

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PHASE II
DESIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 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: Councilmember Duran, Councilmember Heilman, Keith Anthony, David Aghaei, Jim Ballard, Joel Becker, Kathleen Becker, Roy Firestone, Erik Guzman, Hunter Haliniak, Roy Huebner, Jake Mason, Mark Lehman, Bernice Levin, Sabrina Nagy, Madeleine Rackley, Anny Semonco, Caroline Swan, Tracy Steinkruger, Ruth Tittle, Lydia Strong

ABSENT: None.

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

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE:

The Oath of Office was administered to the remaining members of the West Hollywood Park Phase II Design Steering Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mark Lehman and seconded by Bernice Levin to approve the May 7th, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion approved with unanimously excluding Committee members David Aghaei and Ruth Tittle whom abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ANDREW WEIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, would like the project to be a model of sustainability and include green features such as: cisterns to collect rain water, PV panels, drought tolerant landscape and drip irrigation, LED lighting, LEED Certification and solar water heating.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Committee reviewed elements discussed at meeting #1. The Committee also discussed program elements established in the Master Plan, Environmental Report and Feasibility Study. Site constraints were reviewed by the Committee including: Fire access requirements effecting site and building areas; structural reinforcement of plinth garage; and mechanical, structural & plumbing requirements.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND INPUT INTO PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS

The design team presented a review and update of the programming requirements as outlined in the project's guiding documents, as well as those introduced by the Committee, design team, and staff. The following items were discussed:

First Level (El Tovar/Parking Level)

- Parking operations need to be clarified between all structures. Will there be a difference between Library, Park, and Sports Complex parking? Is there an opportunity to clear up existing confusion on where to park if you are visiting the park?
 - The design team clarified that the new ground level parking structure will most likely only be available for public parking after business hours. The City's Parking Division has been consulted and they are reviewing potential parking operations for this facility.
- Pedestrian access to Robertson needs attention. There is an opportunity for sidewalks on El Tovar. Currently people have to walk in the street.
- It is unfortunate that the floor plate of the building cannot be increased due to fire access (fire lane) restrictions. Opportunities to expand the floor plate and minimize the fire lane should be explored with the Fire Department.
 - The design team clarified that it is extremely difficult to circumvent the requirements of the Fire Department but they are in talks with the Fire Department and will be exploring the issue further.
- The loading zone on El Tovar is set back from the street to provide better circulation. Removable bollards will be installed to give access to the freight elevator and event staging area.
 - Pneumatic bollards could be used so bollards don't have to be manually removed.
 - Drop off area is also a pickup zone. There is an opportunity for some seating for people to wait while they get picked up or dropped off.
- Aesthetics of the El Tovar street level is a concern. Sidewalk needs to be wide enough. Lighting and materials will help. Don't want to see dark corners.
 - A walkway along the existing parking structure won't fit, but the new Rec Center is set back in order to provide a walkway.
- A question was asked regarding access to the new Sports Complex building and whether access could be provided at every level of the existing 5-level parking garage?

- The design team explained that that particular building wall is load bearing and so many openings could not be accommodated without major structural reengineering that would make it unfeasible.
- ADA access from the parking structures needs further exploration. Could it be more direct into the Sports Complex building?
- The freight elevator needs to be sized adequately to allow large, bulky, or tall items to be put in.

Second (Park/Gym) Level

- The running track cannot be accommodated due to the size of the floor plate
 - The running track was an item that was proposed by the design team but was not part of the RFP program.
- The emergency exit from back of the gym level will exit to the 2nd level of the 5-level parking garage.
- Dodge ball courts are oriented to align with a solid wall and not the glass windows.
- Bleacher set-up:
 - If permanent or temporary bleachers were set on the sides of the court, it could be possible to fit 3 dodge ball courts or volleyball courts.
 - How often will the NBA court be used vs. college court? Courts need to be set up for optimal use. The NBA court setup should not dictate the design of the space. The recreational court setup should take precedence as this will be the most used set up.
 - If gym is used for non-sporting events, the bleachers would provide adequate seating. Additional seating and a portable stage could be brought in and set up.
 - Storage for the portable bleacher is built into the project.
 - Are permanent bleachers actually needed? Portable bleachers only may be desired.
- The gym would be largest interior space in the park and should allow for flexible programming to the largest extent possible.
 - 4 dodge ball courts may be accommodated at once. May be possible to layout 2 or even 4 volleyball courts.
 - Volleyball needs extra space for serving and chasing balls. This may limit the number of volleyball courts set up at one time.
 - Could ballroom or flamenco dancing be accommodated in the gym? Explore dance exhibition options. This may necessitate an acoustic analysis.
Bi-fold or sliding glass doors into the courts will give the visual impact and feeling of openness as this space can merge into the lobby area for larger events, etc.
- The LED glass gym floor with flexible lane line configurations is a good idea.
 - Could it be used for ballroom dancing as well?
 - Does a glass floor have more injuries than a wood floor? No. Would like to understand the injury rate difference between traditional wood floor and LED Glass Floor. Explore how it performs. The LED Glass Floor is supposed to be NBA compliant.

- Glass floor lighting pattern needs to be pre-established, and preprogramed.
- Access to the main entry to the Sports Complex is from the park level.
 - The main security desk will be set up in the main entry and access will be controlled at a staff desk in this area as well.
 - More thought needs to be given on security and how that will be controlled.
 - Public access to the courts needs to be controlled. Look at UCLA's Arthur Ashe Center as a case study. Turnstiles had to be added later after the Center was built. This wasn't done well and the solution resulted looking and operating as an afterthought.
- Lockers need to be located in a convenient location.
 - Lockers should be checked out from staff to prevent transient usage.
- Tot area will have controlled access for security.
- A walled City staff office area at the front entry is not inviting and takes up valuable real estate. This does not give a good visual impact for the public. The staff area needs to be reconsidered, either in a different location or another configuration.
 - The staff area could be better if it was a large public lobby.

Grand Stair

- The stair contains many wood elements. Does wood have maintenance issues? Concrete or stone would be more durable. Consider construction and maintenance costs. Long term maintenance needs to be considered.
- Given the loss of running track, could the up and down directions on the running/fast track stair be made more runner friendly?
 - Signage will be explored that can differentiate the two running/stair climbing directions.
 - Signs will be used to help public differentiate fast track/exercise stair from the regular stair.
- Where are the elevators in relation to the stair from the lobby?
- Lighting opportunities are plentiful.
 - Event lighting
 - Take advantage of dramatically lighting the stairs at night so that it becomes an iconic element when seen from San Vicente.
- The Israel Museum in Jerusalem has a water element running down the stair. This is done very well in that instance. It may be a nice feature to introduce here to avoid a big expanse of cement.

Second Level

- All meeting spaces should have moveable/operable walls.
- The balcony view down into courts is a cool concept.
- Is it possible to move the staff area to this level instead of at the main entry?
 - Staff should go upstairs.
 - Staff currently located on the ground floor for security.
 - Staff needs to be accessible. Easy to find.

- But a large staff desk at the ground level may be enough visibility and security at the ground level without the need to house the entire staff in that location.
- This will be further explored.

Pool Deck

- Showers and locker rooms
 - The shower areas are very open. Where do you go to be warm?
 - Area heaters under the canopy could be used to keep warm.
 - The number of showers is too few and coordinating schedules when people get out of the pool is problematic.
 - There are 4 gender neutral showers proposed on this level.
 - Why not have separate men and women's change rooms?
 - Locker rooms could be provided a level below in the pool storage area (interstitial level).
 - Camps use the pool. How do you change 40-60 kids at once? Need a large changing room.
 - Gender neutral showers don't seem to be working.
 - The location or configuration of the showers on the pool deck does not make sense.
 - Still want restrooms on the pool deck but this has to be given more consideration.
 - 1% of West Hollywood's community is transgender, so gender neutral showers need to be provided.
 - Need to provide more locker/shower space equivalent to what is currently at the pool.
- How do we address noise concerns on pool deck?
 - Canopy structure will bounce noise back to park.
 - Usable space is set back from edge of building which will mitigate some of the noise concerns.
- The respite deck is accessed from the grand stairs and from a ramp from the pool deck.
 - There is no shading on respite deck.
 - This will allow the space to be more flexible and provide uninterrupted views to the hills.
- Lane ropes for pools.
 - Is there enough space for the spools on the pool deck?
 - Could lane lines be accessed via trap door to pull from below?
- Will there be a pool cover?
 - This will be investigated.
- Pool storage will be one deck below (in the interstitial area) and will be accessed from the freight elevator.
- The pool on the roof seems to have created some space issues.

West Hollywood Park

- Regulation soccer field does not fit on the existing lawn on North end, but a pick-up game can be played.
 - Could a Half soccer field could be an option? This will be studied.
 - The proposal is to explore infilling and flattening out existing flexible meadow near Library to making it more usable for pick-up sports play.
- Park staff set up a temporary kick ball field in the past.
 - It does work, but requires infrastructure and staffing to operate.
 - Can we include hidden pole mount locations into meadow?
- The Elton John AIDS Foundation event could move.
 - We should design around one function that happens once a year if our community will benefit from the changes in park at all other times.
- There is a retaining wall at the existing pool that could be left and used for handball courts.
- Children's Play area will be accessed from the top of the park, not from San Vicente.
 - Don't want kids to run out onto San Vicente.
- North edge of the park is not being addressed.
 - This area is outside of the project scope.
- Choices need to be made between active and passive uses.
 - Some would like a neighborhood park feel. There will be lots of active uses in the rec center and at the outdoor basketball courts.
 - At the same time, this is an urban park with lots of activities happening at all times.
 - Explore including fitness equipment and workout stations into park

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

- Shower area should be located below the pool deck. Showers area also needed at the pool level.
- Good to see that the rock climbing wall is out. The money would be better spent on playgrounds or sports equipment.
- The existing Library stairs need to be fixed or remodeled; they are too dangerous.
- The Grand Stair will look great with landscaping and with a water feature.
- A dog park/area should be looked at.
- Beautiful sports equipment is needed.

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

- Stairs at the existing Library are dangerous and difficult.
- Area adjacent to Cooley's and alley should be greener, more park like.
- The roof level impacts West Hollywood West.

- Light trespass and noise affects the neighborhood.
- Would like to see sound absorbing walls.

ESTHER BAUM, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on several components of the Project, including:

- How do you evacuate the building when the elevator goes to the ground floor?
- How do seniors evacuate?
- Stairs at Library don't work and handrails are disrupted.
- Where does pool water go during an earthquake?

COLE ETTMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, provided comments on several components of the Project, including:

- People would like an area for off-leash dog use. Need to find a place for dogs.
- Would like ability to play outdoor sports in an open field in West Hollywood Park.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- AIDS Monument update from Mark Lehman.
 - Presentation of 4 finalists on Monday.
 - All artists are treating approach very differently. Hopefully will be a wonderful addition to the park.
- Pool deck, lockers, showers need to be worked on.
- Need to understand that everything can't be accommodated in one project.
- Sports Complex will have active uses. Want the park to have more passive uses.
- Might want to look at redesigning the existing Library stairs.
- Lawn can be passive but should have infrastructure for multi-use flexibility.
- Infrastructure for multi-sport use is important.
 - Explore including hidden pole inserts for T-Ball / Kickball fields.
- Building and the park need to be integrated.
- Proximity to restrooms from the Children's Play area to the building is too far for small children.
 - Need publicly accessible restrooms near play areas.
- Need staff window or kiosk in the park to get play equipment or give out Band-Aids.
 - Could Staff go under the Grand Stair element?
- Tennis/Pool deck – could locker rooms be added to the tennis deck?
- Off leash dog use is a big concern for the Public Facilities Commission.
 - Off leash dog use is important.
 - This is outside of the project scope.
 - City staff needs to consider EIR and schedule implications.
 - This will only happen by the direction of Council.
- Look at options to relocate staff offices from the ground floor.
- A grand lobby would be good to consider.
- Movies in the park – outdoor screenings should be looked at.

ITEMS FROM STAFF

Francisco Contreras mentioned that tonight's presentation will be posted on the City's website for further review and asked that members submit any additional comments via email and they will be forward to LPA for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT:

The West Hollywood Park Phase II Design Steering Committee adjourned to their next scheduled meeting, which will be held on July 2, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069.