

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Wednesday August 27, 2014

Below are highlights from the August 27, 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

Architectural Commission – Commissioner Barry Bernstein

A number of excellent projects from good architects have come before the commission recently. The team for the Waldorf Astoria project did an excellent presentation and should be a high quality project; the existing structures have been demolished. A mixed-use residential/commercial project on Stanley Drive will include a large waterfall.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Lillian Raffel

The commission did not meet in August. Vice Chair Murray Fischer is working on developing criteria that could be used to rank possible recipients of grants from the City's Charitable Foundation.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Maralee Beck

The City Council recently added three properties to the historic sites list.

- Home at 707 Walden, designed by master architect Rene Rivierre.
- The Writers and Artists Building at 9507 S. Santa Monica Blvd.
- Ahmanson Bank and Trust building, now the First Bank building, at Wilshire and Oakhurst. Elements by Millard Sheets.

The owner of 805 N. Linden will restore the front yard to its original state and has placed the home on the market. It has been removed from consideration as a historic property. The commission's incentive subcommittee has met with the Planning Commission and is developing more incentives for owners of landmarked properties to restore their homes. The commission chair met with the Cultural Heritage Commission in Aspen, CO, which faces similar issues as Beverly Hills. The Commission will have a retreat on Sept. 22 to discuss the walking mobile application and historic film archiving.

Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman

Nestor Otazu, code enforcement manager, gave a presentation on the code enforcement process that applies to missing, developer-owned art. Don Rhoads, the City's CFO, gave a presentation on details of financial reporting to the Fine Art Fund. The commission conducted its annual priority-setting exercise; artists that meet the Fine

Art criteria, and were suggested by commissioners or the public for consideration for future purchase, were reviewed and prioritized. The three artists set forth for future consideration are William Kentridge, Tony Cragg and Jennifer Steinkamp. The City Attorney suggested some minor changes to sections of the revised Fine Art Ordinance, which have been made. The ordinance is scheduled for presentation to the City Council on Sept. 23. The new commissioner is Michael Smooke. A field trip with commissioners, councilmembers, and staff to the home of art collector Michael Ovitz has been scheduled. They are still working on a design for protective fencing for the Kusama piece.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Stacia Kopeikin

The fourth annual National Night Out was held on Aug. 5 and was very well attended. The commission distributed information packets on vector control, hand washing, vaccinations, etc. The 9th annual Senior Health Fair will be held at Roxbury Park Sept. 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. A senior collaboration event will be held at Greystone Mansion on Nov. 5 from 8:30-noon. Attendees will include the Human Services Division, Cedars Sinai and other groups that provide services to seniors. The new Dangerstoppers video on pedestrian safety is available on the City's website.

Planning Commission – Chair Howard Fisher

A commission subcommittee is looking at ways to limit terracing of hillside lots. There are currently 18 projects in the plan check phase that want to do this. An emergency ordinance to stop new applications is in effect. A number of planning staff members have left, but are quickly being replaced. The commission has provided direction to the Cultural Heritage Commission such that any incentives for historic preservation should be applied to buildings that are already designated as historic sites; different types of incentives are under consideration.

Public Works Commission – Chair Barry Pressman

The state recently passed emergency regulations requiring all water districts to implement Stage B water use restrictions. The commission is discussing ways to enforce the new rules. The commission has asked staff to find ways the City can lead by example, i.e. reduce water use, fix leaks, etc. They will be recommending new water and sewage connection fees for new projects (new developments and remodels) that would include basements in the square footage; the fees would be substantial. A consultant, Psomas, is developing a Water Master Plan that will recommend possible new sources of water, including new wells and desalination, and ways to conserve water. It should be ready for City Council review in late spring. They are also considering a computer program that would detect leaks in the City's water infrastructure.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsburg

New stickers for the Civil City campaign are being distributed, including to the commissioners at the meeting. The “One Book, One City” program is underway. Everyone in the community is encouraged to read “The Boys in the Boat,” by Daniel James Brown. There have been a number of generous sponsors including Wells Fargo, City National Bank, the Beverly Hilton, the Bosse Family, the Ginsburg Family and Jean Rosenblatt. Events are scheduled in September and October, including the author event on Oct. 12 in the high school auditorium. Nominations are open for the Embrace Civility award. A winner will be announced in November.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Howard Rosoff

The 9th Annual Senior Health Fair is Monday, September 8th in the Roxbury Community Center. The AYSO soccer season begins next week with more than 2,100 youth registered. Last Saturday’s outdoor movie event at La Cienega Park attracted over 3,300 people. The new Teen Scene at Roxbury Park Community Center opened. The last Concert on Canon will be held Aug. 28. The 25th anniversary screening of “Troop Beverly Hills” will be held in Beverly Canon Gardens on Sat. Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. The Farmers’ Market 20th anniversary “Sharing the Bounty” dinner catered by local restaurants will be held in Beverly Canon Gardens, Thur. Sept. 18 from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are available. The bid for the replacement of playground equipment at Roxbury Park will be reviewed by City Council in September; construction is scheduled to be complete by the start of 2015. Water efficiency at Roxbury Park has greatly increased following renovation of the athletic fields. The annual trimming of trees in the business triangle, Wilshire and S. Beverly has begun and will continue over the next four weeks.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Andy Licht

The commission is considering competing petitions for and against a permit parking zone on Arden Dr. The City’s efforts to recruit a big-city ally to help reform state disabled parking policies received a setback when San Francisco dropped out. There are ongoing discussions with the Beverly Hills community and the taxi companies about taxi franchises in Beverly Hills.

Design Review Commission – No Report

MAYOR’S REPORT

A liaison committee met to discuss construction mitigation measures, lane closures, cost and timing for the North Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction project. They

asked the consultants to come back with a simplified presentation at the end of September. The City Council unanimously approved an agreement with Metro that limits the impact of construction activity on the community during the utility relocation phase of the La Cienega Station subway project. The MOA restricts construction hours and provides \$1 million in funding by Metro for mitigating impacts to businesses. Most of the work will take place during the daytime. Sept. 10 is the Evening with the Mayor event at Greystone Mansion. On September there will be a scaled-back version of the annual memorial ceremony in front of the Fire Department. The brief ceremony starts at 5 p.m. and will include a color guard and two songs.

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