

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
6:30 P.M.

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

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 Krishna (she/her);
Commissioner Mason (he/him) – Arrived at
6:47 p.m.;
Vice Chair Karliss (he/him); and
Chair Solomon (he/him).

ABSENT: Commissioner Payton (she/her); and
Commissioner Ragno (he/him).

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services
Division Manager; Erin Hamant, Senior
Administrative Analyst; Debbie Gonzalez,
Administrative Coordinator; Yvonne Quarker,
Director of Community Services; Stephanie
Martinez, Recreation Services Division
Manager; Clavon Jubrey, Recreation
Supervisor; Michael Gasca, Recreation
Supervisor; Dana AlHaddad, Recreation
Coordinator; and Andrea Yanez, Recreation
Coordinator.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Michael Gasca.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the May 8, 2024, Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Vice Chair Karliss, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Krishna – 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 April 10, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Krishna, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Vice Chair Karliss – Y

Chair Solomon – Y

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Wojtkielewicz, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern with the Dog Park Regulation item which was reviewed by the Commission at its February meeting. Michael commented on the history of Plummer Park.

Michael Carter, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about keystone plant species and pollinators. Michael pointed out a location at Plummer Park that would be great for a pollinator garden.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update from the Recreation Services Division on the interim Community Garden Program at Plummer Park. Staff will provide an overview of the progress of the garden completion, the distribution of garden plots, and upcoming events.

Recreation staff presented the item as outlined in the staff report.

Chair Solomon asked clarifying questions regarding the plot selection

process, hours of operation, and joint programming. Staff replied to the inquiries.

Vice Chair Karliss asked clarifying questions regarding the waitlist. Staff responded to the inquiry.

Commissioner Mason asked clarifying questions regarding the lease term. Staff replied to the inquiry.

Commissioner Krishna asked follow-up questions regarding the lease term. Staff provided further information.

Commissioner Jackson asked follow-up questions regarding the waitlist. Furthermore, she inquired about having a code of conduct for the garden. Staff responded to her questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Marissa Allen, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke of the raised garden beds and expressed concern with the city downsizing community garden programs.

Michael Carter, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke of the challenges the community gardeners may face at the Plummer Park community garden.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the edible parkway program. Michael expressed concerns with the community garden at Plummer Park.

William Seegmiller, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke of the importance of the community garden and encouraged the city to include the community garden members in the decision-making process.

Edyth Magoun, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern with the garden plots. Edyth spoke of the importance of gardening.

Roy Lillywhite, HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern with the garden beds and shared important plant concepts for successful gardening.

Cathy Blaivas, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern with the gardeners' limitations in the program. Cathy encouraged the city to listen to the gardeners' concerns and to look for more space for community gardens.

Christopher J., WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern with the garden beds and encouraged the city to appoint gardeners to be part of the decision-making process. Christopher emphasized the need for more garden space.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Krishna commented on the raised bed concerns.

Commissioner Mason acknowledged staff for their speedy and hard work. He reminded the public that this is an interim solution. He encouraged the community members to continue to provide input at public meetings to ensure their concerns are heard.

Staff spoke about the raised bed concerns and shared about the history of community gardens.

Vice Chair Karliss thanked staff, the commission, and City Council for facilitating the community garden so quickly. He agreed with a public comment regarding the need for more space for community gardens. He encouraged finding creative ways to increase the space in the current plots.

Chair Solomon echoed his fellow commissioner sentiments and applauded staff for their diligent work on the community gardens. He reminded the public that this is an interim solution and encouraged the community to keep an open communication with staff regarding their concerns.

Commissioner Jackson applauded staff for moving fast on the project.

ACTION: Receive and provide feedback.

B. **UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PICKLEBALL AND TENNIS CONCESSION OPERATIONS AND SERVICES**

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an update on the Request for Proposals for the Pickleball and Tennis Concession Operations and Services.

Recreation staff presented the item as outlined in the staff report.

Commissioner Krishna asked a clarifying question regarding the references requested in the RFP. Staff responded to the question.

Vice Chair Karliss asked a clarifying question regarding the contract term. Furthermore, he asked how vendor concerns are going to be heard. Staff responded to the inquiries.

Chair Solomon inquired about the scoring criteria and possibly increasing fees. He asked for an update on the new Pro Shop and asked if applicants are aware of any possible disruptions that may occur. Furthermore, he inquired about the annual value of the contract. Staff responded to the questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Wojtkielewicz, WEST HOLLYWOOD, acknowledged the work that the commission is doing. Michael spoke of the importance of being consistent with the terminology that is used.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Karliss thanked staff for their work in the RFP process.

Chair Solomon thanked staff for promoting and getting more interest in the RFP. He expressed concern with the length of the contract.

ACTION: Receive and provide feedback.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Facilities staff reminded the Commission of the upcoming PRIDE festival and the upcoming Civic Leadership Academy. Recreation staff shared that Spring Fest was a success. May is water safety month, during which the Recreation division will be offering free swim lessons, thanks to a donation from a constituent. Staff talked about programming and shared registration information for the summer. Staff shared information about the upcoming opening of the Neon Dog art installation at Hart Park on Friday, and the upcoming Mishka Festival on Sunday, May 19. Lastly, staff announced that July is Park and Recreation month.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

Chair Solomon announced that the City Council Finance & Budget Subcommittee will be meeting tomorrow and will be considering the capital recommendations made by the commission. He encouraged the commission members to attend.

Commissioner Jackson acknowledged staff for their efforts in trying to be as equitable as possible in giving everyone access.

Commissioner Krishna echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Jackson and thanked staff. She spoke of a community garden on a membership basis. Krishna shared that City Council proclaimed May as Asian American & Pacific Islander month.

Commissioner Mason echoed the sentiments regarding staff's efforts in being equitable and fair with everyone.

Vice Chair Karliss enjoyed Spring Fest. He shared about the World Dog Day event at West Hollywood Park on Saturday. Karliss attended the Tree Planting event and the Water Works Symposium. He inquired about putting out an RFP for professional dog training classes. Staff responded to the inquiry. He commented on the AIDS Monument item that went before the City Council on Monday. He inquired about how the landscaping works in the city. Staff responded to the inquiry.

Chair Solomon thanked staff for their efforts on the community garden. He attended the West Hollywood Elementary School ribbon cutting ceremony for their playscape. He shared that there will be an informational open house for Willoughby, Vista/Gardner, and Kings Street Design Concept Plan on May 21st.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 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