

**MINUTES  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC FACILITIES, RECREATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023  
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

**6:30 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**THE PUBLIC FACILITIES, RECREATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER AND THAT IS CURRENTLY KNOWN AS THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IS THE OCCUPIED, UNCEDED, SEIZED TERRITORY OF THE GABRIELEÑO TONGVA AND GABRIELEÑO KIZH PEOPLES. (PRONOUNCED “KEECH”)**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.**

**A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Mason.**

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins (she/her), Facilities and Field  
Services Division Manager; Erin Hamant  
(she/her), Senior Administrative Analyst;  
Marcus Mitchell (he/him), Public Art  
Administrator; Yvonne Quarker (she/her),  
Community Services Department Director;  
Stephanie Martinez (she/her), Recreation  
Services Manager; Clavon Jubrey (he/him),  
Recreation Supervisor; Michael Gasca  
(he/him), Recreation Supervisor; Susana  
Salazar (she/her), Recreation Coordinator;  
and Samuel Smith (he/him), Administrative  
Specialist III.**

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Solomon.**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION: Approve the April 12, 2023, Agenda with the addendum to move**

item no. 9 New Business in front of item no. 8 Unfinished Business.

**Motion by Karliss, seconded by Polachek, and approved unanimously.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Commissioner Karliss – Y**

**Commissioner Polachek – Y**

**Vice Chair Solomon – Y**

**Chair Mason – Y**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION: Approve the minutes of the prior Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting dated March 8, 2023.**

**Motion by Polachek, seconded by Karliss, and approved unanimously.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Commissioner Karliss – Y**

**Commissioner Polachek – Y**

**Vice Chair Solomon – Y**

**Chair Mason – Y**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Kali Rogers, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on the popularity of pickleball play in West Hollywood and asked for the City to consider utilizing the court space to allow more players with the suggestion of six courts instead of four courts.**

**Santo Ragno, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the pickleball community's growth which has reached about 800 people and asked the City to consider expanding the court space to six courts.**

**Stephanie Harker, WEST HOLLYWOOD, asked the City to consider a permanent location for the City's community garden and encouraged community members to attend this Saturday's annual tree planting event at Plummer Park. She expressed enthusiasm for the City moving forward with the Plummer Park Fiesta Hall Historic Designation which is the site where the cityhood vote took place.**

**Cathy Blaivas, WEST HOLLYWOOD, suggested the City to consider the Fuller Avenue side of Plummer Park as an ideal location for a permanent community garden location.**

**5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Polachek shared that she will be moving out the city and will most likely have to vacate her Commissioner role because the City Council recently approved a residency requirement. She agreed that a**

City park could be a great location to site a permanent community garden.

Commissioner Karliss shared that he was re-appointed to the Commission and is excited to serve this next term. He expressed sadness for Commissioner Polachek's departure. He attended the City Council Playhouse Design Steering Subcommittee meeting and the day of service event at Kings Road Park. He looks forward to this weekend's annual tree planting event at Plummer Park.

Vice Chair Solomon thanked staff for making Zoom participation available at the Commission's public meeting and suggested video/visual participation is needed as well, rather than audio only participation. He congratulated the newly appointed Commissioners and expressed thanks to Commissioner Polachek for her tremendous guidance and mentorship to him over the years. He attended the City Council Playhouse Design Steering Subcommittee meeting. He agreed that the City should seek a site for a permanent community garden. Finally, he thanked and agreed with the public comments about pickleball court expansion because the courts are becoming frequently reserved and full.

Chair Mason shared his disappointment for Commissioner Polachek's departure and thanked her for being his mentor. He agreed that the City should seek a site for a permanent community garden. He attended the City's active shooter preparedness workshop.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

**NAMING OF THE INTERSECTION AT LEXINGTON AVENUE AND NORTH LA BREA AVENUE**

**SUBJECT:** The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission will hold a public hearing to review a naming request and finalize its recommendation to be forwarded to the City Council for consideration, in accordance with the City's Naming Policy.

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

Chair Mason participated in the Naming Subcommittee meeting and spoke to Commissioner Solomon about that meeting;  
Commissioner Solomon spoke to Chair Mason about the Naming Subcommittee meeting;  
Commissioner Karliss had no disclosures; and  
Chair Polachek had no disclosures.

Chair Mason asked staff to present the staff report. Staff provided

background on the naming request – which was received via Mayor Shyne, the Naming Subcommittee meeting which occurred on March 22, and provided its recommendation on signage and cost estimates. The sign will be sized at 20” x 30” and posted at the north and south directions. Staff pointed out that this naming request is precedent setting because it is the City’s first ceremonial naming request and it is occurring for the first time at a street intersection.

Commissioners did not have follow up questions for staff.

Chair Mason opened testimony from the public. No public testimony was received. Chair Mason closed the public testimony portion of the hearing.

Next, Chair Mason commenced discussion and asked each Commissioner to provide their comments and further questions.

Commissioner Polachek acknowledged the naming request as an appropriate recognition and shared her support for staff’s signage recommendation, especially if this represents a precedent for the Commission as the City’s first ceremonial naming action.

Commissioner Karliss shared his support for the naming request.

Vice Chair Solomon shared his support for the naming request. He asked staff to confirm that the signage will be ready by April 25th for the local event to commemorate Israel's 75th Anniversary of Independence, and if the City will be programming the event.

Staff confirmed the signage will be ready in time by April 25th and, at this time, no City-sponsored event programming is planned.

Chair Mason solicited the Commissioners to make a motion.

**ACTION:** The Commission recommended that the City Council approve the request to name the intersection at Lexington Avenue and North La Brea Avenue as the “Shalom Peace Square” and approve the proposed signage and its locations.

**Motion by Polachek, seconded by Karliss, and approved unanimously.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Commissioner Karliss – Y**

**Commissioner Polachek – Y**

**Vice Chair Solomon – Y**

**Chair Mason – Y**

Chair Mason closed the public hearing.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**WEBSITE REVIEW**

**SUBJECT:** The Commission will review the updated website content for the Recreation Services Division and provide input on items within its purview.

Staff provided background and a presentation on the updated content for the City's Facilities webpages. This work was part of a broader project to update all the webpages managed by the Recreation Services Division. Staff was able to incorporate most of the Commission's feedback provided in June 2022 and reviewed these elements in the presentation. The intent is to post construction information and facility closures on the City Facilities webpages, keeping the information up-to-date for the public. Staff displayed the new 360 degree photos which are intended to assist users in making facility reservation decisions. The updated web content is scheduled to be published in the next week.

Vice Chair Solomon liked the updates including the images and the connectivity from the City Facilities to the City Facilities Reservation page. He asked staff to display the Park Rules in a manner that is more user friendly rather than the link to a PDF.

Commissioner Karliss asked if the pool types could be more descriptive, for example one lap pool and one exercise pool, in the amenities area under the Aquatic and Recreation Center Facility. He asked for photos of people using the facilities to be added.

Commissioner Polachek concurred with Commissioner Karliss about the photos. She asked to review the Categories area under each facility and ensure it says Parks, when appropriate, to be consistent. She asked about how often the website content is updated. Staff confirmed that website updates can be made almost immediately, when required.

Chair Mason applauded the new images and reservation links, and thanked staff for showcasing each facility in a game-changing manner by making the reservation process seamless. He agreed users who many want to reserve a facility will appreciate the new content. He asked staff to double-check the dog parks to ensure it lists Dog Park under the Categories area and when you click into the park description that the dog park hours are listed in the same manner, to be consistent. He suggested the Recreation social media pages are a great place to showcase the active photos suggested by Commissioner Karliss and Commissioner Polachek, and to see if there is a way to display the social media posts on the webpages.

**ACTION:** Provide input.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

***FALLING ON DEAF EARS*, A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION BY ARTIST JULIO SIMS**

**SUBJECT:** The Commission will receive a presentation on the concept design for a temporary art exhibition titled *Falling on Deaf Ears* by Julio Sims and consider approving the proposed display location in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers lobby.

Staff provided a presentation on the staff report including an overview of the proposed temporary art exhibition concept, materials, placement location, and duration. Staff also provided a brief review of other art exhibitions taking place in the city.

Commissioner Polachek asked if the exhibit will be attached to the glass. She requested staff to coordinate timing to ensure the glass windows are cleaned in the City Council Chambers lobby. Staff agreed and clarified that it will be free standing and weighted.

Commissioner Karliss shared a concern for people using the City Council Chambers lobby and from the inside perspective would see only a 22' foot white wall.

Vice Chair Solomon asked staff to describe how an art exhibition's site location is identified. Staff explained that a variety of considerations are at play: the art itself, does a specific location provide meaningful context, and accessibility. Some locations are more active while other locations lend to a passive, passerby experience.

**ACTION:** Approve the exhibition of *Falling on Deaf Ears* by Julio Sims to be displayed in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers lobby.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Commissioner Karliss – Y**

**Commissioner Polachek – Y**

**Vice Chair Solomon – Y**

**Chair Mason – Y**

10. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR** – None.

11. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rick Watt, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related impacts to the public participation process at public meetings. He applauded the virtual meeting accommodations which were

made for the COVID-19 emergency and shared the preference shared by some people with disabilities that virtual and remote meeting accommodations are preferred even after the pandemic emergency has ended.

**12. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff anticipate the City Clerk's Division to provide a presentation at the June meeting on the Commission's expanded purview, which was adopted by City Council on March 20, 2023. Additionally, staff notified the Commission that future meetings may take place at a new location – at City Hall in the First Floor Conference Room – but this location change is not unconfirmed. Staff will be sure to notice this change, should it take place, on future Commission meeting agendas and on the City Calendar.

**LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER**

No changes made.

**13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NAMING AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE HELD A MEETING ON MARCH 22, 2023**

Commissioner Karliss asked if the new auxiliary gate at the West Hollywood Park Dog Park could be upgraded to a double gate. He also asked about the Plummer Park Playground Shade Structure project and whether the new shading, if installed, could be reused in the Plummer Park Comprehensive Plan project. Staff explained that the bioswale running adjacent eliminates that option because of the land slope/grade. The intent is to only use the auxiliary gate during special events when limited access may be provided to the dog parks during special event closures; it is not the intent to use the new auxiliary gate daily. Staff also explained that most likely a new shading structure would need to be installed to match any new equipment; however, staff may consider this request further during the comprehensive park planning process.

Vice Chair Solomon asked if Wi-Fi infrastructure is considered public infrastructure. Staff agreed and referred to the June purview presentation to clarify these questions. He asked timing on the replacement of the Tennis Pro Shop. Staff explained that the approved budget is below current cost estimates and will need to return to City Council to request additional funds. He asked when the Plummer Park Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee will start. Staff explained that these meetings are not anticipated to begin until at least Fall 2023.

Chair Mason and Commissioner Polachek thanked everyone for a great meeting.



14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 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, Acting Recording Secretary**

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**Jake Mason, Chair**