

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

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 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 Karliss called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
 - A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Karliss.
 - B. OATH OF OFFICE – The Oath of Office was administered by Vice Mayor Chelsea Lee Byers to the newly appointed Commissioner Kali E. Rogers.
 - C. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Rogers (she/her);
Commissioner Ragno (he/him);
Commissioner Mason (he/him);
Commissioner Krishna (she/her);
Commissioner Jackson (she/her);
Vice Chair Payton (she/her); and
Chair Karliss (he/him).

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services
Division Manager (she/her); Erin Hamant,
Senior Administrative Analyst (she/her);
Stephanie Martinez, Recreation Services
Division Manager (she/her); Dana AlHaddad,
Recreation Coordinator (she/her); Ric.
Abramson, City Architect, Urban Design and
Architecture Studio Manager (he/him); Richard
Garland, Principal Traffic Engineer (he/him);
and Walter Davis, Traffic Management
Program Specialist (he/him).

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Rogers.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approved the August 14, 2024, Agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Krishna, seconded by Commissioner Ragno, and approved with one abstention.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – ABSTAINED

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Vice Chair Payton – Y

Chair Karliss – Y

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION: Approved the minutes of the prior Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting dated July 10, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and approved with one abstention.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – ABSTAINED

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Vice Chair Payton – Y

Chair Karliss – Y

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Burton, WEST HOLLYWOOD, congratulated the Commission's new Commissioner, Chair and Vice Chair. He spoke about the benefits of Ciclaviva and invited the Commissioners and community members to come out for the event this weekend.

Richard Leroy, WEST HOLLYWOOD, introduced himself to the Commission and shared that he is the liaison to the Commission for the City's Older Adults Advisory Board.

Andrew Solomon, WEST HOLLYWOOD, congratulated Commissioner Rogers on her appointment and asked the Commission to prioritize the new play structure at Kings Road Park.

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, applauded the Commission for its expanded purview, asked the Commission to speak clearly into their microphones so that their meeting recordings are easier to hear, and spoke about the importance of finding out who illegally trimmed the City's trees, which was an act of felony vandalism, that occurred recently along Santa Monica Boulevard between Alfred Street and La Cienega Boulevard.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. **ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC FACILITIES**

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive an overview of public facilities.

ACTION: Receive and file. **This item was approved as part of the Approval of the Agenda.**

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. **LA BREA AVENUE PEDESTRIAN LIGHT FIXTURE REFURBISHING PROJECT**

SUBJECT: The Commission will provide feedback and make a recommendation regarding the La Brea Avenue Pedestrian Light Fixture design, finish and color options presented by staff.

Staff provided background on the Measure M grant award from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) and explained that the project involves removing the existing pedestrian lights located within the sidewalk area on both sides of La Brea Ave between Fountain Ave and Romaine Ave. The existing pedestrian lights are the ornamental blue colored globe lights. Staff presented the two light fixtures, finishes, and color options to the Commission – the Louis Poulsen LP Capsule and the Selux Astro II.

Commissioner Mason asked about the pole height and if there were other considerations the Commission should consider. Staff shared the height would be between 14 – 18' feet tall. The pedestrian lighting fixtures were the only street furniture recommendations called out in the La Brea Avenue Streetscape Plan.

Chair Karliss asked about the lighting color temperature. Staff explained that next steps will include the technical lighting specifications which will be completed by a contracted professional engineering firm to conduct design services, complete the plans and specifications, and construction

estimates for the project.

Commissioner Krishna asked about the City's other streetscape plans and if other light fixtures will be brought to the Commission in the near future. Staff confirmed additional streetscape plans are not anticipated in the near future.

Vice Chair Payton asked if the Santa Monica Boulevard Streetscape will get updated. Staff replied that the streetscape along Santa Monica Boulevard is not a current project.

Commissioner Mason asked about the price differences between the two light fixtures and vandalism. Staff shared that the cost between the two options are equivalent and that the light fixtures will be powder coated and sealed with an anti-graffiti paint. Long-term maintenance would require painting the light poles in the future.

Public Comments:

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the Selux Astro II light fixture.

Chair Karliss shared he preferred the modern, clean design of the Louis Poulsen LP Capsule light fixture.

Commissioner Krishna and Commissioner Ragno shared they preferred the custom blue color. Commissioner Rogers and Vice Chair Payton agreed that the consistency of the blue color for street furniture throughout West Hollywood is nice.

Commissioner Jackson shared she preferred the Selux Astro II light fixture. She appreciated the nod to history and the existing ornamental blue colored globe pedestrian lights that are located throughout the city.

ACTION: The Commission recommended the Selux Astro II in a custom blue for the La Brea Avenue Pedestrian Light Fixture Refurbishing Project, and authorized staff to forward their recommendation to the City Council.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and approved with one nay vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Vice Chair Payton – Y

Chair Karliss – N

B. LOCATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL TOUR OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

SUBJECT: The Commission will review the proposed locations to visit on their Annual Tour of Public Facilities which will take place on September 14, 2024.

Staff presented six (6) locations for the Commission to consider for the 2024 Annual Tour of Public Facilities. Members of the public are invited to join.

- William S. Hart Park & Dog Park, 8341 De Longpre Avenue
- Crescent Heights Triangles & Matthew Shepard Memorial, intersection of Crescent Heights Boulevard & Santa Monica Boulevard
- Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial Fountain, 8441 Santa Monica Boulevard
- Werle Building, 626 Robertson Boulevard
- Log Cabin, 621 N. Robertson Boulevard
- Kings Road Park, 1000 N. Kings Road
- Return to City Hall Automated Parking Structure

Public Comments:

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, shared fond memories as a former Public Facilities Commissioner and the annual bus tour. He spoke about the historic preservation efforts and broad community support for the Log Cabin Project and encouraged the Commission to consider these insights when on their annual bus tour next month.

ACTION: Approved the tour locations for 2024. **Motion by Vice Chair Payton, seconded by Commissioner Mason, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y
Commissioner Ragno – Y
Commissioner Mason – Y
Commissioner Krishna – Y
Commissioner Jackson – Y
Vice Chair Payton – Y
Chair Karliss – Y

C. FY24-25 WORK PLAN

SUBJECT: The Commission will consider adopting their proposed FY24-25 Work Plan.

Commissioner Mason inquired about updating their subcommittee roster and the status of the LGBTQ+ Suicide Memorial Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Staff shared that updating their subcommittee roster will take place at the October meeting.

Commissioner Krishna and Vice Chair Payton asked about the approved budget items and priorities for staff. Staff acknowledged the approved budget items will be incorporated into their work this fiscal year.

Commissioner Ragno inquired about the status of the shade structures at the dog parks in West Hollywood Park.

Public Comments:

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the importance of the ADA improvements and the original AIDS Memorial at Hart Park.

Chair Karliss inquired about the berm area at Kings Road Park and spoke about other various landscaping improvements needed at the park.

Vice Chair Payton spoke about how the trees over the playground at Kings Road Park drop fruit and debris and kids try to play with it.

ACTION: Adopted the Commission’s FY24-25 Work Plan with the following edits: add a bullet under No. 3 Capital Projects, f. Kings Road Park Improvements, “Landscape Design Improvements,” and add No. 8, “Implement the Commission’s FY24-26 Biennial Capital Budget recommendations approved by the City Council.” **Motion by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Chair Karliss, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Vice Chair Payton – Y

Chair Karliss – Y

D. PLAQUE REQUEST IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAL GUARRIELLO VETERANS’ MEMORIAL

SUBJECT: The Commission will review a plaque request in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Sal Guarriello Veterans’ Memorial and reach a final determination on if the City should move forward with fabrication and installation of the proposed plaque, in accordance with the City’s Plaques

Policy Guidelines.

Staff mistakenly posted the staff report with information missing and recommended the Commission to table the item.

ACTION: Tabled this item to a future Commission meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Ragno, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y

Commissioner Ragno – Y

Commissioner Mason – Y

Commissioner Krishna – Y

Commissioner Jackson – Y

Vice Chair Payton – Y

Chair Karliss – Y

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **FEEDBACK ON TENNIS & PICKLEBALL OPERATIONS**

SUBJECT: The Commission has a standing agenda item to receive feedback from the public on the City's tennis and pickleball operations.

Public Comments:

Max Osswald, LOS ANGELES, spoke as a representative of Tennacity, the City's current contracted vendor for pickleball and tennis concession operations and services, sharing upcoming events and news about court play.

ACTION: Receive feedback from the public.

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

K LINE EXTENSION EIR COMMENT PERIOD

Staff encouraged the Commission and community members to provide feedback to Metro before September 5th in support of the K Line Northern Extension and the San Vicente/Fairfax route. More information can be located on the City's website at www.weho.org/metro.

Recreation staff invited attendees to the upcoming Rec Expo and provided an informational summary on the City's outreach efforts to assess the community's tennis and pickleball needs (a community survey, forming a focus group, an

online feedback form, and a social media plan).

Staff spoke about a new brochure created in collaboration by the City Clerk's Division and Communications Department called "Get Involved: A Guide to Civic Involvement" which shares information about how to stay informed and get involved in city government including how to participate in public meetings and the City's Commissions and Advisory Boards. Staff will bring copies to future meetings for the Commissioners to share with neighbors, local businesses, and community members.

Staff informed the Commission that a temporary plaque in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial has been installed at the site as a placeholder for where the proposed permanent plaque would be placed.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Burton, WEST HOLLYWOOD, asked staff to clarify on the next meeting agenda that the meeting will commence inside City Hall prior to departing for the annual bus tour.

Victor Omelczenko, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on the item approved on the Consent Calendar calling attention to the new meeting rooms at the Aquatic and Recreation Center and asked if meetings including public meetings can be held in these rooms.

Eileen O'Meara, WEST HOLLYWOOD, submitted an e-comment about the City's swimming lane allocation policy sharing concerns she and other community members have regarding available lanes for public lap swimming and swim team use/general public use at the Aquatic and Recreation Center.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

The Commission approved by consensus to add a new item to its look ahead calendar: Restricted Access of Public Spaces for General Use.

Commissioner Rogers expressed interest to learn about restrictions at City parks and facilities when public spaces limit access to the general public because they are scheduled for business uses, and if there are opportunities to expand public access. Examples included the Tiny Tots gated outdoor area at West Hollywood Park and the Preschool outdoor area at Plummer Park. Recreation staff described the City's reservation and scheduling practices for groups, teams, and other private/rental uses and reviewed the stringent safety standards the City applies to all spaces within City facilities that are used by kids.

Commissioner Mason reminded the Commission that the private groups and

teams using West Hollywood facilities are typically comprised of West Hollywood residents and it is impossible to please every user and meet every demand. He expressed appreciation to the City's recreation staff for their ability to balance needs across every user type.

Commissioner Jackson expressed disappointment for missing National Night Out this year and invited everyone to attend Fiesta La Ballona next weekend in Culver City.

Commissioners Ragno and Commissioner Krishna had no additional comments.

Vice Chair Payton shared that she recently acquired a community garden plot at Plummer Park and asked staff for an update on the Kings Road Park Playground Ad Hoc Subcommittee. She also asked if public parking structures are in the Commission's purview. Staff will check with the City Clerk about their purview.

Chair Karliss asked if staff could share the Commission's contact information. Staff informed the Commission that the practice of sharing City Board and Commission member contact information ended a few years ago.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m. to its next meeting, a special meeting which will be the Annual Tour of Public Facilities on Saturday, September 14, 2024, departing at 9:00 a.m. from the City Hall Automated Parking Structure, 1085 N. Sweetzer Ave., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

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Erin Hamant

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Erin Hamant, Acting Recording Secretary

Signed by:

Richard Karliss

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Richard Karliss, Chair