

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
December 9, 2015**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Saur 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:** Vice Chair Rorie.

**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.

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**ACTION:** Approve the December 9, 2015 agenda. Moved to approved the agenda with the tabling of item 8.A.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes dated November 5, 2015. Moved to approve with changes to the last paragraph of comments for the Werle Project, the changes are highlighted.

Commissioner **Dolan Bass** inquired if staff received input from the West Hollywood Recovery Center, staff commented yes they met with Board Members but they would be more than willing to conduct a pop-up meeting. Commissioner **Dolan Bass** mentioned that possibly a security guard could be used to alleviate some of the concerns.

**Motion by Commissioner Dolan, seconded by Commissioner Bass, and unanimously approved.**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

LARRY BLOCK, WEST HOLLYWOOD - expressed his concern for the homeless in the City and inquired if the City could use one of its public facilities to create a safe haven for the homeless.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE**

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.**

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

DAN MORIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD – congratulated Ms. Savage and her staff on the Aging in Place Report. He went on to discuss that Aging in Place is a wonderful concept but individuals on long term rent control are being Ellised out of their homes.

**END OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Elizabeth Savage the Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization provide a summary presentation of the Draft Aging in Place Report and asked the Commission to provide comments at the meeting or via email in the next week.

Commissioner Dolan thanked Ms. Savage for the presentation and stated that people have been waiting for this Report for a long time. Commissioner Dolan mentioned that a point of interest to him is that 11% of the City's population is below the poverty level and many residents are below the median income level but the City is consistently noted as a good to excellent place to live. Ms. Savage responded that actually the median income is higher than the County average. Ms. Savage went on to state that there is a pocket of senior poverty in the City, but people want to stay in the City. She mentioned that the City has a social services network to provide services to those individuals that may need assistance.

Commissioner Buckles commended the scope and depth of the project. She went on to state that it is very clear that a great deal of input was solicited for this project and it should be a model for other projects. Commissioner Buckles stated that she is curious about the Russian Community involvement in the process. Ms. Savage stated that the Russian Advisory Board was involved and Russian speaking staff reached out to Russian speaking seniors to hear their voices. Commissioner Buckles mentioned that emergency preparedness was not discussed and she is wondering if it is accounted for. Ms. Savage mentioned that she would include it. Commissioner Buckles stated that she like the term of Gathering Places versus Senior Centers, as mentioned in the presentation.

Commissioner Bass thanked Ms. Savage and her team for all their hard work on the Report. Commissioner Bass went on to state that it is great to live in City that takes these things into consideration. Commissioner Bass mentioned that while it falls out of the Commissions purview he is still concerned about Development eliminating housing stock for seniors. He is also concerned about the quality of programming at the Senior Center and he referenced Chair Saur's experience with afternoon movies at Plummer Park. Commissioner Bass went on to say that the Public Facilities Commission should focus on places to build community and the added that he likes the idea of Gathering Center.

Commissioner Bass concluded by saying initially he was not interest in the concept but now he finds it fascinating and he was wrong not wanting to be involved in the beginning.

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 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.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he appreciated the outreach conducted and he feels that Ms. Savage's team did a great analysis. He went on to mention that the lack of assisted living is mentioned on page 32 of the report. He said it is difficult to age in a community that does not have these type of services within it's boundaries. Commissioner Rodriguez went on to say that assisted living needs should be prioritized by the City. Residents who don't want to leave the City are stuck without needed services. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he hopes it is prioritized by the City and he discussed the property owned by the City at 1343 Laurel Avenue as a suitable option for an assisted living location.

Chair Saur congratulated Ms. Savage on a great job with the Report. Chair Saur stated the Commission had great comments. She mentioned that older individuals don't always have a ride home from meetings and this is a problem. She went on to say that another issue is bikes riding on the sidewalk with seniors using the same sidewalks.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he agrees with the issue of bicycles on the sidewalk and another problem is overgrown hedges adjacent to the sidewalks, serve as obstacles.

**ACTION:** Received the draft 5-year Strategic Plan and provided comments.

**Motion by Chair Saur, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and unanimously approved.**

B. "CAN YOU DIG IT?" - Temporary Art Exhibition

Andrew Campbell, Cultural Affairs Administrator, provided a brief introduction and then turned it over to Commissioner Bass and Commissioner Dolan, as they took part in the selection process:

Commissioner Bass stated that it was a privilege to serve on the Committee. He stated he was happy that staff was able to work it out that both Commissioner Dolan and himself were able to participate. Commissioner Bass stated the entire Committee agreed on the top four selections.

Commissioner Dolan thanked everyone that he was included in the process. He commented that the scope of the projects showed the range from a great amount of water to the lack of water and the artworks speak to conservation.

Chair Saur inquired as to what the material for the Tree project was made of, Mr. A. Campbell responded Recycled PVC. Staff mentioned that they had a discussion with Mr. A. Campbell and his staff regarding the materials to ensure that it would not damage the tree.

**ACTION:** Receive and file.

**Motion by Commissioner Bass, seconded by Commissioner Dolan, and unanimously approved.**

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Commissioner Training – Provided by City Clerk’s Office – **ITEM TABLED AS PART OF AGENDA APPROVAL**

B. Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment

Staff provided a summary recommending to the Public Facilities Commission to consider setting January 13, 2016, for the facilitation of a Workshop for the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment as part of its regularly scheduled meeting. The need for dog parks was mentioned by the Commissioner, staff stated that they would inquire if a dog park qualified and let the Commission know.

**ACTION:** Moved to approve the placement of a Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment Workshop as an agenda item for the Public Facilities Commissions regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2016.

**Motion by Commissioner Buckles, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and unanimously approved.**

9. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: None.**

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.**

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.

11. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:**

Staff provided an update on the City's water conservation efforts, the Automated Garage and the status of the Kings Road Park Project and the Werle Building.

## 12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioner Rodriguez commented that Restoration Hardware to down the ficus trees discussed at the last meeting and how did that happen. Staff stated that the Commission recommended that the item be sent back to Planning.

Commissioner Omelczenko inquired about the removal of the ficus at Restoration Hardware and asked how the Planning Department allowed it to be removed. Staff mentioned that the Council approved Plan calls for the planting of one of the recommended trees, which is what staff believes transpired. Commissioner Omelczenko inquired who decided which tree they should plant, staff responded staff.

Commissioner Dolan stated that the Commission should not micromanage the process it is part of a Council approved plan. Commission Bass concurred with Commissioner Dolan's comment.

Chair Saur inquired if everyone was done commenting on the trees.

Commissioner Omelczenko inquired about using public facilities for the homeless during El Nino as mentioned early by Mr. Block.

Chair Saur responded that is not the best use of the facilities and this topic is not under the Public Facilities Commissions purview, that it would be a Human Services discussion.

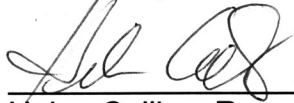
Commissioner Bass commented that public facilities are intended for the benefit of the entire community, and that though housing the homeless is important, public buildings and places already actively used shouldn't be taken out of commission for this type of housing purpose.

He then thanked staff for conducting the pop-ups for the Werle Building Project.

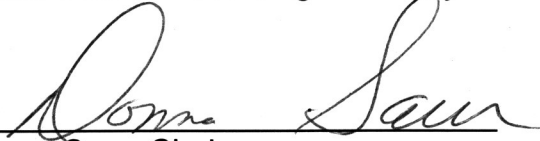
Chair Saur mentioned that the Plummer Park Playground is crowded and it should be expanded when we receive the RDA money back.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned in the memory of Brad Burlingame, at 8:42 pm to their next regularly scheduled meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 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.



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Helen Collins, Recording Secretary



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Donna Saur, 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.)*