

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Wednesday July 23, 2014

Below are highlights from the July 23, 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

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Lillian Raffel

The commission reviewed 12 event requests, which were approved. Fourteen financial statements were filed. Seven charities that consistently do not meet the City's requirements for 50% of proceeds donated to the charity are listed on the website. The commission is working on a letter of warning to be sent to these charities pointing out the consequences of not meeting the City's standards. Six organizations are on the City's fail-to-file a financial report list. They continue to work with organizations that publicize fundraising events without a permit. A subcommittee was appointed to look into the health of organizations that might receive the City's block grant funding.

Architectural Commission – Chair Michelle Kaye

A commission is considering five projects. One building at 8600 Wilshire will be an outstanding contemporary mixed-use project. It will be coming back for restudy to resolve a few issues of height and roofline. A five-story condo project at 9265 Burton Way was approved with conditions for landscaping. Commissioners are taking photos of oversized signs in town.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Commissioner Rebecca Pynoos

The California Preservation Foundation is holding a two-day workshop at the City. At the last meeting, the commission sent to Council four properties:

- Home at 707 Walden, designed by master architect Rene Rivierre. Initiated by the owner.
- A home at 805 Linden designed by master architect Wallace Neff. Part of an original development
- The Writers and Artists Building at 9507 S. Santa Monica Blvd.
- First Bank building at Wilshire and Oakhurst. Elements by Millard Sheets.

The commission is also working on their historic resources survey and on revising their context statement. The commission wants to develop a walking app that would provide information on historic sites in the commercial areas.

Fine Art Commission – Commissioner Alan Kaye

The commission received more detailed financial information on the Fine Art Fund, which resulted in more than \$500,000 being transferred in. The fund is over \$1,900,000 now. There is another \$273,000 that may be transferred in as well. City attorneys are working on the contract for the Carol Bové sculpture. The commission turned down a request to purchase a piece called “Tenderness,” because it does not meet the commission’s definition of fine art. The owner of 151 S El Camino Dr. (old William Morris bldg.) will be installing a sculpture by Jacob Hashimoto to meet their Fine Art Obligation. The commission has decided on a location for the “Obelisk” in one of the planters at the newly rebuilt entrance to the Rexford Parking Garage. They are still working on a design for protective fencing for the Kusama piece.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Stacia Kopeikin

The City will participate in the fourth annual National Night Out Aug. 5, from 6-9 p.m. on Rexford Drive. The Police Department coordinated the event with help from other City departments, the Red Cross, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Beverly Hills CPR and other groups. Event will feature crime prevention programs and development of safe communities. The mayor’s “Lunch and Learn” program hosted by the SoCal Cardiovascular Foundation continues on July 24th. This program will focus on reducing stress; the Amanda Foundation director will speak about how pets reduce stress.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsburg

The “One Book, One City” program launches this fall. Everyone in the community is encouraged to read the book “The Boys in the Boat,” by Daniel James Brown. This is a first time collaboration with the Library, the Human Relations Commission and the School District. The book was chosen because of the positive message of how a small group of diverse people coming together in a common effort, can accomplish great things. Resident Jean Rosenblatt bought 500 copies to give to high school juniors and seniors. New stickers for the Civil City campaign are being distributed. Nominations are open for the Civil City award. A winner will be announced in November.

Planning Commission – Howard Fisher

Howard Fisher is now chair and Alan Block is vice chair. The commission is working on revising R-1 standards. Recommended changes under consideration include increased parking requirements, changes in the height of the roofline and limiting hillside terracing to expand lot size. The commission is dealing with many rooftop lunchroom requests.

Public Works Commission – Commissioner Jeff Wolfe

The City’s water treatment plant will be reopening on July 28. The City is hiring an interim operator. Retests in responses to recent violations all came back clear; the

water is fine. As of July 1, a new company has been handling the city's elevator maintenance. An elevator service truck will be available at all times. The City's new water bills are being sent out and thus far there are no real complaints. Development of the City's ten-year Water Master Plan is underway. The commission is starting to consider new service connection fees. The commission will be doing more proactive communication on water conservation. The State Water Resources Control Board recently approved an emergency regulation to reduce outdoor water use.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Commissioner Robbie Anderson

The Team Beverly Hills has a new class. The Sunday Movie Nights continue at Beverly Canon Gardens. The free Concerts on Canon run until August 14. The Farmers' Market 20th Anniversary and 2nd Annual Picklefest will be held Aug. 3. The removal of deadwood from the City's sycamore street trees continues. The annual palm pruning cycle will begin in about a month. Two trees have been removed from Beverly Canon Gardens and will be replaced. A clean-up effort continues on the east half of Beverly Gardens Park. There are three potential contractors for the Roxbury Park Playground Renovation project. Construction documents are nearly complete for the City's two new gateway features at Wilshire and San Vicente and Olympic and Spalding; construction is anticipated to commence before the end of the year. Staff is working with the landscaping firm Mia Lehrer and Associates to finalize the plans for the restoration of the Electric Fountain; construction should start before the end of the year.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Andy Licht

Enforcement of construction traffic rules in Trousdale continues. A subcommittee is working on problems caused by tour buses. The last tour bus stop in the business triangle near the Louis Vuitton store will be removed. Walters Café has moved to S. Beverly Drive and is asking for two loading parking spaces; they need to work it out with their neighbors. The commission is considering restricting more parking because of the Halloween parade in West Hollywood. An ad hoc committee is working on resolving the disabled parking issue at the state level by joining forces with larger cities, such as San Francisco and San Diego.

Design Review Commission – Chair John Wyka

The commission considered three new cases, none of which were immediately approved. The commission wants to accelerate the review process and avoid unproductive sessions by deciding early on if a project will not meet the commission's standards. Most projects just need minor changes. The same few designers come before the commission over and over again; the commission would like to send a message that these designers don't do a good job meeting the City's standards for mass, scale and preserving the City's gardenlike environment.

###