

**PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 08, 2019
WEST HOLLYWOOD COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069**

6:30 P.M. – SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Torres called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Torres; Vice Chair Millan; Commissioner Block; Commissioner Isaacs; and Commissioner Polachek.

ABSENT: Commissioner Sunnanon.

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services Manager; Bianca Siegl, Long Range and Mobility Planning Manager; Scott Smith, Urban Forest and Landscape Maintenance Supervisor; Garen Yolles, Associate Planner; Erin Hamant, Senior Administrative Analyst; and Debbie Gonzalez, Administrative Coordinator.

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

2. OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to Elaine Polachek, appointed by Councilmember Duran.

The Oath of Office was administered by Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services Division Manager.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Millan requested to add Commissioner Comments as item 6 on the Agenda.

ACTION: Approve the May 08, 2019 Agenda as amended.

Motion by Vice Chair Millan, seconded by Commissioner Block, and approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes, dated March 13, 2019, of the prior Public Facilities Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Block, seconded by Commissioner Isaacs, and approved unanimously with an abstention by Commissioner Polachek.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

CATHY BLAVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Spoke about the City's waveguide modifications to accommodate people with hearing impairment.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Thanked the City for putting on the Arbor Day event. She spoke about the Laurel House at Laurel Park not being open to the public. She went on to speak about the accessibility of Hart Park.

RICHARD MAGGIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Introduced himself to the Commission and informed them that he is their Rent Stabilization Commission liaison and that he will be bringing forth any rent and housing issues and regulations in an effort to keep them informed.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Millan thanked the City for a wonderful Arbor Day event. He went on to speak about the Laurel House and is requesting an update on the status of the house.

Commissioner Block welcomed Commissioner Polachek. He requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Bill Ashe, Clifford Wadama, and Scott Miller.

Commissioner Isaacs welcomed Commissioner Polachek. She spoke about the Arbor Day event and shared about the fun experience.

Chair Torres expressed her gratitude to the Commission for participating in the Arbor Day event.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUNSET STREETSCAPE PILOT

SUBJECT: The Public Facilities Commission received an update on the Sunset Streetscape Pilot project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ELAINE MORRISON, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Spoke in favor of removing the bulb-outs on Larrabee St. She spoke in favor of the pedestrian crosswalk timers. She expressed safety concerns with the public seating being too close to the street.

RICHARD ROTHENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Expressed concerns with the bulb-outs on Larrabee St.

ELYSE EISENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Spoke in opposition of the project and expressed safety concerns.

ANN GOLDMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Spoke in opposition of the project and expressed safety concerns.

RICHARD MAGGIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD: Spoke in favor of having parklets in the City. He expressed safety concerns with the bulb-outs.

Commissioner Isaacs expressed safety concerns with the public seating being placed so close to the street. She also expressed concerns with pedestrian safety at the crosswalks.

Commissioner Polachek inquired about the permanent plans for the pedestrian/public safety zones. She spoke about the public seating on Sunset Blvd. She spoke in favor of the parklets and inquired about the cost of installing and maintaining them. She also expressed concern with the pedestrian crosswalks.

Vice Chair Millan asked about the survey and how the public received it. He also inquired about the response rate. Staff stated that the survey was posted on the project website and the City's social media platforms.

Commissioner Block agreed with staff's recommendations regarding the removal of some of the bulb-outs and encouraged staff to do future studies on the ones that will remain as part of the project. He spoke in favor of the connective sidewalk trail portion of the project.

ACTION: Motion to receive and provide feedback to the City Council.

Motion by Commissioner Block, seconded by Commissioner Isaacs.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Polachek – Yes

Commissioner Isaacs – Yes

Commissioner Block – Yes

Vice Chair Millan – Yes

Chair Torres– Yes

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

SUBJECT: The Public Facilities Commission received a list of tree species to review and consider to include in the City of West Hollywood's Urban Forest Management Plan.

Commissioner Block inquired about the tree species being recommended and how well they do in flood zones. Staff responded by saying that the tree species that are being recommended are draught tolerant and do well in flood zones.

Commissioner Isaacs discouraged staff from including trees that drop berries and leaves that dirty the sidewalks.

Commissioner Polachek asked if an age and condition assessment has been completed. Staff stated that an age and condition assessment as well as a canopy study are part of the near-term goals that will be completed. She also discourages staff from using trees that drop berries and leaves creating dirty sidewalks and a potential trip hazard.

ACTION: Provide a recommendation to the City Council to include the recommended tree species as part of the Urban Forest Management Plan, when adopted by the City Council.

Motion by Vice Chair Millan, seconded by Commissioner Polachek.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Polachek – Yes

Commissioner Isaacs – Yes

Commissioner Block – Yes

Vice Chair Millan – Yes

Chair Torres– Yes

B. ANNUAL TOUR OF CITY FACILITIES

This item was tabled to the next meeting of the Public Facilities Commission.

11. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Helen Collins informed the Commission that the Laurel House project is being handled by a different group. She provided an update on the Hart Park lease agreement and the contract with the landscape architect. She shared with the Commission that Councilmember Meister is working on doing an Urban Forest symposium.

14. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Polachek shared that she is happy to be a part of the Public Facilities Commission.

Commissioner Isaacs welcomed Commissioner Polachek to the Commission. She thanked staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Block welcomed Commissioner Polachek. He thanked the public speakers. He shared that there will be an Ad Hoc Playground subcommittee meeting at Kings Road Park on May 9th and invited the public to attend.

Vice Chair Millan thanked staff for the presentations. He also thanked the public speakers and everyone in attendance. He welcomed Commissioner Polachek.


Chair Torres welcomed Commissioner Polachek to the Commission. She thanked staff for the presentations and thanked the public for their comments. She invited everyone to the Women's Leadership Conference taking place on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at West Hollywood Council Chambers.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities Commission meeting adjourned in memory of Bill Ashe, Clifford Wadamas, and Scott Miller at 8:15 P.M. to its next regular meeting, which is scheduled to be on June 12, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. at West Hollywood City Hall – Community Room (EOC), 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.



Debbie Gonzalez, Recording Secretary



Noemi Torres, Chair