

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights Mon., April 4, 2016

Below are highlights from the April 4, 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

Architectural Commission (AC) – Chair Andrea Gardner Apatow

One project was considered by the AC last month, an “& Other Stories” clothing store to replace The Gap on Beverly Drive. Nestor Otazu from Code Enforcement spoke at the commission meeting about sign violations. AC members did an inspection of Live Nation sign at night to see the intensity of the light.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Vice Chair Richard Schreiber

A total of 11 permits were approved and 13 financial statements were reviewed. The CSC met with the HRC to evaluate non-profit groups that are applying for City grants. Of the 17 that applied, 13 were recommended; none of the first-time applicants were recommended. The Anti-Defamation League is offering anti-bullying training and staff is looking into who should pay for it. The commission evaluated amendments to the City Code to exempt charities formed by the City from having to register. Beverly Hills is working with the city of Los Angeles to coordinate the permitting process for charitable events that require permits to be filed in both jurisdictions.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Vice Chair Rebecca Pynoos

The CHS continues to work on land-marking the Gibraltar/Kate Mantilini building and is looking at interior features that may be eligible for preservation, including a mural, door handles and sculptural details. The California Preservation Foundation Conference will be held in May, and some commissioners are attending. The Kronish House will be receiving a preservation award from the Los Angeles Conservancy. Mayor Mirisch asked that the Porsche dealership be considered for land-marking.

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Ilene Nathan

One project was considered at the last meeting and four projects are up for consideration at this month's meeting, most of contemporary design. Ninety percent of the projects that come before the commission have basements. The DRC is considering a policy of requesting major redesigns of projects that are not approved after two hearings, to prevent multiple meetings with incremental changes.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Vice Chair Alan Kaye

The Kusama fencing project is close to starting construction; the restoration work is nearly complete. The FAC is working on a web submission form so that members of the community can suggest public art and artists. The FAC is considering purchasing a piece by Thomas Friedman and is looking for a location. The negotiations with William Kentridge for “World on Its Hind Legs” are nearly complete; it will be located on Burton Way. The donated Woods Davey sculpture will be installed at the Coldwater Fire Station due to an additional generous contribution from the Wiseman Estate. The Fine Art fund has \$2.8 million, less \$500,000 for the Kentridge piece; separate from that amount, \$90,000 in refunds is still outstanding.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) – Chair Lisa Kay Schwartz

The HSC will be focusing on educating residents about the City’s safety programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Nixle sign ups, distracted driving and walking. Police Sgt. Kurt Haefs gave a report on the increase in residential burglaries and passed out information to commissioners. The City’s Adult Literacy Program received this month’s H&S Award.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Karen Popovich-Levyn

The ambassador program has been successful and will be up for renewal in June. The HRC holds monthly hearings on tenant/ landlord cases. They are developing a registry of all apartment buildings. HRC is considering extending the 60-day notice period for no-cause terminations to three to six months and adding relocation fee compensation for displaced tenants. Tenant issues that were presented included the code violations, no cause evictions. The HRC is working with CSC to evaluate applications for City grants, looking to ensure the charities promote health and welfare in the community.

Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Alan Block

The PC is working on a zone text amendment for rooftop lunchrooms in new parts of the City; often they exceed the 45-foot height limit. The proposed ordinance will consider impacts such as size, parking and street scape compatibility.

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

Water is still one of the biggest issues. The City has reduced water usage because of the surcharge and the work of the new water conservation manager, who is working directly with customers. The PWC will be looking at the solid waste contract, which is coming up for renewal. If La Cienega is used as a storm water basin, it could be torn up for several years. The PWC is evaluating their role in the Fiber to the Premises project, which would bring benefits to the City including attracting high-tech businesses and competition with Time Warner. Earth Day is April 17; unlimited document shredding will be offered.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Frances Bilak

The City will be participating in Play Ball Summer June through August. The 31st annual event to celebrate the City's volunteers will be held April 15. The first Rec and Parks Award went to Jackie Kassorla. The State Parks and Recreation Commission is recognizing Steve Zoet for his years of service. The dog park ground-breaking is tentatively scheduled for May 3; 10-12 shade trees for the dog park have been purchased; donations are wanted. The Electric Fountain was dedicated April 5. Woofstock was rescheduled for the end of June at Roxbury Park. Music in the Mansion is scheduled for Apr. 24. The Greystone Concours d'Elegance is May 1.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Vice Chair David Seidel

Residents of 100 N. Clark have requested a change to the parking permits – no parking rather than 1-hour, which may impact the nearby merchants. Neighbors on South Crescent Drive are asking for changes to help with cut-through traffic. A taxi franchise meeting was held; drivers want dual permitting with Los Angeles. A traffic engineering report will be presented at the next meeting on some poorly marked/lighted crosswalks. The full Bike Share program is about to launch with a total of eight sites. The TPC is considering ways to cut down on abuse of electric-charging parking places. Planning for Santa Monica Boulevard construction is going well. There were 955 red-light camera violations in March and the number is climbing.

Mayor's Report

The City Council will be considering developing an autonomous vehicle public transportation program; part of the program is a summit on autonomous vehicles as public transportation to be held this fall at the Wallis. Developer Townscape has proposed a big hotel/condo/office project on five acres of City property; the mayor is opposed and wants to build a park there instead. The 9900/One Beverly Hills project is going through the process to change use to a hotel. By contrast, developers of the Hilton project are bypassing the City's planning process and gathering signatures to place an initiative on the ballot to build a 375-foot condominium project. A series of fun mayor's events are scheduled this year, such as more Sing-Alongs and a lawn bowling day at Roxbury Park on April 30.

##