

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1999  
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Rae Mitchell led the Pledge.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Guarriello, Koretz, Prang, Heilman and Mayor Martin.

**ABSENT:** City Attorney Jenkins

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Makinney, City Clerk Thompson and Assistant City Clerk Bell.

**REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA:** City Manager Makinney stated that the City Council called the meeting to order, recessed into Closed Session and no reportable actions were taken.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**ACTION:** Approve the March 22, 1999 Agenda. **Motion Mayor Pro Tem Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Prang and unanimously carried.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Councilmember Prang presented Julie Summers and Ruth Williams plaques for their community service in honor of Women's History Month.

Mayor Martin requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Gene Brunner.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

AMY ANDERSON, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of replacing the ficus trees with the london plane tree.

DON ZABINSKI, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

J.W. MOORE IV, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanked the City Council for sending him to the Regional Policing Conference and he spoke about elder abuse.

GRACIELLA IPPAHERRE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of not cutting the trees and to see a variety of trees planted.

ESTER BAUM, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees and not replacing them with the london plane.

JEANNE DOBRIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the pavement at Robertson and Santa Monica Blvd. and the banners on the street that are old and should be taken down.

DON BRUNKHE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanked all of his supporters in the campaign for councilmember and congratulated the incumbents.

KEVIN P. SCOTT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of saving some of the ficus trees and incorporate them with the young trees or plant a variety of trees.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Guarriello thanked Don Brunkhe for his congratulations to the incumbents.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** City Manager Makinney had no report.

**FISCAL IMPACT ON CONSENT CALENDAR:** City Clerk Thompson stated the fiscal impact on the Consent Calendar of March 22, 1999, is \$50,000 in expenditures.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**ACTION:** Approve Items 2.A., B., C. and D.

**Motion Mayor Pro Tem Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Koretz and unanimously carried.**

**2.A. POSTING OF AGENDA:**

**ACTION:** Receive and file. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

**2.B. WAIVER OF FURTHER READING:**

**ACTION:** After the City Attorney has read the title of any ordinance on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

**2.C. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD MASTER PLAN FOLLOW-UP/STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS REPORT:**

**ACTION:** Receive and file. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

**2.D. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KAKU ASSOCIATES FOR INTERIM TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SERVICES:**

**ACTION:** 1) Approve a professional services agreement with Kaku Associates in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to provide interim transportation planning services; and, 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

4.A. **AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE THE SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS:**

Joan English, Director of Transportation provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated March 22, 1999.

JEANNE DOBRIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of this item and suggested that the City hire or appoint a person to oversee the construction plan for Santa Monica Boulevard.

Mayor Pro Tem Heilman spoke about concerns that the key players will not be around.

Director English stated that Ms. Perlstein will review things from home and that she will return on July 12, 1999.

Mayor Pro Tem Heilman asked if there is a way to speed up the project.

Director English stated that there will be some night work but this is about as fast as we can go.

Mayor Martin asked if there will be Saturday construction.

Director English stated that if the Council proposed this it could be considered.

Councilmember Guarriello stated his concerns about Ms. Perlstein being out.

Director English stated that there will be no subjective decisions to make and that Ms. Perlstein will be in contact with the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Heilman asked that there be attention paid to mitigating traffic access to Santa Monica Blvd.

Councilmember Koretz asked if there could be construction on Sunday also.

Director English stated the costs would be time and a half on Saturday and double time on Sunday.

Councilmember Prang asked about the traffic mitigation plans.

Mayor Martin asked about extra parking for constituents.

Councilmember Guarriello asked about shuttle options.

**ACTION:** Authorize the Department of Transportation and Public Works to proceed with advertising the Santa Monica Boulevard Project for construction bids. With direction to staff to include construction work on Saturday to commence after 8:00 am.

**Motion Mayor Pro Tem Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Prang and unanimously carried.**

#### **4.B. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD FICUS TREES:**

Hassan Haghani, Associate Planner provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated March 22, 1999.

Councilmember Guarriello stated that the brochure only included one card for one person to vote.

Councilmember Koretz stated that the brochure arrived too late to return by the due date and the argument in the brochure was totally bias for cutting the ficus trees.

Mayor Martin stated that there was an opportunity for the Council to have input in the brochure before the brochure went out.

Mayor Pro Tem Heilman stated that the survey was only to give as some input and that the survey told him that the general public is not as passionate about keeping the ficus trees as the speakers who have come to the Council meetings.

AUSTIN VISSIHEDJK, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of saving the ficus trees.

EFFIE REUVENI, WEST HOLLYWOOD, stated that he gave the City Manager over four hundred survey cards to save the ficus trees.

JOHN PAUL DRAYER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of saving the ficus trees and plant them in the parks.

TANIA PRESBY, WEST HOLLYWOOD, read a letter from Zoe Hoenig in support of keeping the ficus trees.

LOIS SIDNEY, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees.

STEVE WAYLAND, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of the Santa Monica Steering Committee and of the Project Area Committee, urged the City Council to vote for their recommendation to remove the ficus trees.

J.W. MOORE IV, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

GRACIELLA IPARRAGUIRRE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees and repairing them.

BRUCE TRAUB, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees.

FRED PIEGONSKI, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees.

LARRY SCHENCK, WEST HOLLYWOOD, congratulated the City Council on the Santa Monica Boulevard plan and spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

BARBARA HAMAKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of the Santa Monica Steering Committee, member of the Project Area Committee, spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

RALPH FEELEY, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees and a variety of trees.

RAE MITCHELL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

STEVEN ROSE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of replacing the ficus trees as recommended by the Disability Advisory Board, Santa Monica Steering Committee and the Project Area Committee.

ROSLYN KRAUSE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees and not replacing them with the london plane.

STAN LOTHIDGE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees.

DON BRUNHKE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of the Project Area Committee, spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

FRED VANACORE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of the Project Area Committee, spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

CRAIG RITCHIE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees and stated that the brochure was bias toward removing the ficus trees.

GOLDIE HAHN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, congratulated the incumbents on their re-election and spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

ANGEE BECKETT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees and stated that the brochure was bias for keeping the ficus trees.

TOM PAVICH, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of the Disability Advisory Board, spoke in support of removing the ficus trees.

LORETTA SMITH, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member Project Area Committee, spoke against the london plane and spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees.

SOFIA GELMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of Santa Monica Boulevard Steering Committee, member of Senior Advisory Board stated her support in removing the ficus trees.

JEANNE DOBRIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, stated that the brochure was slanted towards removing the ficus trees and she spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees.

CHAD BLOUIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of keeping the ficus trees and against the london plane as a replacement.

DONNA SAUR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of Project Area Committee, spoke for saving as many of the ficus trees and against replacing them with the london plane.

DENA SAUR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of saving as many ficus trees as possible.

CITY COUNCIL RECESSED AT 8:58 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 9:18 P.M.

Zimmer Gunsul Fransca presented a slide presentation of a variety of trees.

City Manager Makinney stated that Angee Beckett gave him 417 copies of survey cards and 376 were from Los Angeles, 141 from West Hollywood. City Manager Makinney also stated that Graciela Ippaherre gave him 75 survey cards and 43 were from West Hollywood and 32 were from outside of the City.

Councilmember Koretz stated that he would like to keep at least some or all of the ficus trees.

Councilmember Guarriello stated that the ficus trees were not planted properly and they have never been maintained.

Mayor Martin asked for the compelling arguments of how we can keep the ficus trees in the bad condition which they are already in.

Councilmember Guarriello stated that when the street is constructed the tree roots could be trimmed.

Mayor Martin stated that the consultants have stated how costly that would be for the City.

Councilmember Prang stated that he would uphold the decision made by the Santa Monica Steering Committee, Project Area Committee and the Disability Advisory Board. He also stated how costly the ficus trees are to maintained and the fact that the ficus trees uproot the sidewalks. He

stated that it makes more sense to replace the ficus trees to uniform the boulevard to include the eastside.

Mayor Pro Tem Heilman stated that he respected the input from both sides and that there are two real issues 1) what kind of tree are we going to have for the future and 2) look for a tree which is not deciduous tree. He stated that he did not support one tree but a variety of trees. He stated that the cost of transplanting would probably kill them because they have evasive root structure.

Mayor Martin stated that he supports uniformity but a more interesting street scrape with two or three kinds of trees.

**ACTION:** 1) Adopt the ACTION made by the Santa Monica Boulevard Advisory Steering Committee and the Eastside Redevelopment Project Area Committee to remove the existing Ficus trees and other trees as designated on Santa Monica Boulevard.

**Motion Mayor Martin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Heilman and carried by a Roll Call vote.**

**AYES:** Councilmember Prang, Mayor Pro Tem Heilman, Mayor Martin.

**NOES:** Councilmember Guarriello, Councilmember Koretz.

2) Direct staff and the consultants to recommend two or three alternatives to the London Plane trees which should incorporate evergreen trees or a combination of deciduous and evergreen trees and come back to the City Council on April 19, 1999.

**Motion Heilman, seconded by Martin and unanimously carried on a Roll Call vote.**

#### **4.C. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD GREENSPACE:**

Hassan Haghani, Associate Planner, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated March 22, 1999.

Mayor Pro Tem Heilman stated that staff did not identify where the greenspace would be on a one to one basis and have a plan to present to the City Council. Mayor Pro Tem Heilman also stated that the City should purchase land to replace the greenspace of the lost median space in the City.



Mayor Martin stated that a plaza on the eastside should be a priority.

Councilmember Prang spoke in support of the staff and their efforts to find replacement greenspace.

EFFIE REUVENI, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke against reducing the median strip and keeping the greenspace.

STEVE ROSE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of greenspace in the parks and the median is not usable greenspace.

J.W. MOORE IV, WEST HOLLYWOOD, stated that the median is not usable greenspace and replace it with usable greenspace.

CHRIS PATROUCH, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of one to one replacement of greenspace and stated that at Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Boulevard would be a perfect place to fill in the cutaways with grass.

**ACTION:** Direct staff to return to the City Council with a Greenspace Replacement Plan. The Plan should have a goal of a one for one replacement of lost greenspace; include an initial capital outlay of 1 million to 2 million dollars; include useable space along Santa Monica Boulevard and possibly in conjunction with the existing park space.

**Motion Mayor Pro Tem Heilman, seconded by Councilman Guarriello and unanimously carried.**

**4.D. PUBLIC ART IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:**

Lester Burg, Development Specialist/Art Coordinator, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated March 22, 1999.

BARBARA HAMAKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, member of Santa Monica Boulevard Steering Committee, spoke in support of art at the Vista Gardner and the Busway.

J.W. MOORE, IV, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the art implementation for the Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Heilman stated that there is a large risk having permanent artwork installations.

Mayor Martin stated that he would like to see more focus on water features.

Anne Marie Karlsen, Art Consultant, stated that the Doheny Gateway project is planned to have some water features.

**ACTION:** Direct staff to include Public Commission Facilities and develop a more detailed plan.

**Motion Mayor Pro Tem Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Prang and unanimously carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

CATHERINE HAHN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, encouraged the City Council to direct staff to include the Public Facilities Commission in the Public Art Implementation Plan for Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction Project.

**LEGISLATIVE:** None.

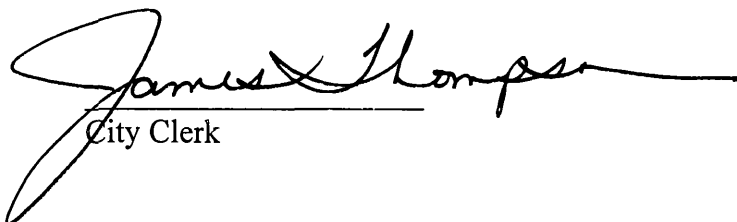
**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The City Council adjourned at 11:25 P.M. in memory of Gene Brunner, to their next regular meeting on Monday, April 5, 1999 at 6:00 P.M. at the Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Avenue.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF April, 1999.

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk