

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights **Mon., Feb. 23, 2016**

Below are highlights from the February 23, 2016 mayor's cabinet meeting, a monthly meeting with the mayor and City commission chairs or their representatives. Please note that this meeting is intended to exchange information on commission activities; no official actions are taken.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Planning Commission (PC) – Vice Chair Joe Shooshani

The PC is working on its first case regarding Trousdale view restoration. There continue to be issues with City trees blocking views in Trousdale.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Frances Bilak

The Recreation and Parks Department Showcase will be held at the Farmers' Market on Sunday. Anyone who signs up for summer camps there gets \$20 off. The first of two father-daughter dances was a sell-out. The second one is planned for March 12, and is also sold out. The summer quarterly brochure is available. The former mayor's meeting at Roxbury Park was a great success. Woofstock will be held Mar. 6 at Roxbury Park. Music in the Mansion is scheduled for Mar. 20. The Electric Fountain will be reopened soon using non-potable water. At Greystone, classrooms are being considered to be built in the old men's dormitory rooms. The Commission is assessing the needs for renovating the Coldwater Park Community Center and playground equipment. La Cienega Park also needs updating. A design for the dog park will be presented at the Mar. 1 City Council meeting. Beginning in March, the RPC will be awarding the first Recreation and Parks Commission award, for a person or entity, resident or not, who has made a significant contribution to Recreation and Parks and the City of Beverly Hills; contact Ilene Knebel at iknebel@beverlyhills.org for more information.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Chair Karen Platt

A total of 14 permits were approved and 20 financial statements were evaluated and approved. The CSC is talking to the City attorney about possible changes to the municipal code including either charging a permit fee or charging a penalty for failure to file a statement. The CSC is working with the HRC to evaluate non-profit groups that are applying for City grants. The City's community charitable foundation requested guidelines for how to solicit donations. For a report, data was collected showing that, in a recent year, more than \$45 million was collected by charities soliciting in Beverly Hills; of that amount \$34 million went to programs. Lt. Lincoln Hoshino will be taking over as staff liaison when Erick Lee moves to Public Works Services.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Karen Popovich-Levyn

The HRC is working with CSC to evaluate applications for City grants, looking to ensure the charities promote health and welfare in the community. The homeless count took place and

showed a reduction in the number of homeless individuals; it was confirmed that these people are receiving services, rather than just having moved to a new location. The HRC held a hearing on tenant/ landlord cases. Tenant issues that were presented included the 10% annual rent increase, maintenance issues in old buildings and fear of retaliation if a tenant makes a complaint. The HRC is working on an Embrace Civility statement to be read at each meeting to remind the public about need to be civil in public discourse. Steve Zoet is retiring in March and Nancy Hunt Coffey will take his place as Community Services department head.

Public Works Commission (PWC) – Chair Dr. Sandra Aronberg

At the Mar. 1 meeting, the City Council will consider reducing the penalty surcharges for water overuse. Tiered water rates likely will be brought back to the City Council this summer. The Cabrillo reservoir water is now being captured and used for street cleaning and other non-potable uses. The Jewish National Fund is sponsoring a summit on water conservation at The Wallis on Mar. 2.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) – Commissioner Myra Lurie

The HSC receives regular reports from the BHUSD; Isabel Hacker is the liaison. The City has been conducting audits to determine immunization rates in the schools. Of the 113 enrolled in City preschools, 109 have all their immunizations and 4 are still exempt. Regarding the Zika virus, it is transmitted by mosquitos and so far reported cases in the United States are from travelers from affected countries. Police Sgt. Kurt Haefs gave a report on the increase in residential burglaries and passed out information to commissioners on crime prevention and reporting. The HSC monthly award went to the Chiron Crisis Response Team. CERT classes start the following week.

Architectural Commission (AC) – Chair Andrea Gardner Apatow

Four projects were considered by the AC. A multi-family project on Rexford Drive went through the commission twice with completely different architectural design. Jill Sanders on Beverly Drive is gone and a Brazilian shoe store is coming to that location.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Chair Jake Manaster

The commissioners have had discussions on ways to mitigate traffic problems during North Santa Monica Blvd construction, including directing traffic to South Santa Monica Boulevard, without too much impact to local businesses. The TPC is considering ways to cut down on abuse of electric charging parking places. The commission gathered input from citizens about improving the Beverly/Beverwil/Olympic intersection and will present a report to the City Council at an upcoming meeting. The commission is working on a recommendation to create permit parking districts in the City, rather than consider requests block by block.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Chair Brenda Potter

The design for the Kusama fencing project is close to construction start; the project will cost approx. \$50,000. The negotiations with William Kentridge for “World on Its Hind Legs” is nearly complete. The FAC is looking for a location for the Tom Friedman piece.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Chair Lisa Greer

The CHS continues to work on land-marking the old Gibraltar/Kate Mantilini building and is close to an agreement. The Chase building with sculptures and murals may start the process of land-marking. A house on Linden Street, that owners originally wanted to tear down and had deteriorated, has been beautifully restored. .

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Arlene Pepp (via conference call)

The commissioner showed an example of a home of indeterminate style that will need a lot of redesign before approval.

Mayor’s Report

Councilmember Brien may announce his resignation at the Installation Mar. 16. The Council will discuss replacement options as soon as possible afterwards. The Water Summit will be held Mar. 2. A cyber-security event jointly sponsored by the state of Israel will be held in June. The City Council has taken over the investigation into the incidents surrounding the tree-cutting on Parcels 12 & 13.

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