

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
MINUTES – STUDY SESSION
August 18, 2015
2:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Mayor Gold
Vice Mayor Mirisch
Councilmember Brien
Councilmember Bosse
Councilmember Krasne
Mahdi Aluzri, Interim City Manager
David Lightner, Deputy City Manager/Director of Capital Assets
Laurence Wiener, City Attorney
Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation
Ryan Gohlich, Assistant Director of Community Development
Trish Rhay, Assistant Director of Public Works Services/Infrastructure & Field Operations
Don Rhoads, Director of Administrative Services/Chief Financial Officer

SPEAKING:

1. Thomas White, Municipal League of Beverly Hills
2. Murray Grossan

A – DIRECTION

1. Tour Bus Activity

Forwards recommendations from the Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee to manage tour bus activity and the Traffic & Parking Commission's evaluation of tour bus loading zones.

Deputy Director of Transportation Aaron Kunz introduced the item, provided staff recommendations for additional or alternative active passenger loading zone(s) and discussed maintenance issues related to maintaining the Third Street tour bus loading and staging zone. Mr. Kunz asked for Council direction on: 1. pursuing an amendment to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to remove designated street segments from the current list identified in the BHMC; 2. establishing additional or alternative active passenger loading zone(s); and 3. maintaining the Third Street tour bus loading and staging zone.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) Chair Lester J. Friedman spoke on behalf of the TPC and explained the reason for including the Canon location. He expressed concerns that touring buses are currently not adhering to the City's rules and regulations.

SPEAKING:

1. Mark Tronstein, Rodeo Drive Committee
2. Bill Wiley, 2 Rodeo
3. Fred Hekmat
4. Rossalyn Grossan
5. Albert Antawirya
6. Murray Grossan

City Council Tour Bus Ad Hoc Committee Liaison Councilmember Brien pointed out the issues related to completing the project and relayed the Liaison Committee's stance on the topic. He noted that it is a pilot project intended to review the current status, project future status and to make changes as necessary and clarified that the main purpose of the proposed project is due to safety concerns while encouraging tourism. Councilmember Brien also confirmed that the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, the Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau, and the Beverly Hills Rodeo Drive Committee were aware of, were invited to and were represented at every Liaison Committee meeting. Fellow Committee Liaison member Councilmember Krasne added that the Liaison Committee approved of sprinter vans and luxury coaches on a reservation basis.

Mr. Kunz answered Council questions about the report. Interim City Manager Mahdi Aluzri stated that if the Third Street tour bus loading and staging zone remains, staff hopes to bring a plan to Council for direction that includes improvements because the condition of the area cannot be maintained as it currently exists.

Vice Mayor Mirisch asked staff to ensure that the City receives continuous updates from the Federal Aviation Administration regarding helicopter regulations and suggested that enforcement by the use of cameras combined with an escalating scale of penalties could be a possible solution. Mayor Gold asked staff to study utilizing the north side of Third Street, South Crescent Drive or certain alleys for active passenger loading and unloading loading zones. He asked staff to consider adding a covered area, restrooms and water fountains to the Third Street tour bus loading and staging zone. Council asked staff to look into the difference in size between shuttles and sprinter vans.

Council consensus approved pursuit of an amendment to the municipal code weight limit with a different weight threshold for Rodeo Drive. Council also approved tour bus passenger loading zones at all recommended locations except at 500 N. Canon Drive and approved of improvements to the Third Street Tour Bus Zone.

2. Request by Vice-Mayor Mirisch for City Council Review of the Planning Commission's Decision Approving a Conditional Use Permit for the Establishment of O'Gara Coach Company at 8955 Olympic Boulevard

On July 23, 2015, the Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit allowing the establishment of an automobile dealership (O'Gara Coach Company) at 8955 Olympic Boulevard. Vice Mayor Mirisch has requested that the City Council discuss whether there is support from a majority of the Council to call the Planning Commission's decision up for review by the City Council.

Assistant Director of Community Development Ryan Gohlich introduced the item then answered Vice Mayor Mirisch's questions regarding the maintenance of the property and the proposed services offered by the dealership. Vice Mayor Mirisch expressed concerns regarding non-conforming use and underlying zoning. Mayor Gold asked staff to include Vice Mayor Mirisch's concerns in the next Priority Planning Session for 2016. Mr. Gohlich noted that the issue of discontinued uses is currently on the Work Plan and that an item will be brought to the Planning Commission within the next 2-3 months. He added that the O'Gara Coach project was not allowed onto the property as a non-conforming use, received a new Conditional Use Permit with new conditions and that the underlying zoning remains the same as a conditionally permitted use which requires review by the Planning Commission.

Council supported the Planning Commission's decision and did not order a review.

3. Discussion of Final Water Enterprise Plan

This item is a presentation and discussion on the points of clarification discussed during the Water Enterprise Plan Presentation at the May 18, 2015, City Council Meeting.

Assistant Director of Public Works Services/Infrastructure & Field Operations Trish Rhay presented the item, which was first presented to Council at the May 18, 2015 Formal meeting. Ms. Rhay pointed out corrections to staffing requirement costs, provided supplemental information as part of the Water Enterprise Plan (WEP) review process, and focused on the 10-year forecasted risks and variables. She noted that the plan is a progressive development process that will continually involve Council review. Ms. Rhay also discussed staffing requirements for the original WEP projects, reviewed the new requirements that necessitate immediate implementation in order to be in compliance and briefly touched upon Council recommendations that are currently not budgeted for in the WEP. She concluded her report by detailing a staffing strategy and providing a progress report.

Ms. Rhay answered Council questions about the progress report, the funding request, estimated project costs, the status of emergency water storage, and preparations for torrential rain. Interim City Manager Mahdi Aluzri pointed out that the City has a detailed Emergency Response plan and the Hollyhills storm drain to assist with potential torrential rain issues. Ms. Rhay stated that she hopes to find a way to be able to capture some of the rain to recharge the aquifer with a goal of two years' worth of water. Mayor Gold asked that she keep Council posted on the progress. Ms. Rhay also answered questions regarding desalinization. She stated that the timing of getting the water to the City is a 15-year plan and while the City continues to evaluate desalination, there are better investment options for the current 10-year plan. Consultant John Barton and Ms. Rhay addressed Council concerns about water banking, explained its function, noted the risks, and based on other users, the probability of losing the banked water. Deputy City Manager/Director of Capital Assets David Lightner spoke on the status of the Purple Pipe on Santa Monica Blvd.

Public Works Liaisons Vice Mayor Mirisch and Councilmember Brien each reiterated their stance that the availability of the recommended funds be accelerated in full to allow for accessibility to move forward with the WEP and for staff to continue with follow up reports to Council. Councilmember Bosse agreed with the liaisons. Councilmember Brien complimented the Water Tracking System and asked staff to continue to encourage residents and businesses to utilize it. Mr. Aluzri confirmed that funding for the request is available but cautioned that if allocated specifically for water, that the funds will not be available for other purposes. He suggested that Council approve a Resolution of Intent. Mayor Gold asked that bond costs for all projects be embedded in the financial analysis. Director of Administrative Services/Chief Financial Officer Don Rhoads agreed with Mayor Gold and clarified that bond place holders are currently included in the plan to show that funding is needed in some manner.

Council consensus supported the formal adoption of the WEP at the August 18, 2015 City Council Formal meeting.

4. Request by Mayor Gold to Discuss Bus Shelters with Advertising

Seeks City Council input on pursuing an agreement with OUTFRONT media/JCDecaux to install bus shelters with advertising.

Item not discussed.

B – ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER (TIME PERMITTING)

None

C – INFORMATION

5. Removal of Greystone Hanging Gardens and Replacement with Drought Tolerant Landscaping

This item is for informational purposes only. Staff intends to remove the hanging gardens along the staircase and plant the exposed hillside with drought tolerant landscaping.

Item not discussed.

The Study Session recessed at 5:07 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 1st day of September, 2015


BYRON POPE, City Clerk

JULIAN A. GOLD, M.D., MAYOR

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