

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024
CITY HALL COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, 1ST FLOOR
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

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 Solomon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Solomon.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Jackson (she/her);
Commissioner Payton (she/her);
Commissioner Ragno (he/him) arrived at
6:32pm; Vice Chair Karliss (he/him); and
Chair Solomon (he/him)

ABSENT: Commissioner Krishna (she/her); and
Commissioner Mason (he/him).

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services
Division Manager; Erin Hamant, Senior
Administrative Analyst; Debbie Gonzalez,
Administrative Coordinator; David Fenn, Senior
Planner; and Bob Cheung, Senior
Transportation Planner.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Ragno.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the January 10, 2024, Agenda.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Vice Chair Karliss – Y

Chair Solomon – Y

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the prior Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting dated December 13, 2023.

A motion was made by Karliss to amend the minutes to include his comments as it relates to item 8.C., City Facility Tenant Leases. The motion was seconded by Solomon with a friendly amendment to include a correction to his comments as it relates to item 8.E., Alternative Restroom Updates and item 12, Items from Commissioners.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Vice Chair Karliss – Y

Chair Solomon – Y

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. TIPU TREE REPLACEMENT PLANTING PROJECT UPDATE (PHASE 2)

SUBJECT: The Commission will review the phase 2 planting site data for the Tipu Tree Replacement Planting Project, as outlined and identified in the City's Urban Forest Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the phase 2 planting site data for the Tipu Tree Replacement Planting Project.

Approved as part of the Agenda Approval, Item 3.

B. ANNUAL CALENDAR

SUBJECT: The Commission will review its schedule of regular meetings, special meetings, and special events in the Annual Calendar and consider various date recommendations by staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Select Saturday, April 20, 2024, for the Annual Tree Planting Event.

- 2) Select Saturday, September 14, 2024, for the Annual Tour of City Facilities as a Special Meeting.
- 3) Select Wednesday, October 9, 2024, for the Annual Televised Meeting.

Approved as part of the Agenda Approval, Item 3.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. WESTSIDE CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (WSCCOG) BUS INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive information and provide feedback to staff on opportunities related to Metro funding allocated by the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) for regional bus infrastructure and bus rapid transit (BRT) corridors previously identified in regional planning documents that could potentially serve West Hollywood but are not included in existing City plans.

Staff introduced the item and provided information as presented in the staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kevin Burton, WEST HOLLYWOOD, supports the City's involvement in the project and lobbying for bus infrastructure improvements on La Cienega. Burton commented on the proposed dedicated bus lanes that were part of the WSCCOG Mobility Study 2020 and pointed out that the lanes stop at the West Hollywood boundary.

Chair Solomon pointed out the need for north/south transit lines in the west side. Solomon supports option 2 and option 3 of the proposed bus corridors. He commented that the routes can help connect people to West Hollywood and furthermore help relieve traffic and congestion. Solomon shared that he cares more about increasing ridership and improving the flow of bus lines over bus shelters and bus furniture.

Vice Chair Karliss is in favor of providing funds for the La Cienega Blvd/Jefferson Blvd bus corridor. He is in favor of the peak-hour bus lanes and the enhanced bus shelters. He urged to press council to advocate for the La Cienega Blvd/Jefferson Blvd bus corridor.

Commissioner Jackson is in favor of the La Cienega Blvd/Jefferson Blvd bus corridor as well as the bus shelters. She spoke of the connection to main attractions in Inglewood such as the upcoming Olympics and venues such as the So-Fi. She spoke in favor of having designated bus lanes.

Commissioner Ragno is in favor of any opportunity to improve public transportation.

Commissioner Payton suggested advocating for option 2 and option 3 of the proposed bus corridors. She is in favor of designated bus lanes and dedicated signals for faster bus operations. Payton is in favor of bus shelters if there are enough funds.

ACTION: Receive and provide feedback.

**B. WILLOUGHBY AND VISTA/GARDNER GREENWAY PROJECT
CONCEPT PLAN**

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the Willoughby and Vista/Gardner Greenway Project and provide feedback.

Staff introduced the item and provided a presentation included in the staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jennifer De La Rosa, LOS ANGELES, is excited to learn about the upcoming improvements. De La Rosa expressed concerns regarding vehicular traffic on Fountain Ave and Kings Road. De La Rosa spoke in favor of the neighborhood traffic circle recommendation to slow down traffic in the neighborhood.

Kevin Burton, WEST HOLLYWOOD, on behalf of the West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition, thanked staff for their long-term efforts on the project. Burton commented that having both bicycle push buttons and detectors at the same intersection can be confusing and suggested exploring video detectors. Burton spoke against stopping bike lanes at Lexington, headed north on Gardner. Burton thanked staff for recommending the reverse angled parking. Furthermore, Burton commented on the Bike Route 66 signage that is on Willoughby St. and asked to consider moving the sign if a different bike route is approved.

Commissioner Payton shared that she is a big proponent of greening and alternative transit. She brought up the pilot bicycle repair stations that are going to be installed and suggested tying them in with this project. Although she is in favor of having two thoroughfares for bicyclists, she expressed concern with restricting parking on Fountain Ave.

Commissioner Ragno agrees with commissioner Payton's comments.

Commissioner Jackson commented on the proposed pocket parks. She expressed concern with reducing the parking on Fountain Ave.

Vice Chair Karliss likes all the recommendations. He is in favor of the raised landscape median on Vista St. In regard to the mini-park near Santa Monica Blvd, Karliss would like to canvas the nearby business owners to see how this would impact them. He commented on the proposed mini-park at Kings Rd and expressed concern if it will remain open 24/7. He suggested canvassing the residents and homeowners adjacent to it.

Chair Solomon commented on the route that is part of the Willoughby recommendation. He suggested extending the route all the way to La Cienega Blvd. He recommended staff look to see if there is a plan worth pursuing that would end on La Cienega Blvd and work with City of Los Angeles to get them on board. Solomon commented on the Vista/Gardner recommendation and expressed safety concern for bikers with some of the proposed lanes. He spoke in favor of parallel parking and having protected bike lanes from Willoughby Ave to Fountain Ave. Solomon likes the proposed raised median. He commented that the most appealing designs in the proposal are the ones we are asking City of Los Angeles to do. Solomon mentioned a lack of continuity with the design plan.

ACTION: Receive and provide feedback.

C. FOUNTAIN AVENUE STREETScape STEERING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: The Commission will appoint one (1) primary member and one (1) alternate member to the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Steering Committee.

Staff introduced the item and provided information as outlined in the staff report.

ACTION: Solomon made a motion to appoint Commissioner Payton as the primary member, and Commissioner Jackson as the alternate member to the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Steering Committee. The motion was seconded by Karliss, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Payton – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Vice Chair Karliss – Y

Chair Solomon – Y

D. ANNUAL TOUR OF PUBLIC FACILITIES DISCUSSION

SUBJECT: The Commission will reflect and share their comments from the Annual Tour of Public Facilities held on October 14, 2023.

Staff introduced the item and opened it up to the Commission for comments and feedback.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kevin Burton, WEST HOLLYWOOD, found the tour informative and thanked staff for organizing the tour. Burton recommended for future tours to comment on plots of land that is owned by the City.

Commissioner Payton enjoyed last year's tour. She would like to see Kings Road Park be a part of this year's tour.

Commissioner Ragno enjoyed the tour, particularly touring the historical buildings at Plummer Park. He also enjoyed touring Laurel Park. He commented on the space below the library, he would like to see it being used for something functional such as a retail or service space.

Commissioner Jackson enjoyed the tour. She spoke of the importance of having these tours for the public. She enjoyed touring Laurel Park. In future tours, she would like to tour the city assets.

Vice Chair Karliss pointed out the room in front of Great Hall and Long Hall that is being used as storage. He recommended providing the Recreation Division with more storage space to free up the room for the public to utilize for classes or meetings.

Chair Solomon thought the tour was well organized. He expressed his dislike of Fiesta Hall, Great Hall, and Long Hall. He commented on the smell in one of the buildings. Solomon commented that it is unfortunate that because they are historic buildings, they cannot be modified to make better use of them. He would like to see a type of flooring at Fiesta Hall that allows for indoor sport activities and recreation programming.

ACTION: Receive and discuss.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.
10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.
11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff provided the commission with an update on the Plummer Park restroom maintenance and explained how the city's janitorial contractor is tracking maintenance. Staff updated the commission on the loss of a tree at Plummer Park due to the winds experienced over the weekend.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

Commissioner Payton shared about her attendance to Winter Wonderland at West Hollywood Park and commented on the time of the event. She also attended Frozen at Plummer Park.

Commissioner Ragno is looking forward to the upcoming Mayor installation which he will be attending.

Commissioner Jackson reminded everyone regarding the upcoming City of West Hollywood Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

Vice Chair Karliss would like the West Hollywood Dog Parks to remain open during the Elton John AIDS Foundation Fundraiser in March. Staff shared that there are internal discussions being had regarding that topic. Karliss asked if staff can keep residents up to date on any new developments regarding the Atypical Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease and what the city's recommendation is regarding use of the dog parks. Staff will speak to the Communications Department regarding this request.

Chair Solomon brought up the lights surrounding the Plummer Park pickleball courts. He brought up the tennis courts windscreen at West Hollywood Park. Staff recommended bringing these items to the Budget Subcommittee.

Chair Solomon made a motion to add the following items to the Look Ahead Calendar, Lighting Options at Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park Tennis Courts Windscreen. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ragno and approved by Consensus.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall Community Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

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Debbie Gonzalez

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Debbie Gonzalez, Recording Secretary

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Andrew C Solomon

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Andrew Solomon, Chair