

**MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

6:30 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING

***IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS), AB 361 HAS AUTHORIZED PUBLIC MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE VIA TELECONFERENCE WHEN STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

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

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Mason.

B. ROLL CALL

**PRESENT: Commissioner Isaacs (she/her);
Commissioner Larry (he/him);
Commissioner Polachek (she/her);
Vice Chair Solomon (he/him); and
Chair Mason (he/him).**

ABSENT: Commissioner Karliss (he/him).

**ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins (she/her), Facilities and Field
Services Division Manager; Erin Hamant
(she/her), Senior Administrative Analyst;
Ric. Abramson (Ric.), Urban Design and
Architecture Studio Manager; and Michael
Barker (he/him), Project Architect.**

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Isaacs.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the November 9, 2022, Agenda.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Isaacs – Y

Commissioner Larry – Y

Commissioner Polachek – Y

Vice Chair Solomon – Y

Chair Mason – Y

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the prior Public Facilities Commission meeting dated October 12, 2022.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Isaacs – Y

Commissioner Larry – Y

Commissioner Polachek – Y

Vice Chair Solomon – Y

Chair Mason – Y

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

The Commissioners thanked the members of the public in attendance.

Commissioner Polachek attended the design scoping outreach meeting for San Vicente Blvd which she enjoyed the interactive elements and process.

Vice Chair Solomon shared information about the upcoming Plummer Park community engagement meeting and encouraged everyone to attend. He also shared information about a recent City Council decision which affected the Plummer Park Temporary Dog Park Pilot Project. He requested staff to ensure the Commission's input is included in all staff reports to City Council as applicable.

Chair Mason encouraged civic engagement, civility, and safety.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **MELROSE GATHERING PLACE: WEAVER’S WALK CONCEPT DESIGN**

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the Melrose Gathering Place Project and provide input on the concept design.

Staff provided a presentation and background on the Melrose Gathering Place Project. Staff reviewed public input received to-date and upcoming outreach meetings planned for the project. Also reviewed were the existing conditions, the site analysis and context studies, the proposed landscaping and artwork, and the project schedule.

Melrose Gathering Place ‘Weaver’s Walk’ is a strolling garden featuring three large specimen oak trees, pollinator-friendly landscape areas, and a newly commissioned artwork by Los Angeles-based artist Karon Davis entitled *Before Picasso*. It will be an impactful habitat garden that increases site permeability and overhead shade canopy while providing the neighborhood with a natural area of respite. Seating elements will be designed to encourage short-term passive uses.

Commissioner Isaacs asked about frequency of use for the existing driveway and maintenance responsibilities. The project consultant explained use of the driveway is infrequent and maintenance will be overseen by the City.

Commissioner Polachek asked about the loss of existing parking, lanes of travel, business outreach, the proposed tree box sizes, if the pour in place concrete will be sealed which will minimize staining, and the durability of the artwork material (fiberglass). Staff confirmed there is a loss of one or two parking spaces and lanes of travel change from two to one. Staff have included the businesses in their outreach correspondence and committed to keeping the Design District and Chamber of Commerce updated on the project. Proposed tree box sizes are 60” which is approximately 28-30 feet tall. The concrete will be sealed and will require semi-frequent resealing. The artwork is very durable and will be graffiti resistant.

Commissioner Larry acknowledged the proposed artwork is by a Black artist and expressed appreciation for the importance of diversity and representation in public projects.

Vice Chair Solomon asked about programming options for the space and informational signage. Staff explained that another space nearby on San Vicente Blvd. is underway and will include public

programming options for local merchants, however the Weaver's Walk area is being proposed as an intimate, respite space. Signage and storytelling will be developed for the project.

Chair Mason asked about the anticipated completion date, concurred on the importance of educational signage, loved the proposed artwork, and asked the designers to keep pedestrian safety top of mind.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Giesbret, West Hollywood, shared their support for the design direction which includes the curving of the walkway but there may perhaps be too many curving walkways. They recommended selecting non-flowering trees to keep the space all green, the size and proportion of the artwork is too large, and the design elements are conflicting with too many things.

Robert Steloff, West Hollywood, congratulated the design team on an exemplary design. Agreed with previous concerns for the poured concrete and staining issues. Shared their preference for educational placards/signage, approval for the woven theme and eye-catching art sculpture and suggested a water feature.

Ilan Meyer, West Hollywood, shared their support for the project and the scale of the project, but asked the designers to consider the colors of the Pacific Design Center (green, blue, red) with the proposed artwork color (pink).

ACTION: Review the design of the Melrose Gathering Place Project and provide input to the design team.

B. CITY PUBLIC FACILITIES OVERVIEW

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an overview of the City's owned and leased properties.

Staff provided a presentation of City-owned and City-leased properties as well as the current and planned status of those facilities. Some of the dates shared about the facilities are estimates because the information is unknown (previously belonged to Los Angeles County).

Vice Chair Solomon shared his reasoning for requesting this presentation which is related to the Commission's purview and the frequency in which the Commission is prompted to provide input on active City facility projects. He asked about Audubon Society history

at Plummer Park. Staff explained they were a tenant and leased use of Long Hall years ago.

Chair Mason thanked staff for the presentation and suggested using it to on-board new Public Facilities Commissioners. He asked which facilities have historic status. He also asked if the City owns the Marix/Basix properties. Staff explained that Great Hall/Long Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places and Fiesta Hall is eligible but not designated, and for that reason each of these facilities are maintained and renovated appropriately using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties should the City seek historic designation in the future. The City does not own the Marix/Basix properties.

ACTION: Receive and file.

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff apologized for the misunderstanding on the City Council staff report regarding the Plummer Park Temporary Dog Park Pilot Project. The Commission thanked staff for the clarification and concurred that their intent was for the dog play area to be temporary and for the permanent dog park solution to be included in the scope of work for the Plummer Park Comprehensive Improvement Project.

Staff shared they are investigating solutions on how to keep the West Hollywood Dog Parks open and/or minimize closures during special park events. One consideration being explored is how to meet the ADA accessibility requirements.

Staff shared an update on the tree giveaway event and corresponding educational materials about young tree care best practices.

Staff invited the Commission to an upcoming outreach meeting/open house for the Plummer Park Comprehensive Improvement Project.

Finally, staff notified and invited the Commission to attend a proposed 2023 Symposium on the changing nature of public and private space and the possibility of future partnerships (also known as POPS – privately owned public space).

A. LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

No changes. Vice Chair Solomon reiterated the request for an update on the Recreation Division's new website.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities Commission meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. to its next regular meeting* on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 and 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

DocuSigned by:

Erin Hamant

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Erin Hamant, Acting Recording Secretary

DocuSigned by:

Jake Mason

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Jake Mason, Chair