

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

6:30 p.m. January 11, 2012

West Hollywood City Hall
Community Conference Room
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. **Call to Order:** The meeting of January 11, 2012 was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Hall, Community Conference Room located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069

B. **Roll Call:** Present Chair Woodell, Commissioners Eisenberg, Chramoff, Maggio, Goldenberg, and Burke. Absent: Commissioner Anthony

City Staff: Steve Campbell, Helen Collins, and Margarita Kustanovich.

C. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Commissioner Chramoff.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was moved by general consensus.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Goldenberg to approve the minutes of January 11, 2012. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chramoff and it passed by unanimous vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sophia Ratcovich- West Hollywood resident. Spoke regarding preserving the growth of historical Trees that are located at Plummer Park. She mentioned that those located near the Playground area provide a shaded area for the parents and children.
- Lynn Russell – West Hollywood resident. Spoke about the importance of trees in the Community.
- Geoff Buck – West Hollywood resident. Stated that he was happy that Heritage Trees were on the agenda and voiced concern that Plummer

Park Trees are currently not nominated. He also requested the Public Facilities Commission assistance in getting the underground parking removed from the Plummer Park Project.

- Virginia Gillick – West Hollywood resident. Stated that she wanted to put in a good word for the old growth trees at Plummer Park; and added that it is a historic place.
- Stephanie Harker – West Hollywood resident. Spoke regarding a concern about the General Plan in relationship to the 5 story building height designation for the Sal Guarriello Veteran's Memorial location. She stated that she was happy that the City was listening to the resident regarding the re-design of Plummer Park, and voiced concern that the City is still working with same Architect. She also mentioned that solar components should be considered in the project and mentioned a concern about an exhaust shaft proposed to be routed through pre-school.
- Kathy Blavias – West Hollywood resident. Spoke regarding the Plummer Park Project and voiced concern that the project is going back to the original Architect. She also added that she feels that Vista St. is a historic block as is Plummer Park. She went on to state that she knows that the park needs work and she hopes the Commission would heed the issues being brought up.
- Sheila Lightfoot - West Hollywood resident. Stated that she is in support of the Heritage Tree Program, old growth trees in Plummer Park and the Plummer Park Group. She added that Plummer Park should be a park and not a parking structure and asked that the citizens that live around Plummer Park be supported.
- Chloe Ross – West Hollywood resident. Stated that she supports the trees and restoration of Plummer Park and added that the WPA building is Historic.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Facilities Commission Agenda

Staff provided an overview of the Commission By-Laws as it relates to the Commission Agenda at which time no action was taken by the Commission and the item was withdrawn.

B. Tree City USA Program

1. Update – The Commission received an overview of the National Tree City USA program from staff.
 - Commissioner Eisenberg requested that the Commission be involved in the development of the tree care ordinance needed to meet the program requirements. Staff stated that the ordinance would be drafted with the assistance of the City Attorney and brought back to the Commission for review and input.
 - Commissioner Goldenberg questioned the role that the Commission would play acting as the Tree City USA Board. Staff stated that the Commission's purview currently includes public trees and that the role of the Commission would not substantially change. The Commissioner questioned how it might relate to the Plummer Park trees that have been brought up tonight, staff stated that more clarity on that subject would come with an updated park plan.

C. Heritage Tree Program

1. Staff provided the Commission with an overview of the Heritage Tree Program.

Public Comment on the item:

- Geoff Buck– West Hollywood resident, spoke regarding his membership and involvement in the Heritage Tree Program He provided input on how to make the Public Service Announcement (PSA) more effective and how to get the community to become more involved.
- Lynn Russell – West Hollywood resident, spoke regarding the Plummer Park Project, specifically regarding the trees. She expressed her concern about the trees coming down. She also spoke in support of Geoff Buck's comments in relation to creating a new and improved PSA.
- Allegra Allison – West Hollywood resident, stated that the Tree Preservation Society shot a PSA, but the piece did not meet the City standard and urged another look at it.
- Julia Goldberg – West Hollywood resident, spoke regarding revamping the Heritage Tree Program outreach.

- Stephanie Harker – West Hollywood resident, spoke regarding the lack of designation of the trees at Plummer Park as Heritage Trees. She questioned the application process.
- Kathy Blavais – West Hollywood resident, spoke regarding an arborist report and preparation time of 5 years for boxing trees and how that timeline was missed as part of the Plummer Park Project.
- Chloe Ross – West Hollywood resident, suggested that we have nameplates on public trees to identify the types of trees.
- Garby Land - West Hollywood resident, stated that it would be great to have a City that cares about trees. Went on to state that the Plummer Park trees are irreplaceable. She added in closing that the PSA is soft and hopes the Heritage Tree Program becomes more effective.

Commissioner Comment on the item:

- Commissioner Eisenberg mentioned that the criteria and application are too complicated and restrictive and she feels we are not proactive enough in promoting the program.
- Commissioner Burke recommended that we look at different ways of the getting the information and perhaps involving volunteer groups to assist.
- Commissioner Eisenberg mentioned using the City Newsletter and direct mailing to get the information out.
- Commissioner Chramoff mentioned that perhaps these are items the Heritage Tree Sub-Committee can look at.

Commissioner Chramoff made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Eisenberg to send the Heritage Tree Program to the Sub-Committee for recommended changes. A vote was taken:

Commissioner Burke: No
Commissioner Maggio: Abstained
Commissioner Woodell: Yes
Commissioner Goldenberg: Yes
Commissioner Eisenberg: Yes
Commissioner Chramoff: Yes

The item passed with a 4 yes, 1 no and 1 abstention vote.

D. Arts and Cultural Affairs

A motion was made by Commissioner Chramoff and seconded by Commissioner Eisenberg to table this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting and it passed by unanimous vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

- Commissioner Eisenberg apologized for being late. She also stated that she feels we have unfinished business and it is not on the agenda. She thanked the Plummer Park people for coming out and specifically for addressing trees. She also mentioned to staff that the newly planted trees on Sunset are dead on both sides of the street. Staff will investigate and respond to the Commission. She requested to meet with staff regarding the Heritage Tree Program and asked that a Heritage Tree Sub-Committee meeting be set-up. Staff stated that a meeting will be set at the earliest opportunity.
- Commissioner Goldenberg thanked the public for attending the meeting and stated that the City is not interested in killing trees and that they are trying to beautify the City. Inquired about the possibility of getting a report on the trees designated to be removed. Staff stated that after direction is received from the City Council, an update on the trees will be provided.
- Commissioner Chramoff thanked the Deputy in attendance for apprehending a suspect in the recent arson investigation and. The Commissioner asked staff if the Plummer Park Project was now completely in the hands of the Council or will it come back to the Commission. Staff reported that the item is under review and once direction is received from the City Council an update will be brought back to the Commission.
- Commissioner Maggio mentioned that he does not recall being appointed to the Heritage Tree Sub-Committee but he is happy to serve.
- Commissioner Burke – No Comments
- Commissioner Woodell thanked the public for attending and hopes they realize that the Commission takes their comments seriously.

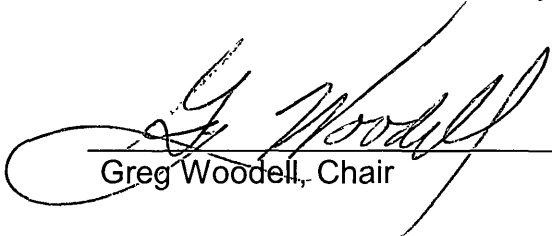
IX. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- Staff informed the Commission that the Norwich Community Garden is now

officially closed and the property has been cleared and turned over to the new owner.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chair Woodell to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Chramoff and passed unanimously.



Greg Woodell, Chair

Attest: _____
Helen Collins, Recording Secretary