

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
June 10, 2015**

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

**A. ROLL CALL:**

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Ettman.

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

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**ACTION:** Approve the June 10, 2015 agenda.

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

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes dated May 13, 2015.

**Motion by Commissioner Rorie, seconded by Commissioner Goldenberg, and approved, with the following changes:**

Roll Call shall be amended to read as follows

**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.

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

Page 4, paragraph 6, comment by Commissioner Goldenberg should read as follows:

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.

Page 6, line 2, comment by Commissioner Bass should read as follows:

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

Page 7, Item #13 Commissioner Comments/Subcommittee Reports, paragraph 5, the following shall be added to the comments by Commissioner Omelczenko as follows:

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.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Expressed the need for Wi-Fi in Public Facilities in West Hollywood. He also spoke about lighting around Public Facilities, issues with trash at the bus stops and water around the base of the drinking fountain next to the Pre-school at Plummer Park, pictures attached.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.**

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE.**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Ocean-Friendly Demonstration Garden Proposed for Santa Monica Blvd. Street Median**  
**1. West Basin Municipal Water District**

Mr. Campbell introduced the item and Director Scott Houston and Mr. Gus Meza

from the West Basin Municipal Water District. Director Houston provided an overview of the program and then Mr. Meza gave a presentation outlining the grant program and the City obligations. The Commission asked the following questions;

Commissioner Goldenberg inquired about the type of plants, Mr. Meza stated that the plants would be drought tolerant and the design would come back to the staff for review and Mr. Campbell stated that it would be brought back to the Commission as well.

Commissioner Goldenberg also inquired about the purpose of the class that is part of the grant. Mr. Meza explained that the class is to teach residents how to convert their landscape at home to drought tolerant. He stated that there will also be a hands-on component which will allow class participants to assist with the planting of the plants at the grant location.

Commissioner Omelczenko inquired how many people can take the class? Director Houston and Mr. Meza said about 50-60 people for the class and 15-20 people for the hands-on portion.

Commissioner Saur inquired if the trees were staying. Mr. Campbell responded that the trees would remain. She also inquired about the reason for the length of 5 years, Mr. Meza responded that it is a big investment on West Basins part and Mr. Campbell added that staff does not feel the length is an issue.

Commissioner Omelczenko inquired if there was a cash match from the City? Mr. Meza stated that there is no match required from the City.

Commissioner Rorie inquired if the new landscape would have a maintenance cost saving. Staff stated that yes most likely it would and it would definitely provide water savings.

Commissioner Goldenberg stated that the examples look like weeds and she is concerned with this at the entry way to the City. She stated that she would like to see the plants before they are planted. Director Houston stated the City will have input on the design.

Commissioner Bass asked how the location was selected. Director Houston stated that it is a high traffic area and the visibility is great. Mr. Campbell added that the location is good for a demonstration garden.

Commissioner Anthony inquired if the Commission would have input into the selection of the Landscape Architect. Mr. Meza responded that they City would have input on the design but the West Basin would select the Landscape Architect through their process. Commissioner Anthony registered his concern with that process.

Public Comment:

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – he expressed his concern with the selected location.

End of Public Comment

Commissioner Saur stated that she thought it was a wonderful opportunity. She then stated that she thinks the plants should be tagged so when people go out and look at the plants to get ideas they will know the names of the plants.

Commissioner Rorie thanked the guest from the West Basin and stated that he thinks we should move forward with approving recommendation #1 and #2 with the addition of the phrase - if no other suitable locations are available in the City as part of recommendation #2. He did mention that he thought the Eastside would be a great location for a demonstration garden. Commissioner Rorie also mentioned that perhaps they should change or modify the name to add drought tolerant, for branding purposes.

Mr. Campbell mentioned that the main reason for the selection of the median was in response to the Governor's mandate to stop watering the medians with potable water. He added that this would be a good opportunity to start work on the medians to remove the turf and plant drought tolerant plantings.

Commissioner Anthony mentioned that none of the projects were done in a median, he stated that he likes consistency and this is just a small piece of a large area and he thinks the project would be better placed at another location. He mentioned that he agrees with Commissioner Rorie regarding looking at other locations. He posed the possibilities: Plummer Park, Matthew Shepard Triangle and the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial. He closed by saying if there is no other option then we should do the project at the median.

Commissioner Omelczenko stated that he was excited to see a project like this for one of the City's gateway locations. He went on to state that this great example for a prominent location. He also stated that as additional funding becomes available then something should be done on the Eastside as well.

Commissioner Bass wanted to echo Commissioner Rorie's comments that we should move forward with approving recommendation #1 and #2 with the addition of the phrase - if no other suitable locations are available in the City as part of recommendation #2.

Commissioner Bass called for the motion.

**ACTION:** Approve recommendation #1 as stated and approve recommendation #2 with the following change:

After – N. Almont add: if no other suitable locations are available in the City.

**Motion by Commissioner Rorie, seconded by Commissioner Bass, and approved with the following vote:**

**4 – Yes (Goldenberg, Rorie, Bass and Saur)**

**2 – No (Anthony and Omelczenko)**

**Motion passed 4-2.**

**B. Hart Park Off-Leash Dog Park Committee**  
**1. Meeting Schedule**

Staff provided a report discussing the current monthly meeting schedule and proposed a change to quarterly.

Commissioner Goldenberg and Commissioner Bass agree that the Committee should only meet quarterly.

Public Comment:

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – talked about his request to move the meeting to another date.

End of Public Comment

**ACTION:** Approve recommendation that the Hart Park Off-Leash Dog Park Committee regularly scheduled meetings return to quarterly from monthly.

**Motion by Commissioner Goldenberg, seconded by Commissioner Saur, and approved unanimously**

**C. Facilities and Field Services Division Capital Projects**  
**1. Update**

Staff provided an overview of the upcoming Capital Projects.

Commissioner Omelczenko inquired Laurel Park. Staff responded that the project for Laurel Park/House is being handled by the Strategic Initiative office and his point of contact is Francisco Contreras.

Commissioner Omelczenko also inquired as to why Great Hall/Long Hall was not included. Staff stated that work maintenance is being done at Great Hall/Long Hall which does not fall into the Capital Project Scope. Staff went on to explain that many things need to be factored in when doing a Project on a property listed in the Federal Register of Historic Places, such as Great Hall/Long Hall.

Commissioner Omelczenko mentioned Playground Capital Projects. Staff informed him that there are no major projects slated for the current Playgrounds, however, maintenance and upkeep are taking very seriously.

Commissioner Goldenberg inquired about reclaiming of water for City Facilities. Staff explained that gray water use is not allowed and the as for treated reclaimed water, the City does not have the ability to treat water.

Public Comment

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke about cameras and Wi-Fi in public parks. He also expressed concerns regarding the height of the private property fence boarding the north side of the Detroit Community Garden.

CATHY BLAIVIAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke regarding the upcoming the

Historic Preservation Commissions upcoming Gala on July 22, 2015 at Long Hall/Great Hall.

End of Public Comment

**ACTION:** Receive and File Facilities and Field Services Division Capital Projects Update.

**Motion by Commissioner Saur, seconded by Commissioner Rorie, and approved unanimously.**

**D. Facility Maintenance**

**1. Activity Report**

Staff provided an update on the ongoing maintenance activities since the last meeting.

Commissioner Omelczenko commented replacing the turf at West Hollywood Park following CSW. Staff clarified that is part of the normal annual that is delayed until after CSW and that it is not a direct result of CSW. Staff also added that CSW is still responsible to pay for any damages to the turf and irrigation.

Commissioner Goldenberg thanked staff for the report and requested that staff look into returning the benches in Plummer Park that were removed when new pathways were installed. She went on to state that she appreciates that the shower heads in the pool are being upgraded.

Commissioner Goldenberg also spoke about the bench between two trees at the Melrose Triangle and she asked staff to take a look. In closing she spoke about the clock on the southwest corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, not working.

Public Comment

MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD – spoke about the City contracted pressure washer making noise at 1:00 a.m. around 7530 Santa Monica Boulevard. He also spoke about the picnic tables at Plummer Park.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD – she thanked Commissioner Goldenberg for bringing mentioning the benches that were moved. She went on to encourage the Commissioners to join in on her monthly walk with staff through Plummer Park. In closing she stated that the clock in Rooms 5&6 in the Community Center at Plummer Park does not work.

CATHY BLAIVIAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – thanked staff for work at Plummer Park. She did request that we change out the Bike Racks next to Fiesta Hall to match the ones by the Teen Center.

**ACTION:** Receive and File Facility Maintenance and Activity Report.

**Motion by Commissioner Rorie, seconded by Commissioner Saur, and approved unanimously.**

**10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: NONE.**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

MARCI NORTON, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Provided an update on the recent Public Safety Commission Meeting in her capacity as the Vice Chair. She spoke about the community concerns with the recent attack.

CATHY BLAIVIAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD – she spoke about the upcoming Historic Preservation Commissions Annual Gala on July 22, 2015 at Great Hall/Long Hall. She also mentioned the importance of the Cameras in reference to public safety.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD – she spoke about cameras and public safety. She also mentioned the Historic Preservation Commissions upcoming event at Great Hall/Long Hall and she asked the Commission to support restore in place.

**12. ITEMS FROM STAFF:**

Staff updated the Commission on Park closure plans for CSW. Staff also updated the Commission regarding power concerns in the EOC and the installation of the Dog Rules and Etiquette Signs at Hart Park.

**13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commissioner Omelczenko discussed the recent Public Safety meeting and requested that lighting in public places be put on a future agenda. He also inquired why the Commission was not involved in the upcoming "State of the City" event at the PDC. Staff clarified that the event is more of a program based in Economic Development and does not pertain to the things the Commission handles.

Commissioner Omelczenko asked if we had liaisons to other Commissions in reference to Ms. Norton's attendance as the liaison from the Public Safety Commission. Staff responded that the Commission has not designated representative for this purpose. Staff will return with an item in the future to discuss this.

Commissioner Rorie stated that he was happy to hear about water conservation as part of the Commission Agenda. He then thanked Commissioner Omelczenko for bringing up the Commissioner stand on fountains and he is glad to hear that the item will be going to Council as part of a comprehensive agenda item.

Commissioner Anthony thanked Chair Bass for running a great meeting. He also re-stated that he is in favor of Drought Tolerant plantings just not in the location identified in the earlier presentation.

Commissioner Goldenberg thanked Chair Bass for running a great meeting as well. She then went on to state that she is glad about the project in the medians. She also talked about the new art in front of the pool and how much she liked it. She stated that she is looking forward to more dog parks in the City and she wants to see signs about people picking up after their dogs. She closed by stating that she thinks the Laurel Property should still be considered for the development of low income housing.

Commissioner Saur stated that she felt the meeting was very informative and thanked her fellow Commissioners for passing the grant recommendation.

Commissioner Bass thanked his fellow Commissioners. He then mentioned that there may be new Commissioner Appointments on Monday, so the composition of the Commission may be different at the next meeting.

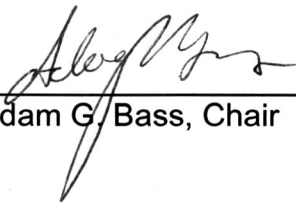
**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Bass adjourned the meeting by consensus, at 9:00 pm to their regularly scheduled meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Community Room at, West Hollywood Park, located at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.



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Helen Collins, Recording Secretary



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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.)**