

West Hollywood Design District Working Group

Summary of September 18, 2014 Meeting

As of 9/22/2014

Participants:

Design Consultant: Pat Smith

City of West Hollywood: Georgia Sheridan, Melissa Antol,

Members of West Hollywood Design District Working Group:

Jamie Adler, Owner, Phyllis Morris

Sam Borelli, former Public Safety Commissioner

Tod Carson, owner of Tod Carson Antiques

David Eichman, Transportation Commissioner

Ryan Farber, Design District BID

Richard Giesbret, West Hollywood West Representative

Lana Gomez, resident and artist

Lindsey Horvath, Transportation Commissioner

Karen Harautuneian, Owner, Hub of the House

Helene Wilbourne, resident

Meeting Purpose:

- Provide an update of the project schedule and scope since the last meeting.
- Discuss feedback received from the community and businesses in area and review the evolution of the design concepts for the three proposed public gathering places.
- Discuss remaining questions or concerns from city staff and/or the community with Working Group.
- Encourage Working Group members to attend the upcoming Community Workshop on September 29th and upcoming public meetings: Facilities Commission, November and City Council, December.

Presentation on Design Considerations for Public Gathering Spaces

Pat Smith presented the preferred design concepts for the three gathering places and recommended design guidelines for paseos in the area. The Working Group provided comments, summarized below.

1. Melrose/Norwich Public Space

The preferred design scheme for the Melrose/Norwich site is a “natural” park-like environment with ample landscaping, sculptural seating, public art, and a water feature “stream” through the site. The community preferred a “quiet” space that does not have events, but provides the community with a respite from the city.



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The working group provided feedback on the following questions from City staff regarding the design –

- **Concern for designing a water feature during a drought:** The Working Group discussed the need for conserving water and supported a “dry riverbed” design concept that *alludes* to water without requiring water to flow through the site.
- **Temporary vs permanent art:** The Working Group prefers temporary art for the public gathering spaces, which allows for more variety, traveling art shows, design competitions, etc.
- **Paving materials:** The working group prefers a combination of high quality pavers that do not appear synthetic, supporting stabilized decomposed granite over Addapave and porphyry for hardscape areas (i.e. driveways).



2. Bonner/Beverly Public Space

The preferred design scheme for the Beverly/Bonner site is an urban plaza with permeable pavers designed in a grid system with shade trees in large landscaped tree wells, and small fountains along Beverly. The site plan is designed to be flexible with a row of parking along the east edge of the site that can be removed for special events. New on-street parking is added to Bonner and Beverly.



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The working group provided feedback on the following questions from City staff regarding the design –

- **Paving treatment:** The Working group prefers combination of hard surface (i.e. permeable pavers) and soft pavers (stabilized decomposed granite) like Grand Park. The want materials to appear high quality, durable and not synthetic.
- **Public art:** The Working Group prefers temporary art for the public gathering spaces, which allows for more variety, traveling art shows, design competitions, etc.
- **Amenities:** A Working Group member suggested emergency phones installed in all public gathering places for security. This suggestion is supported by the group.
- **Water conservation:** Working Group members have some concerns regarding adding water features to public spaces during drought and support a small, low flow fountains that do not use much water and do not provide a place for homeless to gather and bathe. Like the Melrose/Norwich concept, they support a “dry” concept design that alludes to water.



3. Robertson North

The preferred design scheme for the Robertson North includes: widened sidewalks *with curbs* and temporary street closures between Santa Monica Blvd and El Tovar on weekend evenings. The times and frequency of the street closures will be determined in the future following a pilot study. The Working Group -

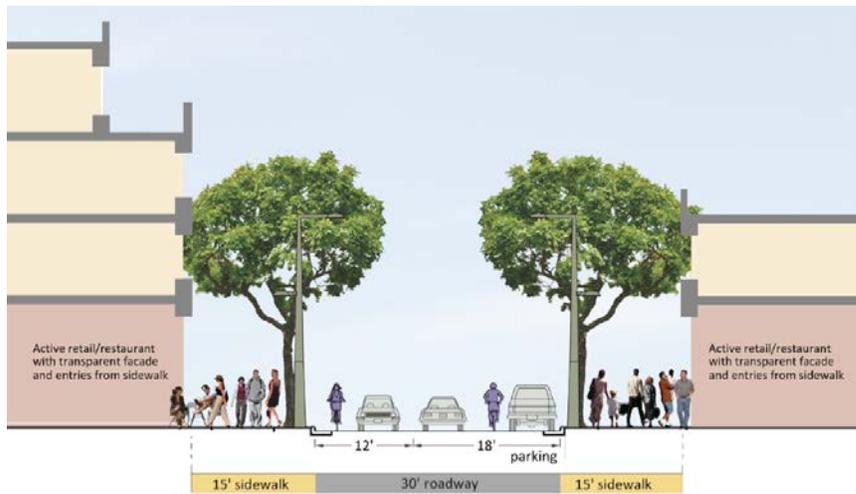
- Supports the widened sidewalks and a “with curbs” street design
- Supports the street closure and the need for regular closures that are well planned for and publicized so that businesses, patrons, cab drivers, etc known when it is happening and how to navigate area.
- Emphasizes that a larger parking and wayfinding strategy is needed for the area with the park expansion plan, completion of major proposed development projects and leasing of the PDC red building.

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- Recommends special paving along the street from Santa Monica and El Tovar. Some community members and businesses would like to see the special paving extended to Melrose.



4. Pedestrian Paseos

The community supports encouraging pedestrian paseos within the Design District to create a more walkable neighborhood. The Working Group supports the design guidelines for the paseos and noted that the Plan should clarify how and when the pedestrian paseos will occur as it can be confusing to community members. (The City would work with future development in the area to see where there is potential to include pedestrian paseos in large redevelopment sites).