



**PLANNING COMMISSION
SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
Regular Teleconference Meeting
October 15, 2020**

West Hollywood, California

THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD HAS ADOPTED BRIEF SUMMARY AND ACTION MEETING MINUTES, WHICH PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN AND POINTS OF DISCUSSION ONLY. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR DISCUSSION REGARDING ANY ITEM SUMMARIZED IN THESE MINUTES MAY BE OBTAINED BY VIEWING THE ARCHIVED VIDEOS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS AT www.weho.org/weho-tv/other-city-meetings

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Bass called the meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Present: *Altschul, Buckner, *Carvalho, Hoopingarner, Jones, Vice-Chair Erickson, Chair Bass.

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Ric Abramson, Urban Design and Architecture Manager, Bryan Eck, Acting Long Range Planning Manager, Jennifer Alkire, Current and Historic Preservation Planning Manager, Lauren Langer, Assistant City Attorney, and David Gillig, Commission Secretary.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Chair Bass noted Item 10.A. – 8743 Sunset Boulevard will be continued to Thursday, November 5, 2020.

He requested Item 11.C. – Urban Design and Architecture Information Session be moved before Item 11.A. – Establish the Sunset Arts and Advertising Project Subcommittee, and Item 11.B. – Sunset Arts and Advertising Project Subcommittee Appointments.

ACTION: Approve the Planning Commission agenda of Thursday, October 15, 2020 as amended. **Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Altschul and unanimously passes.**

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

Secretary Gillig amended the action of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) on page 6 of 8 as follows: “1) Appoint Lynn Hoopingarner, and 2) John Erickson (~~alternate~~) for a term through June 30, 2021”.

A. **August 6, 2020**

ACTION: Approve the minutes of Thursday, August 6, 2020 as amended. **Moved by Vice-Chair Erickson, seconded by Commissioner Altschul and passes, noting Commissioner Buckner abstaining.**

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** None.

7. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** None.

8. **ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.**
The commission encouraged everyone to Vote.

9. **CONSENT CALENDAR.** None.

10. **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

A. 8743 Sunset Boulevard:

Proposal to convert an existing static billboard to a digital billboard.

Staff has requested a continuance, to allow staff and the applicant to finalize the details of the project.

ACTION: Continue to Thursday, November 5, 2020 as part of the amended agenda. **Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Altschul and unanimously passes.**

B. 923-931 Palm Avenue:

Request to rehabilitate two designated cultural resources, demolish all non-historic buildings and rear additions and construct a new four-story senior congregate care housing facility.

Chair Bass opened the discussion for a possible continuance that had been requested by the public in respect to the death of community activist Duff Bennett.

ACTION: Continue to Thursday, November 19, 2020. **Moved by Commissioner Hoopingarner, seconded by Commissioner Altschul and unanimously passes.**

The following item was moved and heard out of order as part of the amended agenda.

11. NEW BUSINESS.

C. Urban Design and Architecture Information Session.

Ric Abramson, Urban Design and Architecture Manager, provided an overview and history of the Urban Design and Architecture Studio Department.

The following staff are involved: Christina Sarkees, Senior Project Management Supervisor, Todd Gish, AIA, Interim Urban Designer, Gwynne Pugh, FAIA, Contract Urban Designer, and Jason Bravo, Urban Design and Architecture Intern.

He detailed the program, and spoke and highlighted the following areas: design visioning, design collaborations, design review, design oversight, capitol improvement projects, public space enhancements and street experiences, Metro Rail integration study, immersive elements and features, ebikes and scooters, urban design and image of the city, public space, green space, housing and commercial land use, design review subcommittee, planning commission, project proposal and building design, urban context, building performance, environmental responsiveness, exemplary design, sympathetic streets, synthetic city making, transformable living streets, multi-purpose event spaces, health and wellness, multi-sensory public spaces, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, urban wildlife habitats, wildlife propagation – certified habitats, forecasting, climate action, environmentally responsive design, equity, inclusion, and accessibility by design, universal design, social purpose design, biophilic design, regenerative design, housing design and production, and remodel mindset.

The commission thanked Ric Abramson for this comprehensive update.

Ric Abramson, Urban Design and Architecture Manager, stated this presentation will be available on-line.

CATHY BLAIVIS, WEST HOLLYWOOD stated her support of the presentation.

**Commissioner Carvalho left the meeting at this time due to the fact he has a financial conflict of interest in the billboard project.*

A. Establish the Sunset Arts and Advertising Project Subcommittee.

Bryan Eck, Acting Long Range Planning Manager provided background information why staff is requesting the formation of a new regularly standing subcommittee.

He stated the new subcommittee would provide the initial review of projects and policy matters related to the Sunset Arts and Advertising Program. There will be approximately 30 projects over the next two years that will come before the commission, and the current composition of the design review subcommittee would present a quorum conflict due to recusals by currently appointed subcommittee members.

The commission questioned why this could not be an ad-hoc subcommittee. They had concerns that many of these billboard projects will be coming to design review subcommittee, since the billboards are an integral part of the overall design.

**Commissioner Altschul left the meeting at this time due to conflicts relating to several billboard projects within 500' of his residence.*

Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of having two different subcommittees, a possible alternate to the design review subcommittee, recusal concerns, new date and time, transparency, and efficiency.

Vice-Chair Erickson moved to: 1) approve staff's recommendation to create the Sunset Arts and Advertising Projects Subcommittee.

Seconded by Commissioner Jones.

ACTION: Officially establish the Sunset Arts and Advertising Project Subcommittee. **Moved by Vice-Chair Erickson, seconded by Commissioner Jones and passes, noting Commissioner Altschul and Commissioner Carvalheiro recused.**

B. Sunset Arts and Advertising Projects Subcommittee Appointments.

ACTION: 1) Appoint: a) Lynn Hoopingarner, Chair, b) Stacey Jones, and c) Adam G. Bass to the newly established Sunset Arts and Advertising Projects Subcommittee; and 2) have staff return with available dates and times for the Sunset Arts and Advertising Project Subcommittee. **Moved by Chair Bass and carried by consensus.**

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS. None.

13. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR. None.

14. ITEMS FROM STAFF.

A. Planning Manager's Update.

Jennifer Alkire, Current and Historic Preservation Planning Manger provided an update of tentative items scheduled for upcoming Planning Commission meetings.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD thanked the commission for the continuance of 923-931 Palm Avenue and spoke regarding noticing concerns for people that do not have computer access. He encouraged everyone to vote.

16. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

A. Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Hoopingarner requested an update regarding the RDA dollars for Plummer Park.

B. Subcommittee Management.

Jennifer Alkire, Current and Historic Preservation Planning Manger provided an update on tentative upcoming projects for the Design Review Subcommittee and the Long-Range Planning Projects Subcommittee.

17. ADJOURNMENT. The Planning Commission adjourned at 8:45 p.m. to a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Given the local, state and nation state of emergency, this meeting will be a teleconferenced meeting (with detailed instructions for participation included on the posted agenda). **Motion carried by consensus of the Commission.**

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 5th day of November, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner:

NOES: Commissioner:

ABSENT: Commissioner:

ABSTAIN: Commissioner:



ADAM G. BASS, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



DAVID K. GILLIG, COMMISSION SECRETARY