near kids play area
- Furniture selection and play equipment will be selected by smaller user groups

Sabrina Nagy:

- Likes green aspects
- Likes 'West Hollywood' sign on top with full text
- Likes fast track

Keith Anthony:

- Don't combine fitness equipment with children's play area
- Spreading fitness equipment out may take up too much space. Park could be maximized by keeping it together. Consolidating the equipment to one location is preferred for "super set" workouts.
- Wants a dog park

Councilmember John Duran:

- Likes the tree porches
- Fitness equipment should be consolidated
- Pull-up bars, rings and dip bars are all that is really needed.
- Under the stair idea – a cavern or shadow. Could be Ken Sharp under the stair. Explore creative ways to use the space
- Respite area- shade and sun needs to be mobile/portable
- Robertson Commons – Similar to the Chinese lanterns over San Vicente during CSW, the use of hanging ornamental lights over the Commons could be an interesting idea. Maybe hanging mobiles. Consider using the space above the Commons
- Water features are hard to do politically during a drought.
- Dog park – council is a bit divided. Ideas will be studied
- Furnishings & Textures – Didn't like steel and chrome. Does like natural things integrated.
- Shade trees vs. open meadow – Need open space in the park, passive and active spaces. We need both.

Ruth Tittle:

- Running track above the gym is out
- Path around the park is ¼ mile
- Stair material is not selected. Wood would be better on the knees for runners
- In favor of separating the kids play area from the fitness equipment
- Likes the Earth option. With the Glass option, birds in mirrored glass is a concern – The glass won't be mirrored.
- Could a dog park be implemented on a trial basis
- Could be an option to explore

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

IVY BOTTINI, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding additional recreational activities for seniors.

ELENA GOLDENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- The pool is a working pool not a hotel pool, changing areas need to be on the same level of the pool. Staff aquatic coordinator office needs to be on the same level.
- Fast track on stair is not necessary. Would rather have water feature
- Need better playground for the kids
- Dog park is needed in the city
- Sports equipment should be kept away from children's play area

JUDY HILTSINGER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the pool area and the positioning of lifeguard towers.

ADAM BASS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding green space around the Robertson Commons area

BOB SHIELDS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the pool area and also spoke in favor of an enclosed dog park.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jake Mason:

- Athletics in the park can be programmed for all ages. Could do dodge ball for seniors.

ITEMS FROM STAFF

Francisco Contreras mentioned staff will be conducting pop-up events in the park to inform the public in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT:

The West Hollywood Park Phase II Design Steering Committee adjourned to their next scheduled meeting, which will be held on September 3, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069.