

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PHASE II
DESIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 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.

COUNCILMEMBER DURAN welcomed the Design Steering Committee and thanked the Committee and the public for their participation in the development of the next phase of the project.

JEFF HUFFER introduced the Project Team including:

- DAN ADAMS, Heery International, Project Manager
- RICK D'AMATO, LPA, Inc., Project Architect
- SAMANTHA HARRIS, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, Landscape Architect
- BRENT JACOBSON, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, Landscape Architect
- JEREMY HART, LPA, Inc., Architect

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBER DURAN, KEITH ANTHONY, JIM BALLARD, JOEL BECKER, KATHLEEN BECKER, ROY FIRESTONE, ERIK GUZMAN, HUNTER HALINIAC, ROY HUEBNER, JAKE MASON, MARK LEHMAN, BERNICE LEVIN, SABRINA NAGY, MADELEINE RACKLEY, ANNY SEMONCO, TRACY STEINKRUGER, LYDIA STRONG

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER HEILMAN, Excused. DAVID AGHAEI, Excused. RUTH TITTLE, CAROLINE SWAN. Excused.

ALSO PRESENT: CITY STAFF: JEFFREY HUFFER, FRANCISCO CONTRERAS, LISA MARIE BELSANTI, JENNIFER ALKIRE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE:

CITY CLERK, YVONNE QUARKER, administered the Oath of Office to the West Hollywood Park Phase II Design Steering Committee.

BROWN ACT CODE OF CONDUCT:

CITY CLERK, YVONNE QUARKER presented a review of the Brown Act guidelines.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DAVID WARREN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comment on the need for space in the park for dogs and any necessary environmental analysis required for an off-leash dog area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Role of Design Steering Committee

FRANCISCO CONTRERAS, provided an overview of the Role of the Design Steering Committee. A committee of people who want to make a difference in the park. A committee of representative park users. This meeting is the 1st of 5 meetings once a month. Each meeting will cover a specific topic.

West Hollywood Park Phase II Project Presentation

LPA, INC., RIOS CLEMENTI HALE STUDIOS, HEERY INTERNATIONAL, and CITY STAFF presented an overview of the West Hollywood Park Phase I and Phase II Projects and Guiding Documents, including:

1. Guiding Documents
 - a. Elements of the Park Master Plan from 2004.
 - b. Environmental Documents
 - i. CEQA – Parameters define what can and can't be done.
 - ii. Council has directed a timeline to accomplish Phase 2. CEQA would limit adding new scope to Phase 2.
 - c. Feasibility study performed by Heery International
2. Review of Phase I Improvements
3. Phase II Feasibility Study
 - i. Established a budget - \$80M
 - ii. Established a project schedule

LPA, INC., and RIOS CLEMENTI HALE STUDIOS, presented the Design Team's Preliminary Vision Concept Presentation, including the following elements for discussion by the Design Steering Committee:

1. Recreation Center, Amenities & Usage
 - a. Aquatics
 - b. Basketball/Sports Facility
 - c. Parking
 - d. Roof-top

2. Park & Recreation Building
 - a. Tiny Tot Program
 - b. Meeting Rooms

3. Park Layout, Amenities and Usage
 - a. Playgrounds
 - b. Park Features
 - c. Public Art
 - d. National AIDS Monument

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND INPUT INTO PROGRAMMING

ANNY SEMONCO provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Accessibility to all aspects of the project.
- Grand stair makes her nervous. There are a lot of seniors in West Hollywood.
- Disabled access to the pool is important.
- Access needs to be central to the project, it cannot be an afterthought
- Need accessible lifts to get in and out of the pools.
- Need accessible equipment on the sports courts.

BERNICE LEVIN provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Seniors don't take enough advantage of sports centers.
- Seniors would like the outdoor theater (maybe a roof or canopy over the outdoor seating area).
- Seniors need transportation to these facilities. West Hollywood does a good job in getting seniors around.

KATHLEEN BECKER provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Tiny Tots and Summer Programs need to be at park.
- Accessibility to the park has been handled poorly in Phase 1.
- Pool access is currently very bad.
- A grand stair structure is an accessibility concern.
- The flow from park to pool to parking needs to have an easy flow.
- One access point for ingress and egress to parking structure could be a problem. Limited access may create issues for traffic. Would like to see studies to mitigate traffic issues.
- How tall will the structure be? Are their concerns with earthquake issues given the height?
- Existing pool is 7' deep. Is this adequate for the new pools?

TRACY STEINKRUGER provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Increased amenities create need for a comprehensive sign program. Would like to see more coordinated overall signage scheme for the park.
- Like preservation of open spaces and natural features.
- Like the active and passive balance of uses.
- What is staff comfort level with amount of space provided in the recreation center?
- Natural ventilation is a concern. Wouldn't want to see a space not used because of poor ventilation, in an effort to be more environmentally friendly.

JIM BALLARD provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Likes the design direction of the project and process- now need to focus on practical elements.
- Needs storage for pool lane lines, kickboards, etc. Storage needs to be accessible.
- Use of pool by many seniors.
- Lighting – how will park be lit? Public safety & security concern.
- Likes green space on the building.
- Need to study the types of trees and plants being used so they don't die, ensure adequate root space.
- Courts need to be multi-use for volleyball, basketball, dodge ball, etc.
- How will programs be scheduled?

JOEL BECKER provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Likes that the building is of the park, not in the park.
- Grand stair is a concern. The stair at the library was intended to be the same but it didn't meet the expectations.
- Likes the central park / neighborhood park stretching from San Vicente to Robertson. In favor of opening Robertson business to the park. Would like to see that park could open up to the neighborhood.
- Robertson is currently being redeveloped. Take these plans into consideration. Extend park out to Robertson.
- Would like to understand the allocation of space and uses to WeHo residents.
 - i. Is park for WeHo, LA or LA County?

ROY FIRESTONE provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Lots of families are moving into community – the demographics of WeHo are changing rapidly.
- Would like to see more kid/family play features at the pool, slides,

fountains, etc.

- Multisport courts are important.
- Grand stair is nice.
- Doesn't like the big service elevator idea. Past experience at LACMA is that waits can take very long.
- Playgrounds – very excited for new concepts such as using grade change. Enclosure/safety proximity to San Vicente is a concern. Enclosure of play areas is important for safety.
- AIDS Monument – Would like to see an option that situates the monument front and center, not stuffed in a corner.
- Appreciate the bisecting of the one grand lawn space - for more trees, more shade. Shade in the park is important; can't get enough.

ERIC GUZMAN provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Shower areas at the pool level should be considered. Having wet people in elevators down to the lockers could be a concern.
- Pool storage space for equipment is a necessity.
- Would like ADA lift for both pools.
- Robertson commons as a quiet space next to the Abbey doesn't make sense.
- More trees please.
- More picnic tables and BBQ areas throughout.
- Accessibility is key in the park

ROY HUEBNER provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Liked that LPA/ RCHS got rid of the one great lawn space – splitting the lawn was compelling.

JAKE MASON provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Multi-purpose courts are important.
- 500 people a week play dodge ball – ½ are West Hollywood residents.
- Every inch of park should be put to optimal use.
- Inclusive for all sports and community groups.
- Likes choir on the grand stair.
- Sharing spaces among different sports happens now and works.
- Would like to see it become an alternate to Pan Pacific Park.
- Likes the design of park and its open spaces.
- The large City of West Hollywood sign is a good idea to give an identity to the park.
- Park staff should be consulted on internal space planning.
- Park should be inclusive for all users.

HUNTER HALINIAC provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Likes aesthetics as presented.
- Need to maximize gym space. Don't want to see wasted space inside the gym.
- Storage for all equipment is necessary.
- Will scoreboard be installed?
- Multi-purpose civic space for uses like the Book Fair is key.
- A catering kitchen or concessions stand should be explored.
- Grand Lawn – likes idea but also understands need for trees and shade in the park. Could the lawn be flexible multi-use and able to be converted at times for little league baseball? What are the options?
- Would like to see sand court volleyball.
- Rock climbing wall. Needs to be staffed, and is a liability. Is it really the best use of money?

MARK LEHMAN provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- North side of the park – can this be made more pedestrian friendly, integrated somehow into the alley?
- Park circulation needs to consider parking; paths and access to parking needs to be considered. Current pedestrian access to PDC parking is poor.
- Likes the idea of a clear circulation path from the 1,000 parking spaces at PDC across crosswalk directly through park from SVB to Robertson.
- Security issues /access for pedestrians in the park at night.
- Shade space is important. Need places to hang out under the trees. Lovely urban park spaces for Picnics.
- Event space – Gay pride, marches
 - i. Likes how Grand Stair could be integrated into event space.
- AIDS Monument
 - i. Don't know how it will be integrated into the park because park is not designed yet.
 - ii. Visible from San Vicente, but integrated into the park.
- Likes big screen integrated into the park – could integrate with a tech component of the AIDS Monument.
- Kitchen component is a good idea.
 - i. A coffee shop / café in the park is a good idea.

SABRINA NAGY provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Competition pool – would like a 50 meter pool, not a 25 meter pool.
 - i. At 25 meters, cannot have long course competitions.
- Lockers need to be accessible with more stalls and more showers.

KEITH ANTHONY provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Off leash dog park – up to committee if they want to make a recommendation to Council.
 - i. There is not enough dog space in City. If it is possible to do an additional environmental study, then this component should be studied.
- Grand Stair is a cool concept. Running stair needs to have enough room for people to be able to pass each other. Should look at width of Santa Monica Running Stair to get proper width. Pepperdine Stair is good too.
- Running track inside the sports complex is a good idea.
- Fitness equipment over by the Abbey needs to be expanded, perhaps as a circuit training garden.
- Rock climbing wall – logistically could be problematic.

LYDIA STRONG provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Basketball – can hoops be brought down to a lower height for little kids?
- Bleachers need to be retractable.
- Need a floor covering to protect the court surface during civic events.
- A drop down curtain to divide courts will allow multi-function use of the gym space.
- Storage is crucial component.
- Courts – need to plan out court markings for multiple sports.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Consider 2004 environmental review. It is 10 years old. Things have changed- more diversity of community, more dogs. If environmental review extends the time of the project it is worthwhile to do it now to avoid problems later.

RICHARD GIESBRECHT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on the several components of the Project, including:

- Likes the building as a foil to the rest of the buildings.
- Appreciates park as respite from hubbub of city.
- Concerned with acoustical & lighting trespass of Cooley's onto the park.
- Rooftop tennis courts give a lot of light spill into neighborhood homes.
- Acoustical trespass occurs when there is activity and yelling on tennis courts.

- North part of the park courts and alley block activity that could engage the perimeter buildings around the park. Wonderful opportunities could result by engaging these outer buildings, but don't want commercial entities to dominate the park.

LEE WALKUP, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on several components of the Project, including:

- Concerned about the finances. Want to make sure that East West Hollywood is just as nice as West West Hollywood and Central West Hollywood.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TRACY STEINKRUGER would like to have more information about the environmental review performed for the project. This would be beneficial to the Committee. The Committee needs staff guidance on what has been studied. Don't want to pursue items that have been studied, or won't be supported by staff or Council.

ITEMS FROM STAFF

FRANCISCO CONTRERAS commented that the environmental analyses for the project will be provided online for the Committee and public to review. Staff can answer additional environmental question in subsequent meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee was invited to participate in interactive comment stations with the project and design team.

The West Hollywood Park Phase II Design Steering Committee adjourned to their next scheduled meeting, which will be held on June 4, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069.