

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK
647 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Land called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Richard Settle led the pledge.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmember Duran, Councilmember Prang, Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, and Mayor Land.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Arevalo, City Attorney Jenkins, City Clerk West, and Assistant City Clerk Schaffer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Councilmember Prang, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman to approve the April 27, 2009 agenda, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS:

Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of actress Bea Arthur.

Mayor Land requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Lovedy Brydon, a long-time resident and activist. She requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of two 11-year old boys, Carl Walker-Hoover and Jaheem Herrera, who took their own lives after enduring anti-gay remarks from fellow students.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

TOM DEMILLE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the recent memorial service for Councilmember Sal Guarriello. He spoke regarding various local, state, and national issues.

JEANNE DOBRIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the need for residents to participate in their local government.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: None.

FISCAL IMPACT ON CONSENT CALENDAR:

City Clerk West stated that the fiscal impact on the Consent Calendar is \$0 in expenditures and \$0 in potential revenue.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

ACTION: Approve the Consent Calendar as amended, 2.A. **Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Prang and unanimously approved.**

2.A. POSTING OF AGENDA:

The agenda of the meeting of Monday, April 27, 2009 was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the Sheriff's Station and at the West Hollywood Library on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

ACTION: Receive and file. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.A. FILLING CITY COUNCIL VACANCY [M. JENKINS, V. LOVE, T. WEST]:

The City Council will discuss the alternatives available for filling the vacancy created by the loss of Councilmember Guarriello and will either take action to fill the vacancy or direct staff to provide additional information or implement procedures necessary for Council to take an action at its next meeting.

City Attorney Mike Jenkins provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated April 27, 2009.

JEANNE DOBRIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the expense of a special election, and spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat.

HEAVENLY WILSON, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the expense of a special election, and spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat.

TOM DEMILLE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, requested the Council to consider appointing him to the vacant City Council seat.

JOAN HENEHAN, ON BEHALF OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, spoke in support of the City Council's decision to either call an election or appoint someone to the vacancy.

CARL CRONIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of a special election. He spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister, if they choose to make an appointment.

ESTHER BAUM, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the City Council appointing someone to the vacant seat. She expressed concerns regarding the appointed Councilmember running for re-election as an incumbent. She spoke in support of the City Council appointing Ric Rickles to the vacant seat.

LYNN HOOPINGARNER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of a special election. She spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat.

LAUREN MEISTER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, requested the Council to consider appointing her to the vacant City Council seat.

ED BUCK, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the City Council making an appointment to the vacant seat.

RICHARD MAGGIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of a special election, and spoke in support of the City Council's decision if they choose to make an appointment.

STEVE LEVIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the City Council making an appointment to the vacant seat. He spoke regarding the need to include the East Side of the City in the decision-making process.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of a special election. He spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat, if they choose to make an appointment.

ELYSE EISENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat.

ANNA SWETT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of either an appointment or a special election. She requested the Council to consider appointing her to the vacant City Council seat.

RIC RICKLES, WEST HOLLYWOOD, requested the Council to consider appointing him to the vacant City Council seat.

MAXINE SONNENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the City Council making an appointment to the vacant seat.

SUSAN ISAACS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat.

GEORGE CREDLE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the City Council appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat.

Councilmember Prang spoke regarding the difficulty of making a decision following the passing of Councilmember Guarriello. He spoke in opposition to a special election due to the expense and the length of time that the vacant seat would be open. He spoke in support of the Council making an appointment to the vacant seat. He spoke in support of the City Council conducting public interviews for potential candidates, and in support of the City Council being able to meet with potential candidates on a one-on-one basis prior to the public interviews. He outlined the principles he believes an appointee must possess, including a focus on affordable housing, the LGBT community, the diversity of thought and cultures in the City, and similar convictions to Councilmember Sal Guarriello.

Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman spoke regarding a previous instance where the City Council was faced with the same decision, and the Council's decision to call a special election. He spoke in opposition to a special election due to the expense and the length of time that the vacant seat would be open. He spoke in support of the Council making an appointment to the vacant seat. He outlined the principles and traits he believes an appointee must possess, including: understanding and sharing the City's core values; intelligence; good judgment and common sense; history of service to the community; ability to communicate effectively; discretion and maintenance of confidential information; ability to work with a diverse group of individuals; respectful to employees, residents and businesspeople; ability to listen and filter information; backbone – willingness to do what they believe is right in the face of pressure; emotional stability; understands the issues of our diverse constituencies; understands the importance of our business community; knowledge of City issues; and acceptable to all of the Members of the City Council. He spoke regarding the need for Council to act quickly on the appointment process, and the need for the Council to use discretion on the number of applicants who are chosen to be interviewed. He spoke in support of the City Council discussing the appointments at a special meeting.

Councilmember Duran spoke in opposition to a special election due to the expense and the length of time that the vacant seat would be open. He spoke in support of the Council making an appointment to the vacant seat. He spoke regarding the need to set aside politics in the appointment

process. He spoke regarding the advantage that an appointed City Councilmember would have in the next City election as an incumbent, and the importance of appointing someone who represents the core values of the City, and someone who shares Councilmember Sal Guariello's backbone and willingness to do what they believe is right in the face of pressure. He spoke in support of the City Council conducting public interviews for potential candidates.

Mayor Land spoke in opposition to a special election due to the length of time that the vacant seat would be open. She spoke in support of the Council making an appointment to the vacant seat. She spoke regarding the need to set aside politics in the appointment process, and the need for the process to be open and transparent to the public. She thanked Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman for defining the traits that possible appointees should possess. She spoke regarding the need for applicants to be sure they are prepared to serve as a City Councilmember. She spoke regarding the need for balance on the City Council, and voices that represent the whole community.

ACTION: 1) Direct the City Clerk to make an application available, by 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, for individuals interested in being appointed to the vacant City Council seat. The application is to be created from the current City Commission application, with modifications to include the qualifications of serving on the City Council, and requesting applicants to provide a statement of up to 400 words stating their qualifications for City Council. As a guideline for preparing statements, the City Clerk shall also provide applicants with a list of the "Desirable Traits for a New Councilmember" presented by Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, and a list of the City's Strategic Goals and Core Values. Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 5:00 P.M., Friday, May 1, 2009. 2) Schedule a special City Council meeting for Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 6:00pm to allow all applicants to address the City Council for a specific amount of time, to be determined by the Mayor. **Carried by Consensus of the Council.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

HEAVENLY WILSON, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of her previous comments, requesting the City Council to consider appointing Lauren Meister to the vacant seat.

6. LEGISLATIVE: None.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The City Council adjourned at 6:24 P.M. in memory of Bea Arthur, Carl Walker-Hoover and Jaheem Herrera. They adjourned to their next regular

meeting, which will be on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. at West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente Boulevard.