

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Wednesday September 24, 2014

Below are highlights from the September 24, 2014 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

Architectural Commission – Commissioner Barry Bernstein

New projects that have come before the commission at the last meeting include Sephora, an expansion of Giuseppe's on Dayton and Amorino Gelato on S. Santa Monica. The commission is working on a revision to the ordinance for commercial signage.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Lillian Raffel

The commission evaluated 32 requests for fundraisers and received 28 financial statements. Seven organizations are listed on the website as not meeting City's 50% requirement for proceeds to go to the charities. One organization in particular is a problem. The commission has a new letter of warning to charities that do not meet the 50% threshold. The letter includes the relevant city and state ordinances and points out that they could receive bad publicity and may be reported to the State Attorney General. Six organizations are listed on the website as failed to file a financial report. They are also working with organizations that publicize fundraising events in the City and do not obtain a permit; of the 18 on the list, eight have been removed. The vice chair gave a report on possible criteria for ranking applicants for the City's block grant funding.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Maralee Beck

The City Council approved a request to rename the fountain in Will Rogers Park in honor of Margaret Anderson, the original owner of the Beverly Hills Hotel. They will coordinate with the Recreation and Parks Commission on a plaque and a renaming ceremony. The Cultural Heritage Commission liaison committee met with liaisons from the Planning Commission and the City Council to discuss shortening the time frame for reviewing demolition permits of potential historic resources. A meeting is set for Wednesday. New properties under consideration include 624N. Mountain Dr. and two Mills Act requests for previously approved properties.

Design Review Commission – No report

Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman

The FAC held a special meeting with the assistant city attorney to discuss contractual provisions associated with the proposed acquisition of Carol Bove's IO. The commission unanimously approved proceeding with the acquisition, taking into consideration indemnification, warranty and copyright issues. The commission discussed fabrication options and deferred to the artist's decision on how it should be fabricated. The City Council approved the changes to the Fine Art ordinance at the Sept. 23 Study Session. National Urban Fellow Emma Osore was introduced. She will be updating the website, working on the iPhone app and documenting the tracking of developer-owned art. The commission is moving forward with looking at the artists Tony Cragg and William Kentridge who were presented at the August priority exercise. John Lavazzo has been hired to design the fencing around the Kusama; a meeting with the Recreation and Parks Commission will be scheduled as soon as plans are presented.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Stacia Kopeikin

September is Preparedness Month. The slogan is “Be Disaster Aware – Take Action to Prepare.” A Healthy City Lunch and Learn will be held Oct. 22. A new law that requires cars to keep three feet away from bicyclists is now in effect. The senior collaboration event will be held at Greystone Mansion on Nov. 5 from 8:30-noon. Oct. 16 is the Great California Shakeout; everyone should Drop, Cover and Hold at 10:16 a.m. Free flu shots are available at Cedars Sinai Medical Center Oct. 26, and Roxbury Park, Oct. 28.

Human Relations Commission – No report

Planning Commission – Chair Howard Fisher

The PC had a joint liaison meeting to discuss the scope of what is being reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Commission and changes to the time frame; the commission will be making recommendations to the City Council. The new owners of the 9900 Wilshire project, the Wanda Group, have closed escrow on the project.

Public Works Commission – Chair Ron Shalowitz

The consultant, Psomas, is developing a Water Master Plan that will recommend a water strategy for the next 10-12 years. It should be ready for City Council review in early spring. There is a possible source of water in a shallow well on Foothill Road. The Commission is evaluating higher water and waste water capacity fees for new developments. A MWD trip to the Colorado River project is scheduled in October. The chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission is invited to a meeting to discuss how the City can conserve water. The PW commission is also considering a computer program Triton that would detect leaks in the City's water infrastructure. They have begun discussions of allowing artificial turf.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Howard Rosoff

The Fall Beverly Hills Art Show will take place on Oct.18-19. The Gateway signage for two City entry points are going out for bid . A bid was accepted for playground equipment at Roxbury Park. The new equipment will emphasize obstacles and building upper body strength. Fall classes are underway. The first teen dance was held and was well attended. A very successful Senior Health Fair was held at Roxbury Park Sept. 8. The annual trimming of Wilshire palm trees is complete.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Andy Licht

City staff and Commission Chair Licht drove around the City looking at areas of concern for parking and traffic. Such areas include the left turn into the 76 station on Wilshire. New parking signs were installed on Bedford which are much clearer. A split permit parking zone was approved for Arden Drive. A Willaman Drive block has been changed from a two-hour permit zone to a no-parking-without-permit zone.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Environmental analysis of the dog park is still underway; results are about five weeks out. At the recent City Council meeting, they voted on two parking permit zones, the revised art ordinance and changes to the water conservation ordinance. The Council voted to let the Director of Community Development's decision on the Waldorf Astoria project stand. The Gran Fondo takes place this weekend. Saturday is the Italy-themed festival. The ride itself is on Sunday with two routes: 48 and 94 miles. A liaison meeting about Santa Monica Boulevard is scheduled; issues to be discussed are the cost and duration of the project.

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