

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 13, 2016**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chair Rorie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commission Rodriguez, Commissioner Dolan and Commissioner Omelczenko, Commissioner Buckles, Chair Saur and Commissioner Bass.

ABSENT: Chair Saur.

ALSO PRESENT: Department of Public Works, Steve Campbell, Manager of Facilities and Field Services Division, and Helen Collins, Senior Administrative Analyst, Facilities and Field Services Division and Susana (Susy) Salazar, Recreation Coordinator.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

ACTION: Moved to approve the January 13, 2016 agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Bass, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and unanimously approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

ACTION: Approve the minutes dated December 9, 2015. Moved to approve with changes to the following: (changes are highlighted).

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

DON DAN MORIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke about the flow of information to the City Council from City Boards and Commissions. He then spoke about his offer to volunteer to assist Code Compliance several years ago.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Aging in Place / Aging in Community 5-Year Strategic Plan Draft

Paragraph 5 following Public Comment highlighted sentenced removed:

Commissioner Omelczenko mentioned that the City of Los Angeles has taken a proactive approach to Code Enforcement as it relates to rental properties. He went on to explain that they inspect the properties every four years as part of the

program; he added that in the City of West Hollywood enforcement is based on complaints. Commissioner Omelczenko mentioned that he likes the term Gathering Places. Commissioner Omelczenko also mentioned that Commissioner Rorie, Commissioner Dolan and himself, are on the Park Acquisition Committee and they should meet to look at vacant lots that could become pocket parks. ~~Commissioner Omelczenko discussed age friendly housing to include the parking lots.~~ Commissioner Omelczenko mentioned that he attended the recent Council Meeting; he then spoke about the Early Education development project and his concerns with the loss of affordable housing on Alfred as part of the project. He mentioned that an in lieu of fee should be charged and placed in an affordable housing development fund when a project eliminates affordable housing.

Motion by Commissioner Buckles, seconded by Commissioner Bass, and unanimously approved with the noted changes.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

DAVID WARREN, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke regarding his website.

RICHARD ANTONIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke in favor of the West Hollywood Park expansion plan. He also, registered his concern about smoking in the parks and stated it should not be allowed.

RICHARD GIESBRET, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke in favor of park at Norma Triangle.

NIR SILBERMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Registered his concern about the City's homelessness efforts.

JEFFREY WAACK, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Introduced himself as the Public Safety Commission Liaison. He also provided his input regarding homelessness in the City and he talked about surveillance cameras.

MICHAEL WOJTKIELWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke about accessibility at Hart Park and 1343 Laurel Avenue. He went on to discuss the Werle Building and the Recovery Center issues.

SHERIE STARK, - Spoke about Bonner/Robertson planning for park space at that location and how any changes should respect the coffee shop and neighborhood, at that location.

LARRY BLOCK, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke in favor of using a public facility for the homeless and stated that public restrooms should be made available on Santa Monica Boulevard.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Expressed concern on how the Los Angeles County Parks Needs Assessment Workshop was advertised. She

went on to register her concerns about a broken water line at Plummer Park and the time it took to repair it.

CATHY BLAIVIAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Spoke about homelessness and creative alternatives.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE**

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.**

7. **NEW BUSINESS – 6:40 p.m.**

A. Homeless Services During the 2016 El Niño Storm

David Giugni, Community Services Manager provided an overview of the City's current efforts in relation to the City's Homeless population.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NIR SILBERMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD – stated that the City's Priority is not helping the homeless.

LARRY BLOCK, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke regarding homelessness issues in the City.

CYNTHIA BLATT, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke about her experience with the homeless. She recommended that the City amend its CDBG Grant and take away money from PATH. She then suggested the West Hollywood Park Auditorium be used as a homeless shelter using CDBG Funds.

CATHY BLAIVIAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – stated that she echoed Cynthia Blatt's and Nir Silberman's Comments.

END PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Dolan thanked the Public Speakers and stated that he agrees that the time is now to act. He went on to recommend that the City look at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium and the Laurel Property as possible temporary locations so the homeless are not required to leave the City for service. Commissioner Dolan went on to discuss the traveling shower bus program Ms. Blaivias mentioned and thought perhaps this is something the City could look into. Commissioner Dolan then asked Mr. Giugni if he could clarify the process on how they contact him. Mr. Giugni explained that during the business day, they can come to City Hall and they are directed to his Division (Social Services) and they have direct response from the PATH Outreach Team, the Outreach Team from the Gay and Lesbian Center and through FRIENDS.

Commissioner Buckles stated that she appreciated everyone coming out and speaking on the issue. She went on to say that with respect to public facilities; what are our parks and our recreational facilities for, it is a philosophical question. She went on to state she understands one side of the debate that parks are for people to enjoy in her mind they are there for everyone in the

community. However, she stated anyone one of us could become homeless or need to seek refuge from an abusive partner. She feels that we need to look at a permanent space in West Hollywood for anyone who could need these type of services. In the short term it seems like an emergency that we would normally open our facilities for like an earthquake or a natural disaster, she feels we could make temporary use of the facilities now. She concluded by saying that if the homeless are not using the services available to them right now then we need to create new services.

Commissioner Bass asked Mr. Giugni for clarification, if someone was to walk in right now would the City have a bed for them. Mr. Giugni responded yes the City would have a hotel for them. Commissioner Bass stated that we are housing the homeless in West Hollywood; Mr. Giugni commented that the hotel is not in West Hollywood. Commissioner Bass stated that he feels the hotels should be closer. Commissioner Bass then stated that he has the philosophical believe that our public facilities are for the entire public to use and he believes that if we turn them into homeless shelters we are excluding those facilities for the majority of our residents to use. He mentioned that it may be worth exploring the Laurel Property because he does believe that the City needs a solution but since it is mothballed he believes that it will take longer to get it operational then the storm will take, staff confirmed that yes the facility would require work to be usable by the public. Commissioner Bass went on to discuss his personal experience with a member of the homeless community.

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked those who spoke and then he asked Mr. Giugni if there was a homeless count done recently in the City. Mr. Giugni responded that it is coming up, it is done every year in January and the at last year's count was 43. Commissioner Rodriguez then inquired as to what the City did during the most recent El Nino Storm? Mr. Giugni responded that the PATH Outreach team and the Department of Mental Health proactively went into the Community and over to Love No Hate to provide services. Commissioner Rodriguez asked if the beds available to the City at PATH are ever maxed out. Mr. Giugni responded yes the 10 city beds at PATH are, but the City has other resources. Commissioner Rodriguez also asked if there is a number for businesses to reach the PATH Outreach Team, the response was yes. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he concurs with Commission Bass that the City does need to look at having something closer and the location that he feels would that would be the most logical as a temporary measure is 1343 Laurel, it has been inactive for years. He went on to mention that he also agrees with Commission Bass that we have to be careful not to turn our parks into homeless shelters since they are for everyone in the community.

Commissioner Omelczenko thanked everyone for coming out. He went on to say he was happy to see what the City is doing for the homeless. He went on to ask if he was a homeless gay man and the rain was coming down at night in the City; could he flag down a Sheriff for help. Mr. Giugni responded yes he could and they would take him to a hotel. Commissioner Omelczenko then inquired how many beds does the City have at the LGBT Center and are there beds available at the Youth Center. Mr. Giugni responded that yes there are beds available and

he provided a summary of other locations and the number of beds. Commissioner Omelczenko inquired if the City has run into any issues with maxing out the number of beds at those locations. Mr. Giugni stated that they were in constant contact with the shelters during the last storm they did not max out. Commissioner Omelczenko stated that he concurs with Commissioner Buckles and Commissioner Dolan about the need for a warming shelter in the City. He went on to say that he does not want to displace programs but perhaps we could use less used City facilities as warming centers especially during this emergency, like 1343 Laurel and the WEHO Auditorium.

Vice Chair Rorie mentioned that this is what is great about being on the Commission, being able to hear the dialogue about this issue and see it unfold and continue to unfold.

ACTION: Recommend to the City Council to consider warming centers in West Hollywood, in general; public facilities to be included.

Motion by Commissioner Omelczenko with friendly amendment by Commissioner Bass, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment Workshop

Staff provided an overview of the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment process and requested the assistance of the Public Facilities Commission to facilitate the Workshop. Staff reviewed the list of recommended projects and then requested input from the members of the Community in attendance to prioritize 10 projects. A total of 43 projects were placed on activity forms and the Commissioners and the members of the Community were each given 10 dots to vote for their favorite projects. The staff outlined that projects for new parks counted as 3 projects, new amenities at existing City facilities counted as 2 projects and maintenance and repair of existing facilities counted as 1 project.(Sheets attached)

PUBLIC COMMENT

MICHAEL WOJKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Expressed his concern about the lack of notice for the workshop.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Omelczenko provided a list of the projects to be added to the existing forms. Commissioner Omelczenko mentioned that during the presentation a percentage of linguistically challenged members of the community was provided. He inquired if the workshop had been advertised to the Russian Community. Staff responded that they followed the normal procedures for advertising events; staff stated the Commissioners concern is understood and noted.

Commissioner Rodriguez briefly mentioned that Hart Park Dog Park and the Bonner/Robertson Project. He also stated that projects are still going to happen aside from this process.

Commissioner Bass and Commissioner Buckles spoke about the notification process.

Commissioner Dolan thanked the public for coming out.

Staff inquired if there were any additional projects from the public, with no additional projects staff handed out the green dots and the voting began.

ACTION: Forward the top 10 projects as prioritized by the Commission and Community Members to the City Council for approval as compiled by staff following the meeting; to send to Los Angeles County to be included in the Countywide Park Needs Assessment process.

Motion by Commissioner Dolan by Commissioner Rodriguez, and approved by 5-1 vote with Commissioner Bass voting no, due to the fact that he preferred to see the final list prior to making the recommendation.

11. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Staff provided an overview on the Division's El Nino Preparedness efforts to include the distribution of pre-filled sand bags to residents.

14. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioner Dolan mentioned that he is volunteering to assist with the homeless count.

Commissioner Bass thanked the community for attending. Commissioner Bass was glad that the Commission was united on the homeless vote. He then thanked the Vice-Chair for a great job on his 1st meeting.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that it was a fantastic meeting. He mentioned that as community leaders that they should take it upon themselves to notify their groups and subscribe to the City's weekly calendar about events and activities.

Commissioner Omelczenko inquired about the State Law regarding smoking in Parks. Staff stated that the law only prohibits smoking at certain distance for playgrounds and other areas but not the entire park. Staff went on to state that a complete ban would require a City Ordinance and reminded the Commission that Recreation is working on Parks Rules. Commissioner Omelczenko stated that since he is the Commissions Representative on the Parks Rules Committee he

will bring it up when they meet. Commissioner Omelczenko mentioned the need for the Commission to be involved in the new two year budget. Commissioner Omelczenko stated that he is looking forward to the Brown Act Training.

Commissioner Bass spoke about the need for a master city plan for parks.

Commissioner Dolan mentioned that he is in support of a smoking ban in the parks and all of the Commissioners concurred.

Vice Chair Rorie thanked the Community members and the Commissioners for a good meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned, at 9:15 pm to their next regularly scheduled meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Public Meeting Room (Council Chambers) at, West Hollywood Park, located at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.

Motion by Commissioner Omelczenko seconded by Commissioner Dolan, and approved unanimously.



Helen Collins, Recording Secretary



Frank Rorie, Vice Chair

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.
(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)