

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

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 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. OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to Dorian Jackson by Councilmember Meister.

The Oath of Office was administered to Andrew Solomon by Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson.

The Oath of Office was administered to Nicole Payton by Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson.

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

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

2. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Mason.

B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins (she/her), Facilities and Field Services Division Manager; Debbie

Gonzalez (she/her), Administrative Coordinator; Marcus Mitchell (he/him), Public Art Administrator; Ric Abramson, Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager (he/him).

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

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION: Approve the May 10, 2023, Agenda with the addendum to item 1B Oath of Office which was administered before the Call to Order.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Karliss – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Vice Chair Solomon – Y

Chair Mason – Y

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the prior Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting dated April 12, 2023.

Motion by Karliss, seconded by Solomon, and approved with abstentions from commissioners as noted below.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – ABSTAIN

Commissioner Karliss – Y

Commissioner Payton - ABSTAIN

Vice Chair Solomon – Y

Chair Mason – Y

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

PJ Wagner, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the growing popularity of pickleball in West Hollywood. He asked for the Commission to consider a reevaluation of the contract with Tennacity. He shared about the negative interactions the public has had with Tennacity staff.

Melissa Allen, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about how important the City’s community garden is to her and urged the City to come up with creative solutions for a location for the community garden.

Michael W., WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern that there is yet no permanent location for a community garden. He spoke about the positive things that a community garden provides. He encouraged the residents of

West Hollywood to visit the Detroit Community Garden to see the garden and meet its people.

Mike Carter, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the importance of having a community garden on the east side. He pointed out that the Fuller Ave entrance of Plummer Park is an ideal location for a community garden that could also include additional amenities. He also suggested the City consider a rooftop community garden.

Kali Rogers, WEST HOLLYWOOD, asked the City and the Commission to consider opening up the bidding process for the vendor that oversees the tennis and pickleball at Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park. She spoke in opposition of having an auto-renewing contract.

Shanarra Goode, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the popularity of pickleball in the community. She expressed frustration with Tennacity's management of the pickleball and suggested ways in which they could put the needs of the community first.

Antonio Whiteley, WEST HOLLYWOOD, asked the City to consider opening the bidding process for the vendor overseeing the tennis and pickleball courts. He expressed frustration with the current vendor, Tennacity.

Sonia Sebastian, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared about the great benefits that pickleball has had on her mental and physical health. She urged the City to open up the contract to other vendors for the management of the tennis and pickleball facilities in West Hollywood.

Cathy Blaivas, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern that there is no permanent location for a community garden in the City. She suggested that a portion of the Fuller Avenue entrance at Plummer Park be reserved for a permanent community garden. She encourages the community members to speak to their Councilmembers regarding this issue. She welcomed the newly appointed and returning Commissioners.

Elizabeth McNamee, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared how pickleball helped her become part of a community when she moved to West Hollywood. She encourages the City to open the bidding process to other vendors for the management of the tennis and pickleball courts.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Karliss welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners. He welcomed back Debbie Gonzalez. He shared sentiments regarding former Commissioner Polachek.

Commissioner Payton gave a quick bio about herself.

Vice Chair Solomon provided an update on the Annual Tree Planting event that took place on April 15th. He provided an update on the Aquatics Spring Fest that also took place on April 15th. He shared that he attended the City Council Budget Subcommittee meeting on April 20th. Vice Chair Solomon thanked the public for their attendance and for their comments. He shared that he is glad that the new purview will allow the Commission to hear issues regarding the recreation and operations that take place in the parks.

Vice Chair Solomon made a motion requesting the Tennis Concessionaire contract to be brought to the Commission for review as well as data provided on tennis and pickleball use in the city. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Karliss, and approved unanimously.

Staff informed Vice Chair Solomon and the Commission that the request will be taken to the City Clerk to determine how and when this item will return to the Commission.

Commissioner Jackson gave a quick bio about herself.

Chair Mason welcomed the new commissioners and welcomed back Debbie Gonzalez. He expressed opposition to having auto renewing contracts. He shared about the importance of having access to community spaces and encouraged staff to get creative with finding a location for a community garden.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **PROJECT UPDATES: HART PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS, MELROSE GATHERING PLACE WEAVER’S WALK, AND THE POPS + PARTS SYMPOSIUM**

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the Hart Park Site Improvements Project, the Melrose Gathering Place Weaver’s Walk Project, and the POPS + PARTS Symposium.

Commissioner Karliss thanked staff for the presentation and shared that he is excited for the projects to move forward. He inquired if Hart Park site improvements, aside from the ADA and dog park enhancements, will be coming back to the Commission for input. Staff confirmed that additional changes will be going through a subcommittee and their recommendations will come back to the

Commission.

Commissioner Payton inquired if a community garden at Hart Park can be considered during phase 2 of the project. Staff stated that unfortunately there is limited real estate at the park for a community garden. He ensured the Commission that the City is looking at ways to accommodate community spaces.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael W., WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the gathering spaces in the design district versus the gathering spaces on the east side of the City. He spoke of potential spaces for a community garden and he urged the City to get creative in finding space for one.

ACTION: Receive and file.

B. UPDATE ON THE WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK DOG PARKS SHADE STRUCTURES

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the proposed shade structures for the West Hollywood Park Dog Parks, including the sun studies requested previously.

Commissioner Karliss spoke in support of the proposed configuration of the shade structures at the Large Dog Park.

Vice Chair Solomon inquired if the shade structures have a warranty. The Consultant stated that they do have a warranty.

Commissioner Karliss asked how long the dog parks will be out of commission during the installation of the shade structures. The Consultant stated that they will be out of commission for approximately 2 weeks.

The Commission discussed the different color options for the shade structure poles.

The Commission requested to see the green fabric swatches at the next commission meeting.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Approve the dark brown color for the shade structure poles that will be procured and installed at the West Hollywood Dog Parks.
- 2) Staff will bring back to the next Commission meeting the requested fabric swatches for the Commission to review and make a final selection for the shade structure covers.

3) The Commission agrees with staff that, based on site conditions, there is a possible need to remove or reconfigure the small dog park shade structure to avoid disturbing any existing turf structure/drainage.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Karliss – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Vice Chair Solomon – Y

Chair Mason – Y

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. ***BE THE CHANGE*, A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION BY SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER**

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive a presentation on the concept design for a temporary art exhibition titled *Be The Change* by Skirball Cultural Center and consider approving the proposed display location at the decomposed granite area along the south side of the Plummer Park Community Center.

Commissioner Payton inquired about oversight of the art and if there has been vandalism in the proposed area. Staff is not aware of any vandalism in the proposed area. However, the artists are asked to budget for unforeseen damages or vandalism of art that would require repair.

Vice Chair Solomon asked why the exhibit is only running for a short period of time. He also inquired about programming for the exhibit. Staff stated that the short period is primarily due to materials and their budget. Staff shared that the Skirball has requested to host an event on the first day of the exhibition on June 11th.

ACTION: Approve the exhibition of *Be The Change* by Skirball Cultural Center to be displayed at the decomposed granite area along the south side of the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, from June 11, 2023 - September 25, 2023.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Karliss – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Vice Chair Solomon – Y

Chair Mason – Y

B. LA ROMANCE, A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION BY ALEXANDRE MURUCCI

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive a presentation on the concept design for a temporary art exhibition titled *LA Romance* by Alexandre Murucci and consider approving the proposed display location at the decomposed granite area along the south side of the Plummer Park Community Center.

Commissioner Jackson expressed concern with the location because it is hidden and may prevent the art from being seen by the public.

ACTION: Approve the exhibition of *LA Romance* by Alexandre Murucci to be displayed at the decomposed granite area along the south side of the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, from October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Karliss – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Vice Chair Solomon – Y

Chair Mason – Y

11. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reminded the Commission that the City Clerk’s Office will attend the next meeting to go over the Commission’s new purview.

LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

No changes made.

14. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LIAISON UPDATE ON PLAYHOUSE DESIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
The Steering Committee held a meeting on April 18, 2023.

Commissioner Karliss is excited to see all the projects coming together.

Commissioner Payton was pleased to have attended the Shalom Peace Square dedication. She expressed opposition to auto renewing contracts.

Commissioner Jackson is excited to be a part of the Commission and is excited for the work ahead. She shared that auto renewing contracts are rare. She also expressed that other cities are facing the same problems and concerns that we are, and suggested looking at those cities to see how they are handling things.

Vice Chair Solomon asked staff for an update on the Budget Request process and next steps. Staff shared that all the requests from the Commission were put in the budget process. The items will go to the City Manager for review and then to City Council for approval.

Chair Mason welcomed the new Commissioners. He wished everyone a Happy Pride.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

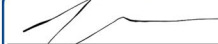
The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 and 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

DocuSigned by:



Debbie Gonzalez, Recording Secretary

DocuSigned by:



Jake Mason, Chair