

**MINUTES
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022
TELECONFERENCE**

6:30 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING

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

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Isaacs; Commissioner Karliss; Commissioner Larry; Commissioner Solomon; Commissioner Torres; Vice Chair Mason; and Chair Polachek.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services Division Manager; Erin Hamant, Senior Administrative Analyst; Debbie Gonzalez, Administrative Coordinator; Steve Campbell, Department of Facilities and Recreation Services Director; Melissa Crowder, City Clerk.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Larry.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the January 12, 2022 Agenda.

Motion by Isaacs, seconded by Karliss, and approved unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the prior Public Facilities Commission meeting dated December 8, 2021.

Motion by Karliss, seconded by Solomon, and approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael W., WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared comments from a Public Safety Commission meeting and their concerns for public safety, livability, and the COVID-19 pandemic in West Hollywood.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Isaacs welcomed everyone, and she looks forward to the evening’s agenda items.

Commissioner Karliss wished everyone a belated New Year and shared information about the City’s two recent pet vaccination clinics.

Commissioner Larry wished everyone a Happy New Year and reminded folks to stay

safe.

Commissioner Solomon thanked staff and members of the public.

Commissioner Torres wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the public for their attendance.

Vice Chair Mason wished everyone a Happy New Year and looks forward to hearing the public's comments.

Chair Polachek wished everyone a Happy and healthy New Year. She informed attendees of the responsibilities for the Commission as related to the public hearing agenda item.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. NAMING REQUEST TO RENAME THE WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY IN HONOR OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

SUBJECT: The Public Facilities Commission (PFC) will conclude its process to study a naming request to rename the West Hollywood Library in honor of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in accordance with the City's Naming Policy, and finalize its recommendation to be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

Chair Polachek opened the public hearing. Next, Chair Polachek asked each Commissioner to disclose any ex parte communications:

Commissioner Torres received two emails from Councilmember Horvath on the item;

Commissioner Solomon spoke with Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne and Councilmember Erickson on the item;

Commissioner Larry had no disclosures;

Commissioner Karliss spoke with Mayor Meister on the item;

Commissioner Isaacs spoke with Mayor Meister on the item;

Vice Chair Mason spoke with Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne, Councilmember Erickson and Councilmember Horvath on the item; and

Chair Polachek had no disclosures.

Chair Polachek asked staff member Collins to present the staff report. Collins welcomed City Clerk Melissa Crowder who joined the meeting, and read a summary about the naming request, the outreach process, participation results, work completed by the Library Naming Request Ad Hoc Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to the full Commission on signage, identification options, and cost estimates.

Next, Chair Polachek asked the Library Naming Request Ad Hoc Committee members to present their report. The Ad Hoc Committee members thanked Collins for the report out and did not have further details to present.

Commissioners did not have follow up questions for staff.

Approved unanimously by vote, the Commission reduced the time from 3 minutes to 2 minutes for public testimony.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Chair Polachek asked staff member Gonzalez to read the five public comments submitted to staff via email prior to the meeting:

Joel H. Mark, UNKNOWN, supported the naming request to rename the West Hollywood Library after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Jeffrey A. Seymour, UNKNOWN, opposed the naming request and shared their support to implement new procedures for the City to accept nominations to rename the West Hollywood Library after a local West Hollywood champion.

Dan Ramos, UNKNOWN, opposed the naming request and shared their support to rename the West Hollywood Library after a local person and should no person be found, they recommended keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library.

Virginia Gillick, WEST HOLLYWOOD, supported the naming request.

Michael Zannella, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and preferred keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library.

Abby Land, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and recommended keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library. Should the City create a new naming process, they are in support of selecting a person who has made local impact with ties to West Hollywood.

Michael W., WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request.

John Keitel, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and recommended keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library. They were in support of the City creating a new naming process that allows for more than one nomination.

Andrew Campbell, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and expressed their support in keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library. They shared examples of places already named after Justice Ginsburg with more direct ties to the Justice.

Manny Rodriguez, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and recommended keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library. They shared their support to rename the West Hollywood Library after a local hero.

Adam Bass, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and shared the names of numerous worthy nominees with a direct link to West Hollywood.

Barbara Meltzer, WEST HOLLYWOOD, supported keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library.

Lee Walkup, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and shared their support to rename the West Hollywood Library after a local person with a direct connection to the Library.

Austin Cyr, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and shared their support to have a new naming request process that uplifts locals and stories.

Jimmy Frances Wendel, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and any process allowing the Library to be renamed after a person.

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, opposed the naming request and recommended keeping the name as the West Hollywood Library.

Alana Roshay, WEST HOLLYWOOD, supported the naming request to rename the West Hollywood Library after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Chair Polachek thanked members of the public for providing their public testimony and provided staff the opportunity to respond to comments made. Staff did not have further information.

Next, Chair Polachek stated the responsibilities for the Commission as related to the public hearing. Chair Polachek commenced discussion and asked each Commissioner to provide their comments and questions:

Commissioner Isaacs was impressed by the comments made during public testimony;

Commissioner Karliss shared their support to hear other naming options through another process;

Commissioner Larry seconded the sentiments shared by Commissioner Karliss;

Commissioner Solomon shared their comments on the public input process and shared their support that this process lacked public consensus and supported hearing other naming options through another process;

Commission Torres shared their support to hear other naming options through another process;

Vice Chair Mason asked staff if City facilities can be named after a living person and shared their support for the naming request; and

Chair Polachek shared their support to find a different and separate way to honor Justice Ginsburg and because there is a lack of public consensus they support hearing other naming options through another process.

Staff member Collins answered Vice Chair Mason's question and clarified that a City facility can be named after a living person with stipulations as written out in the Naming Policy.

Next, Chair Polachek opened the discussion by the Commissioners and solicited the Commissioners to make a motion.

Motion by Torres and seconded by Karliss.

Commissioner Solomon submitted a friendly amendment adding introductory language to the motion which was accepted by Torres and Karliss. Chair Polachek answered process questions by Commissioner Larry and Vice Chair Mason.

Staff member Collins asked Chair Polachek if the Commission wanted to include the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation. Vice Chair Polachek asked the Ad Hoc members for input. Ad Hoc Committee members opted to not include their proposed recommendation in the motion. The recommended action by the Ad Hoc Committee was not added to the motion.

Chair Polachek called the question and asked staff to do a roll call vote.

ACTION: Due to the lack of public consensus and support for naming the Library after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg the Public Facilities Commission recommends halting the process, retaining the name as is (meaning West Hollywood Library) and recommending to Council that it undertakes a larger process for naming the Library.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Isaacs - Y
Commissioner Karliss - Y
Commissioner Larry - Y
Commissioner Solomon - Y
Commissioner Torres - Y
Vice Chair Mason - Y
Chair Polachek - Y

The motion was approved unanimously.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION FY21-22 WORK PLAN

SUBJECT: The Commission will consider adopting the proposed FY21-22 Work Plan.

Staff member Hamant presented the staff report and reviewed the proposed FY21-22 Work Plan. Hamant corrected in the report the following items:

Change the Water and Energy Conservation item, which was labeled “on hold,” but this notation was removed because the item is budgeted and will move forward in the current fiscal year;

Move the Budget Standing Subcommittee item under the Annual Review Public Facility Budget and Park Development Funding item and add “provide recommendations to the full Commission;” and

Change the Host Annual Arbor Day Event item, which was labeled “virtual,” to read instead “virtual or limited attendance.”

Staff member Collins provided an update on the items listed as Major Capital

Projects.

Commissioner Solomon submitted the following modifications:

To move all capital budget items into one list, to add a new item that reads “Provide recommendations on the Recreation Division’s website regarding Public Facilities;”

To add a new item under Capital Projects that reads “Review public right-of-way items;” and

To add a new item that reads “Review and consider updating the Commission’s purview (Bylaws).”

Commissioners asked staff various questions and staff responded.

Many Commissioners expressed their support and interest to evaluate, and possibly update, the Public Facility Commission’s purview which was originally established in 1996.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared their support for the Commission to bring their purview up-to-date and shared the upcoming date and time for City Council’s Plummer Park Improvements subcommittee meeting. Additionally, they shared their support to make Hart Park ADA accessible.

ACTION: Adopt the Public Facilities Commission FY21-22 Work Plan, as modified.

Motion by Solomon, seconded by Mason, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Isaacs - Y

Commissioner Karliss - Y

Commissioner Larry - Y

Commissioner Solomon - Y

Commissioner Torres - Y

Vice Chair Mason - Y

Chair Polachek - Y

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanks the Commission for their deliberations on the naming request and supported the final recommendation. They commented on public surveys and public consensus.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Collins will send out the meeting information for the City Council’s Plummer Park Improvements subcommittee meeting.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Karliss shared information about the virtual event to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and the West Hollywood Elementary School donation drive to

support people who are experiencing homelessness.

Commissioner Larry thanked everyone for a great meeting.

Commissioner Solomon thanked staff for sending information on how to prepare for a public hearing.

Commissioner Isaacs and Torres thanked staff and fellow Commissioners for their comments and recommendations.

Vice Chair Mason thanked staff and fellow Commissioners for a great meeting.

Chair Polachek acknowledged the hard work that was before them and celebrated their accomplishment and thanked the public for their participation.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities Commission meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Teleconference.

DocuSigned by:

Erin Hamant

42914B2510A6477...
Erin Hamant, Acting Recording Secretary

DocuSigned by:

Elaine Polachek

3F3956FD7933443.
Elaine Polachek, Chair