

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

**SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2024
6:30 P.M.**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE 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 6:30 p.m.
 - A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Chair Karliss.
 - B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Krishna (she/her).

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Collins, Facilities and Field Services
Division Manager (she/her); Erin Hamant,
Senior Administrative Analyst (she/her);
Debbie Gonzalez, Administrative Coordinator
(she/her); and Cortez Jordan, Aquatics
Supervisor (he/him).

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Stephanie Harker.
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approved the October 9, 2024, Agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Ragno, seconded by Commissioner Mason, and approved unanimously.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y
Commissioner Ragno – Y
Commissioner Mason – 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 September 14, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Rogers, and approved with one abstention.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Harker, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the Fountain Avenue Streetscape project and the Fountain Avenue bike lane project and expressed concern with having the bike lanes come before the widening of the sidewalks. Furthermore, she brought up concerns with having no center divider lane on Fountain Avenue for emergency vehicles and the resident driveways that will be impacted as part of the bike lane project. She asked staff to provide more detailed information of the projects on engage.weho.org.

Cathy Blaivas, WEST HOLLYWOOD, made positive remarks about the progress of the Plummer Park community garden. She brought up the possibility of upcoming developments putting in community gardens and asked if that would fall under the Commission's purview. Cathy shared that community members near Vista/Gardner and Fountain were not aware of the upcoming bike lane projects.

Kevin Burton, WEST HOLLYWOOD, affirmed that the City has publicized, at multiple public meetings and through a mailer, the upcoming bike lane projects and the impacts it will have on travel lanes and parking. Additionally, he shared that the residents were given an opportunity to fill out a survey to express their preferences.

Eileen O'Meara, WEST HOLLYWOOD, submitted an e-comment expressing concern with the City's Aquatic and Recreation Center swimming lane allocation policy.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. NAMING REQUEST TO NAME THE FUTURE THEATER AT THE CITY PLAYHOUSE IN HONOR OF THE CITY'S FORMER ARTS MANAGER ANDREW CAMPBELL

SUBJECT: The Commission will begin the process to study a naming request to name the future theater at the City Playhouse the "Andrew Campbell Theater" to honor the life, work, and contributions of the City's former Arts Manager Andrew Campbell, in accordance with the City's Naming Policy.

ACTION: Accept staff's recommended public participation/ input process and timeline related to the naming request as outlined in the staff report.
This item was approved as part of the Approval of the Agenda.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. ANNUAL TOUR OF PUBLIC FACILITIES DISCUSSION

SUBJECT: The Commission will reflect and share their comments from the Annual Tour of Public Facilities held on September 14, 2024.

Staff introduced the item and opened it up for reflection and comments.

Public Comment:

Stephanie Harker, WEST HOLLYWOOD, is happy to see that the City has brought Hart Park to ADA compliance and asked the Commission's thoughts on the changes that are being done to the original AIDS Memorial.

Kevin Burton, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanked staff and the Commission for the opportunity given to the community to learn more about the City facilities. He looks forward to the Hart Park improvements and agreed with Vice Chair Payton's suggestion to put a sign citing the Hart Park AIDS Memorial. Additionally, Kevin suggested putting a sign citing the Matthew Shepard Memorial. Kevin spoke of the risks at Kings Road Park with having dogs and children in the same space.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Rogers commented on the poor maintenance of the Hart Park AIDS Memorial during the annual tour and expressed concern about how the public may see this. She complimented the Crescent Heights Triangles and Matthew Shepard Memorial sites.

Commissioner Jackson found it offensive to see the lack of maintenance of the Hart Park AIDS Memorial and commented on the lack of visibility of the site. She found the Crescent Heights Triangles to be well-kept and shared that it is a well-used site by the public. She asked why the Veterans' Memorial Fountain is named after Sal Guarriello. Staff shared that Sal Guarriello was a former council member who helped get the funding for the Veterans' Memorial Fountain. At the time of his passing, the City Council elected to name it after him. Jackson complimented the Werle building and the Log Cabin. She commented that the playground equipment at Kings Road Park could be upgraded and commented on the dirt patch in the back of the park. Staff shared that they are in the process of replanting grass in that area.

Commissioner Ragno agreed with the comments made about the Hart Park AIDS Memorial. He asked if it could be reconfigured to prevent runoff from the hill. Staff will look at ways to prevent runoff from damaging the AIDS Memorial. Ragno is pleased with the landscape at the Crescent Heights Triangles. He likes the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial Fountain and looks forward to the plaque. He suggested a dog area at Kings Road Park. Staff clarified that the City Council did not approve a dog area at Kings Road Park.

Commissioner Mason asked if the AIDS Memorial at Hart Park will be removed with the park renovation. Staff stated that it will not be removed.

Vice Chair Payton agreed with the comments about the maintenance of the AIDS Memorial at Hart Park. She suggested placing a plaque to increase the site's visibility. Payton enjoyed touring the Crescent Heights Triangles and pointed out the deterioration of the plaque at the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial Fountain. She is excited about the Log Cabin renovations. She suggested putting native plants instead of grass at Kings Road Park.

Commissioner Mason asked if the new turf regulations will affect the Dog Park at Hart Park. Staff shared that there are no new regulations at this time but that City Council has directed staff to look at alternatives.

Chair Karliss echoed the sentiments about bringing attention to the maintenance of the AIDS Memorial at Hart Park. He asked if there will be supplemental plantings at Crescent Heights Triangle. Staff confirmed that there will be supplemental plantings. Karliss agreed with Vice Chair Payton's comment about putting in plants or shrubs instead of grass at Kings Road Park. It can help deter dogs from being off-leash, which is unsafe due to the proximity of the children's playground.

ACTION: Receive and discuss.

B. REPORT OUT ON THE ADOPTED FY24-26 BIENNIAL BUDGET

SUBJECT: The Commission will receive a brief presentation about the adopted FY24-26 biennial budget and provide input on the prioritization of its budget items.

Staff provided a presentation on the item.

Commissioner Mason and Commissioner Jackson asked for clarification about the scheduling of the projects. Staff provided clarification.

Chair Karliss asked if any of the items are considered safety items for the users and suggested prioritizing those items. Staff will work on determining which items should be prioritized based on safety.

Commissioner Ragno agrees with the order of the budget items.

Commissioner Mason commented on the West Hollywood Park built-in sound system and shared that many people will be pleased when it is complete. Staff shared that the item is in motion.

Commissioner Rogers commented on the gym mural item and disagrees with its position on the list.

Commissioner Jackson agrees with the order of the budget list.

Vice Chair Payton agrees with the order of the budget list.

ACTION: Receive and provide input.

C. UPDATE THE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE ROSTER

SUBJECT: The Commission will review and make adjustments and appointments to its subcommittee roster, as required, and set a prioritization schedule related to upcoming subcommittee meetings.

Staff provided an overview of the subcommittee roster and the current vacancies.

The Commission discussed their interests and made selections.

ACTION: Approve the appointment of Commissioner Rogers to the Greening West Hollywood Subcommittee and the Heritage Tree Subcommittee; Approve the withdrawal of Vice Chair Payton from the Greening West Hollywood Subcommittee; and Approve the appointment of Commissioner Krishna to the Greening West Hollywood Subcommittee.
Motion by Chair Karliss, seconded by Commissioner Mason, and approved unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Rogers – Y
Commissioner Ragno – Y
Commissioner Mason – 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.

ACTION: No public comments were received by the Commission.

10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff shared that there will be a Recreation update at the next meeting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS & SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR FOR AGENDA PREP & COMMISSION ITEMS TRACKER

Commissioner Rogers would like to be better informed about day-to-day maintenance projects to be able to answer questions the community may have. Staff will share a list of maintenance updates with the Commission.

Commissioner Jackson asked to agendaize an item to discuss the vision of the Kings Road Park. Staff offered to bring an item to the commission to discuss the items under the Commissions purview at Kings Road Park.

The Commission approved by consensus to add a new item to its look ahead calendar: Kings Road Park Short- and Long-Term Goals & Landscape Design Improvements.

Commissioner Ragno thanked Recreation staff and Tennacity for installing the new pickleball netting at Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park.

Commissioner Mason thanked staff and wished everyone good luck at Halloween.

Vice Chair Payton is excited to see movement on the subcommittees.

Chair Karliss is excited for the West Hollywood Halloween Carnival on October 31st. He reminded everyone of the upcoming Elections on November 5th.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. to its next regular meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 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

Signed by:

Richard Karliss

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Richard Karliss, Chair