

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 13, 2015**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Bass called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioner Ettman, Commissioner Rorie, Commission Anthony, and Commissioner Goldenberg, Vice Chair Saur and Chair Bass.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Department of Public Works, Steve Campbell, Manager of Facilities and Field Services Division, Kevin Trudeau, Superintendent of Facilities and Field Services Division, Helen Collins, Senior Administrative Analyst, Facilities and Field Services Division and Michelle Bell, Administrative Analyst.

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice Chair Saur led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **OATH OF OFFICE:**

Mayor Pro Tem Meister administered the Oath of Office to Victor Omelczenko.

Commissioner Omelczenko was sworn in under item 2 which followed role call; he was in attendance for the remainder of the meeting.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

ACTION: Approve the May 13, 2015 agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Anthony, seconded by Vice Chair Saur and unanimously approved.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

ACTION: Approve the minutes dated March 11, 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Anthony, seconded by Commissioner Rorie, and approved, noting the abstention of Commissioner Omelczenko.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

JESSIE LANSKY, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke regarding and open house event for the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 from 5-7pm.

CATHY BLAIVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD - congratulated Commissioner Omelczenko and spoke regarding picnic tables at Plummer Park, protecting trees with corrals and changing the date of the Eastside Working Group.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD - congratulated Commissioner Omelczenko; spoke regarding drought resistant plants and wood rot on the Plummer Park sign.

LAURA BOCCALETTI, WEST HOLLYWOOD - congratulated Commissioner Omelczenko; spoke regarding turning off the Sal Guarriello Veteran's Memorial fountain to conserve water and a broken sprinkler head at Plummer Park.

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD - congratulated Commissioner Omelczenko; spoke regarding concrete work at Plummer Park; and the pads under the picnic tables not large enough and changing the date of the Eastside Working Group.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. West Hollywood Park Phase II - Dog Park

1. Update:

Steve Campbell, Manager of Facilities and Field Services provided a presentation on the background information included in the staff report.

Commissioner Ettman commented on not receiving design documents during the ad-hoc advisory process. The design was presented only digitally during the ad-hoc meetings with the Design Team.

Chair Bass commented that the ad-hoc advisory process with the Design Team was very productive. He stated that he supported a motion to send the design as presented to the City Council and have it return to the Public Facilities Commission for a final approval before the City Council final approval.

Commissioner Ettman added the following Ad-Hoc Committee comments:

- The dog parks are being designed to maximize the usable space for dogs:
 - Small Dog Park= 4,250 SF
 - Large Dog Park = 7,350 SF

- The tree locations, relocations and species have been studied to provide ample shade.
- Artificial “K9” turf to be provided in both parks, with drainage system and proper grading below.
- Simple mounds and turf terraces provide dog play-areas while allowing for a maximum amount of open/free space; these “play areas” will be further developed as the design proceeds
- Dogs do not like to be cornered, and therefore the corners of the parks have been rounded slightly; the small amount of “dead space” created by the rounded corners is being repurposed for support elements such as a hose bib
- The perimeter conditions of both parks have been carefully considered to maximize visibility to/from the park, with strategic setbacks for screening (narrow strips of planting) to either buffer between the dog park and basketball uses, or to soften the street edge along San Vicente Blvd.
- Fence heights are kept low (4’ tall) except along San Vicente and the alley edge where it is raised to 5’ tall.
- Fencing will be transparent, likely to be a vinyl coated welded wire mesh material.
- A counter element will be provided to facilitate interaction between people inside and outside the dog park.
- The dual gate entrances are being right-sized to be comfortable, but to accommodate only one person at a time (one dog companion may have more than one dog).
- Benches (some with backs) are located in shaded areas, predominantly around the edges of the dog park so as not to take up usable dog play-space.
- Support furnishings such as watering bowl/water bottle filler and doggie waste stations are strategically placed so that they are convenient but outside of the main traffic area at the entrance.
- Storage is recommended to be incorporated into the WHP bathroom so as to minimize the number of ancillary buildings in the park, and to preserve as much space within the dog parks for dog use.

- Dog Park information signage (dog park rules, bulletin board) is being designed and located to be visible for dog park users but to minimize visual clutter.
- Commissioner Ettman added that he would like to see the existing utility box that is within the Large Dog Park area be removed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD - commented on keeping the benches away from the fences so dogs cannot jump over and keeping the fence along the alley and the San Vicente side so people do not taunt the dogs.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD - stated her concern about the removal of parking, artificial turf and water use.

CATHY BLAIVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD - spoke in support of doggie waste stations to generate light and looking at options to use waste; she also spoke in support of rolling hills instead of tiers/terraces.

LAURA BOCALLETTI, WEST HOLLYWOOD – expressed concern about artificial turf cleaning due to drought.

Commissioner Anthony asked if the Steering Committee design was represented in the ad hoc recommended design. He also asked questions regarding the utility box and the terraces. He stated that he did not understand the counters.

Commissioner Goldenberg commented that the parks are for the people and their dogs and she does not support artificial turf. She did not support the counters and suggested that the terraces be made of grass which is soft and not concrete.

Vice Chair Saur suggested that due to water conservation efforts that shade sails be used instead of trees. She commented that dog urination could be a problem for the trees but if trees are provided, let the dogs urinate on them. Otherwise she was supportive of the design.

Commissioner Rorie spoke in support of trees, artificial turf, no counters, taller fence on San Vicente, benches away from the fence, transparency by posting the design for community input and he spoke in support of the design returning to the Public Facilities Commission prior to the final approval of City Council. He had questions concerning the budget.

Commissioner Omelczenko asked for clarification on the members of the Design Team.

Chair Bass commented on making the fences as low as possible. He also stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee started with the Design Team recommendations for the dog park. He stated that the artificial turf was a recommendation of the Design Team.

Commissioner Ettman stated that he would support a motion to include the narrow strip north of the basketball courts by considered by the City Council again.

Discussion ensued.

ACTION: Recommend to City Council that the [Schematic] Design advance to the next phase of design, with the following changes, and return to the full PFC before Final Design approval:

1. Remove the counter element
2. Soften the turf terraces in the Large Dog Park to become rolling hills
3. Study the possibility of removing or relocating the large utility box out of the Large Dog Park.

Motion Commissioner Ettman, seconded by Vice Chair Saur and approved noting the NO vote by Commissioner Goldenberg and the ABSTENTION of Commissioner Omelczenko

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Committee Appointment

1. Update:

ACTION: Chair Bass appointed Commissioner Omelczenko to the Park Acquisition Guidelines and Revenue and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan.

Chair Bass also appointed Commissioner Ettman to the Hart Park Off-Leash Dog Park Committee.

B. Water Conservation:

1. Update:

Steve Campbell, Manager of Facilities and Field Services provided and update on the Water Conservation efforts that the City is currently doing regarding Irrigation Based Strategies and Plant Based Strategies.

Vice Chair asked what can be done about landlords who reduce water use and cause the blight.

Commissioner Goldenberg commented on a water drop system like they have in Israel.

Commissioner Ettman commented on construction runoff; changing the code for new development.

Commissioner Rorie spoke in support of turning off the fountains and it would be a symbolic gesture.

Commissioner Omelczenko spoke in support of drought tolerant plants.

Chair Bass stated that he did not support suspension of planting new street trees.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MICHAEL WOJKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD - commented on Sierra Bonita.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD - spoke in support of grey water system; turning off the fountains and drought tolerant plants.

ACTION: Direct staff to recommend to the City Council that water be turned off to the fountains as a symbolic measure due to the drought.

Motion Commissioner Rorie, seconded by Commissioner Omelczenko and approved, noting the NO votes of Commissioner Goldenberg and Vice Chair Saur.

C. Facility Maintenance:

1. Activity Report:

Kevin Trudeau, Facilities and Landscape Superintendent provided an activity report on items that the facility and maintenance crew are working on.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CATHY BLAIVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke about her concern regarding the concrete work and installation of new benches and she spoke in favor of the new plantings. She also mentioned the problems with the drinking fountain by the Pre-School and the park sign.

Commissioner Omelczenko spoke at about the water play station in the Pre-School area and how it is leaking and wasting water. Commissioner Omelczenko also concurred with Ms. Blaivis that the drinking fountain is a problem.

Mr. Trudeau added that the water play station is going to be removed in the next week and that staff is working with a Plummer to get the drinking fountain repaired. Also the park sign is going to be replaced.

Commissioner Goldenberg inquired if they could fix the shower heads at the Pool and she inquired if Sierra Bonita is City Facility (staff responded that it is not).

Vice Chair Saur mentioned that the lighting outside of the Community Meeting Room along the Promenade is very dim. Mr. Campbell stated that staff is looking at that.

Commissioner Ettman inquired about more shade at Plummer Park and he also asked staff about their costs for the Sunset ½ Marathon. Staff stated that there were some staffing costs to monitor the Park, but the event basically took care of itself.

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: NONE.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD commented on issues at Sierra Bonita, talked about the West Hollywood Park Dog Park and public input and discussed improvements at Plummer Park.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF: None.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioner Goldenberg mentioned that the clock at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue doesn't work. She also mentioned that she encounter dogs off-leash in Plummer Park. She also mentioned that the property at Melrose and Doheny placed a bench between the two trees.

Vice Chair Saur stated that she would like to see the Eastside Task Force bring their recommendations to the Commission. She also added that she thinks more benches in Plummer Park are a good thing.

Commissioner Ettman mentioned that he still feels that a member of the public should have been on the Dog Park AD Hoc Committee. He went on to talk about not moving Great Hall/Long Hal and stated that the item will return after the election.

Commissioner Rorie spoke about his attendance at the Aging in Place Workshop and provided an overview of the event. He stated that the feedback from workshop should come to the Commission.

Commissioner Omelczenko spoke about attending the Aging in Place Workshop as well. He went on to discuss his interest in developing neighborhood pocket park. In addition, he asked that an item be added to a future agenda to discuss Commission input into new development/buildings that affect parkway trees and streetscapes.

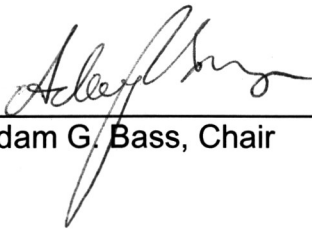
Chair Bass welcomed Commissioner Omelczenko and thanked the Commission for the incredible work at the meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bass adjourned the meeting by consensus, at 9:26pm to their regularly scheduled meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Community Room at, West Hollywood Park, located at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.



Michelle Bell, Recording Secretary



Adam G. Bass, 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.)