

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Below are highlights from the July 28, 2015 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

Human Relations Commission – Vice Chair Karen Popovich Levyn

The Ambassador program starts in August. A total of 22 ambassadors will staff the business triangle, working seven days a week, 22 hours a day, and focus on welcoming visitors, answering questions and dealing with aggressive panhandling. The commissioners will also be working the CSC to help with ensuring the viability of organizations holding fundraisers in Beverly Hills.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Chair Lester Friedman

The TPC is evaluating construction mitigation measures for the N. Santa Monica Boulevard project, including how it might impact S. Santa Monica Blvd. Commissioners are looking for new locations for tour buses to stop; one potential location is near the Montage Hotel on Beverly Drive. New red light cameras were installed on Crescent Drive and Olympic/Beverly drives; a report is expected at the TPC meeting next week.

Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Alan Robert Block

The O'Gara luxury car dealership expansion on Olympic Boulevard project was approved. The commission evaluated guidelines for allowing artificial turf in front yards; possible considerations include defining a percentage of landscaping allowed to be artificial turf and requiring a manufacturer's warranty. It will be discussed again at the Aug. 13 PC meeting.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Commissioner Noah Furie

The City Council adopted the revised historic preservation ordinance; the list of master architects needs to be updated using the new criteria. The City Council nominated a home on Sierra Drive and CHC is moving forward on the Kate Mantillini building for historic designation; they will be discussed in late August or early September. The fountain in Will Rogers Park will be renamed and dedicated in honor of Margaret Anderson on Aug. 4 at 1:30 p.m.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) - Chair Myra Lurie

The P.O.O.C.H. program at Cedars Sinai Medical Center received this month's Health and Safety Award. The HSC is participating in National Night Out on Tue. Aug. 4 from 6-9 p.m. The first reported case of West Nile Virus in the area was in San Pedro area; please remove standing water on your property. The commission heard a presentation about the City's water conservation measures, including the Garden Guru program. The HSC heard an update on efforts at the state level to prevent disabled parking abuse. The website has been updated with information on mindfulness.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Commissioner Richard Schreiber

The CSC is working on preventing unpermitted solicitations in Beverly Hills. They have reached out to the two local newspapers and the hotels for help in getting the word out about the need to have a permit before holding a charitable event. The CSC is working on amending the Municipal Code to allow permit fees.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Chair Brenda Potter

The City Council approved the acquisition of "World on its Hind Legs" by William Kentridge. The Kusama fencing proposal is out for bids. The Kusama restoration will be done by Rosa Lowinger and Assoc.; it will be restored onsite, because removing the sculpture likely would damage it. The Joan Brown Obelisk will be installed at the Library by the beginning of August. The Woods Davey piece is ready to be installed in Coldwater Park. The Carol Bove piece will be installed in mid-September.

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Arline Pepp

The DRC rejected a project because of design and code enforcement issues.

Architectural Commission (AC) – Chair Andrea Gardner Apatow

The awards ceremony for commercial design will be held Aug. 18 in City Hall, at 5:30 p.m. before the formal City Council meeting. The public is welcome.

Public Works Commission (PWC) – Chair Ron Shalowitz

The City is offering subsidized "garden guru" consulting sessions and enhanced rebates for water-saving devices and turf replacement; information is on the City's website. The City's water treatment plant will be reactivated soon. The City is moving forward with making some infrastructure improvements and exploring digging of two shallow groundwater wells. Money has been appropriated for cleaning public parking garages. Please sign up for water tracker.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Simone Friedman

The Hawaiian luau was a success; 150 seniors attended. The second session of Catskills camp at Greystone will perform at the Wallis this week. The employee kickball

league is under way. Summer camps are winding down. The two Gateway projects should be done by end of summer. The Friends of Greystone are considering restoring the mansion library. The RPC wants to renovate Coldwater Park, possibly with community donations. There will be a meeting at La Cienega Park next week to discuss renovations. Concerts continue on Thursday nights until Sept. 3. Special Olympics athletes attended last week's concert. The next movie night is a screening of Young Frankenstein. The dog park will be discussed at the Aug. 18 City Council meeting.

Mayor's Report

The City signed an agreement with Israel and hopes to work with them on water conservation. The Infrastructure Committee met and compiled a list of infrastructure needs for the foreseeable future; possible cost for everything is \$300 million. The recruitment for the City Manager's job is still in process; the City Council is creating a short list of candidates and the decision will be made by the end of the year. Police Chief Dominick Rivetti will start Aug. 3. Next Generation leaders group is meeting and has been charged with identifying what Beverly Hills means for their generation. The City will be working on an MOU with Metro for the La Cienega subway station construction; we are looking ahead to construction of the Rodeo Drive station. The Southeast in Motion project is underway, seeking resident input on what that part of Beverly Hills should look like, with the addition of a subway station.

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