

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
MINUTES - STUDY SESSION
January 21, 2014
Council Chambers
2:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Mirisch
Vice Mayor Bosse
Councilmember Brien
Councilmember Gold
Councilmember Krasne
Jeff Kolin, City Manager
Larry Wiener, City Attorney
Therese Kosterman, Public Information Manager
Jane Winston-Doman, Senior Recreation Supervisor
Tony Lee, Police Captain
Byron Pope, City Clerk
Jonathan Lait, Assistant Community Development Director/City Planner
Susan Healy Keene, Director of Community Development
Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager
Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services
David Schirmer, Chief Information Officer

A - DIRECTION

1. Request from Councilmember Gold to Recognize Beverly Hills Centenarians
As part of the City's Centennial celebration, Councilmember Gold has asked that the City recognize past and present Beverly Hills residents who are at least 100-years-old in 2014.

Public Information Manager Therese Kosterman introduced his item at the request of Councilmember Gold.

Jane Winston Doman introduced the Centenarians: Walter J. Freedman, Mary Goldberg, Elly Newton, and Charlotte Rubin. Mary Goldberg sang "God Bless America". The Centenarians commented on their recognition and lives. Afterward, they were presented with Proclamations by the Council.

2. Proclamation Honoring Officer Lynnsey Diamond
Officer Lynnsey Diamond is being presented with a Certificate of Commendation for her arrest of five individuals who were responsible for stealing copper wire from an underground vault on Rexford Drive.

Mayor Mirisch introduced this item recognizing Officer Lynnsey Diamond. Captain Tony Lee summarized Officer Diamond's investigation which led to the arrests of several suspects suspected of copper wire theft.

Mayor Mirisch presented Officer Diamond with a proclamation acknowledging her outstanding work. Officer Diamond commented briefly on her investigation and subsequent arrest of the suspects.

3. Planning Commission Reappointment

Planning Commissioner Howard S. Fisher's term expired on December 19, 2013. He has submitted a letter of interest to extend his term.

City Clerk Byron Pope reported on the recommendation of the liaisons, Mayor Mirisch and Vice Mayor Bosse, to reappointment Howard Fisher to the Planning Commission for a second term of four years.

Council agreed with the recommendation of the liaisons to reappoint Howard Fisher to the Planning Commission for a second term.

4. Request to Consider Proposed Sign Permit Fee Changes

Staff seeks direction regarding a request to consider proposed sign permit fee changes for specific uses.

City Planner Jonathan Lait discussed the request to consider proposed sign permit fee changes. He indicated that in November of 2013 the First Church of Christ, Science requested a fee waiver for a sign for their church on Rexford.

Director of Community Development Susan Healy Keene responded to questions regarding the type of zoning at the location of the church and their building application.

City Attorney Wiener pointed out that legally the City cannot make an appropriation or pay anything on behalf of a religious sect or creed. He discussed alternatives for the Council that would allow approval of monument signage.

The following member of the public spoke:

- Frances Shloss

Council did not reach consensus to consider proposed sign permit fee changes and directed staff to investigate the issue further and return with a recommendation as well as the history of the development application initially presented by the First Church of Christ, Science.

5. Appointment of the City's Delegate to Southern California Association of Governments' General Assembly

This item is to appoint the City's delegate to the Southern California Association of Governments in advance of its General Assembly May 1-2, 2014.

Deputy City Manager Cheryl Friedling reported on the request from the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) for the City of Beverly Hills to appoint a delegate for its General Assembly meeting.

The Council appointed Mayor Mirisch for the SCAG General Assembly May 1-2, 2014.

6. Request by Councilmembers Brien and Krasne for a Discussion Regarding Tour Bus Activity City Council review of options to regulate tour buses.

Item not discussed.

7. Recommendation to Create an Inverted Barrier Around Kusama's Hymn of Life to Provide Protection for this Art Piece
Councilmember Gold has worked with the Fine Art Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission to develop a solution to protect the Hymn of Life tulip art piece in Beverly Gardens Park. Council is asked to consider the concept of an inverted barrier around the piece.

Nancy Hunt-Coffey presented the history of Kusama's "Hymn of Life" art piece, located in Beverly Gardens Park at the request of Councilmember Gold. She showed photos of the damage suffered by the piece from park visitors who have physically touched the piece, even after several attempts to discourage such interaction.

The Recreation & Parks and Fine Art Commissions both recommend the installation of an inverted barrier to protect the piece from further damage.

Ms. Hunt-Coffey responded to questions regarding the grading of the proposed inverted barrier.

The following RPC and FAC Commissioners spoke about the recommendation:

- Robbie Anderson, RPC (Opposes)
- Fiona Chatom, FAC (Supports)
- Alan Kaye, FAC (Supports)
- Howard Roof, RPC(Opposes)
- Frances Bilak, RPC (Opposes)
- Sandy Pressman, FAC (Supports)

Councilmember Gold commented on the liaisons recommendation for the inverted barrier and his reasons for placing this item on the agenda for Council discussion.

Councilmembers asked the commissions to revise the concept of the wiring around the piece without having to immediately resort to the inverted base.

Council did not approve the recommendation for an inverted barrier. They directed staff, the Commissions, and the Council liaisons to find a solution for the protection of the art piece and return to Council with a recommendation taking into consideration Council comments.

8. Request from Councilmember Gold to Receive an Update on "Beverly Hills - the Next 100 Years" Centennial Initiative

This item reviews progress to date on the Centennial volunteer committee chaired by Woodrow (Woody) Clark, II title "The Next 100 Years".

Deputy City Manager Cheryl Friedling provided a brief background on this request by Councilmember Gold for an update on "Beverly Hills - The Next 100 Years" Centennial initiative. She introduced Woodrow "Woody" Clark, who reported on the issues to consider after the City's Centennial year is concluded.

Chief Information Officer David Schirmer commented on Mr. Clark's recommendations.

Council commented on Mr. Clark's recommendation and thanked him for his contributions to the community.

B - ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER (TIME PERMITTING)

No items.

C – INFORMATION

9. E-Cigarette and Tobacco Regulation Update

This report provides an update on the Health & Safety Commission's review on the sales and use of e-cigarettes and tobacco products.

Item not discussed.

10. Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Priorities

This report transmits the FY 2014-15 City Council Priorities set at the December 17, 2013 Priorities Session.

Item not discussed.

11. Commission Appointment and Reappointment Overview for 2014

Provides a calendar year look at the commissioners whose terms expire this year and those eligible for reappointment.

Item not discussed.

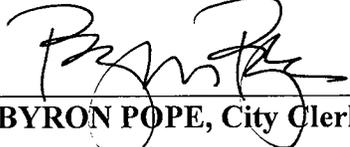
Study Session Minutes
January 21, 2014

12. Incentives for Historic Preservation Program
Staff is providing information regarding the establishment of a program to incentivize historic preservation in the City.

Item not discussed.

The Study Session recessed at 5:50 p.m. to the Closed Session to discuss items that are identified on the agenda that has been prepared for the meeting. The Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted
this 4th day of February, 2014


BYRON POPE, City Clerk

JOHN A. MIRISCH, MAYOR

This meeting was televised on City of Beverly Hills Municipal Government Television Access, BHN/10, Time Warner Cable.