

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
MINUTES - STUDY SESSION  
September 23, 2014  
2:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bosse  
Vice Mayor Gold  
Councilmember Brien  
Councilmember Mirisch  
Councilmember Krasne  
Jeff Kolin, City Manager  
Mahdi Aluzri, Assistant City Manager  
Laurence Wiener, City Attorney  
Susan Healy Keene, Director of Community Development  
Eliot Finkel, City Treasurer  
Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services/City Librarian  
David Yelton, Plan Review and Building Inspection Manager  
Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager

**A - DIRECTION**

1. **Request by Councilmember Mirisch to Order a City Council Review of the Director of Community Development's Decision Approving an Administrative Modification Approving Project Revisions to the Beverly Hilton Specific Plan at 9876 Wilshire Boulevard (Waldorf Astoria)**

This is a request by Councilmember Mirisch to discuss whether there is Council support to call the Director's decision up for review by the Council. If the matter is called up for review, a future public hearing will be scheduled.

Director of Community Development Susan Healy Keene presented a report regarding the revisions made to the Beverly Hilton Specific Plan on September 4, 2014.

Councilmember Mirisch stated that some staff intentionally suppressed information regarding the changes being made in order to avoid public scrutiny and that the Council should review the decision made by Ms. Healy Keene.

The remainder of the Council agreed that it was not necessary for them to review the decision.

Speakers:

1. Lois Hirt
2. Thomas White
3. Linda Briskman & Barry Brucker
4. James Blakely
5. George Muhlsten

2. **Status Update on Public vs Private Compensation Study**

This is an update on the status of the Public vs. Private Compensation Study conducted

by outside consultant Mercer.

City Treasurer Eliot Finkel presented a report on the first stages of the study comparing public employee compensation with private sector employee compensation.

Mr. Finkel explained that surveys were sent out, with the assistance of consulting firm Mercer, to two sets of private businesses requesting salary and benefit information for their employees but that an insufficient amount of them were returned. Mercer concluded that there was not enough data to conduct the survey as planned and the study was discontinued.

Councilmember Mirisch asked if there was another alternative to collecting the data necessary to move forward with the study. Mr. Finkel informed the Council that it does not currently seem like a possibility.

Council thanked Mr. Finkel and Mercer for their efforts with the study.

3. **Recommendation by Fine Art Council Liaisons Mayor Bosse and Vice Mayor Gold and the Fine Art Commission Regarding Proposed Changes to the Fine Art Ordinance**

Recommendation by City Council Fine Art Commission liaisons (Bosse and Gold) to approve substantial revisions to the Fine Art Ordinance.

Community Services Assistant Director/City Librarian Nancy Hunt-Coffey presented the details of the revision to the Fine Art Ordinance, which include a clarification of the difference between fine and decorative art, and lowering the threshold of construction costs which trigger the fine art obligation from \$500,000 to \$250,000, among other things.

Councilmember Krasne expressed concerns that lowering the threshold may prevent some people with smaller construction budgets from being able to properly upgrade their businesses due to the additional amount they would be required to spend on fine art pieces.

Councilmember Brien expressed a preference for the threshold to stay at \$500,000 but would require a deposit to be contributed to the Fine Art fund if the project reached the amount of \$250,000, which would be refunded as long as it did not eventually reach the \$500,000 mark.

Council directed staff to modify the ordinance based on Councilmember Brien's proposal.

4. **Request by Councilmember Mirisch to Discuss City Council Approval of Seismic Report for Projects in the City**

Item First Agendized July 1, 2014

This item is presented for Council discussion of the review process and procedures for seismic reports related to development projects in the City.

Plan Review and Building Inspection Manager David Yelton presented a report on the City's current protocol of seismic review and the possibility of Councilmembers having the final decision on approving seismic reports.

Council decided that while they would be interested in viewing the reports, they did not wish to take on the responsibility of approving them, citing the issue of non-qualification on such matters and that such approvals should be left to a geologist to decide, as is the City's current practice.

5. **Request by Councilmember Krasne to Review the City's Protocol for Lowering the Flags of the United States and the City of Beverly Hills at City Facilities**

Item First Agendized August 19, 2014

This request is for City Council review of the City's current approach to lowering the flags and direction on how the decision to lower the US Flag is made when there is no federal proclamation.

Deputy City Manager Cheryl Friedling presented a report on the City's current policy of lowering the flags located at City facilities.

Councilmember Krasne said that the standards need to be clear so that the gesture is not diminished by over-use.

Council decided to keep the policy as it is, following the federal and state guidelines.

6. **Request by Mayor Bosse for the City Council to Consider the City's Ability to Regulate Commercial Vehicle Idling**

Seeks City Council direction regarding an amendment to the Municipal Code to regulate vehicle idling.

Item not discussed.

7. **Request from Councilmember Mirisch To Review Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Policy for Funding Tourism and Marketing Programs**

Item First Agendized August 19, 2014

This request is to review the City Council's direction to provide 2% of annual Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue to fund Tourism and Marketing Programs.

Item not discussed.

**B - ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER (TIME PERMITTING)**

None at this time.

**C - INFORMATION**

8. **Status of Proposed Work Pertaining to the Police Facility Oversized Vehicle Storage Project**

This report provides a project update and staff's recommendation to reject all bids and modify the project.

Item not discussed.

9. **Donation of Roxbury Playground Equipment to Kids Around the World**

Due to the anticipated replacement of all existing Roxbury playground equipment staff propose donating the play structures to the Kids Around the World organization for placement of the surplus equipment elsewhere in the world.

Item not discussed.

10. **Update on Historic Preservation Cable TV Video Series**

A request by Councilmember Brien for a Cable TV program describing the Landmark nominations process and Mills Act program.

Item not discussed.

11. **Selection by the Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library and Staff to Engage the Services of Marion Dies and Marian Westall to Provide Original Artwork in the Children's Library**

Provides information regarding artists selected by the Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library to paint murals which will adorn the entryway to the Enchanted Woods Room and the Transition Passageway in the Beverly Hills Public Library's Children's Library.

Item not discussed.

12. **Summary Report from City Council Workshop held on July 29, 2014**

This item provides a summary of the workshop activities and outcomes from the July 29, 2014 City Council Workshop

Item not discussed.

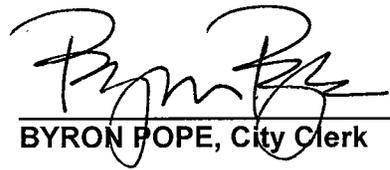
13. **Treasurer's Report for Quarter Ended March 31, 2014**

This is the Quarterly Treasurer's Report on the Status of the City's Investment Portfolio.

Item not discussed.

The Study Session recessed at 5:18 pm to the Closed Session to discuss items that are identified on the agenda that has been prepared for the meeting.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted  
this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014



BYRON POPE, City Clerk

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LILI BOSSE, MAYOR

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