

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights **Wed., Nov. 4, 2015**

Below are highlights from the November 4, 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

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) – Vice Chair Lisa Kay Schwartz

The HSC decided not to develop a policy regarding hoverboards as there have been no complaints or reports of injuries in the City, and determined they do not currently pose a threat to public safety. The state is close to passing a law that would regulate the use of hoverboards in California. The CERT class for businesses will be held Nov. 5, 2015. The most recent Health and Safety Award went to Dr. Anthony and Barbara Sokol for their work with Operation Smile.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Simone Friedman

The Maison de Luxe Design Showhouse takes place this month at Greystone Mansion and will be open three weekends and some weekdays. City Council gave direction for the dog park to move forward with the basic design; amenities could be added if additional funding becomes available. The RPC and City Council are continuing to evaluate authorized users of the facility which will include residents and non-residents who meet yet to be determined criteria. Signage projects in the two gateway areas are complete. The RPC is developing a policy governing the presence of adults without children in City playgrounds.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Chair Lester Friedman

The City Council approved a request for a permit parking zone on Carson Drive. The Council approved moving forward with weight limits on certain City streets and approved three pilot loading zones for tour buses. The TPC continues to look at areas of the business triangle where too many parking spaces are being taken up by restaurants as valet spaces. The TPC is considering establishing a permit parking zone on Spalding Drive

Public Works Commission (PWC) – Chair Ron Shalowitz

A training session for Water Advocates will be held Sat. Nov. 7 from 8:30-noon in the Municipal Gallery. Letters will be sent out to high water users who have not met their reduction target. The PWC will be promoting leak detection capabilities through Water Tracker. The TPC will be holding a priority setting session and developing an RFP for the Zero Waste program.

Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Alan Robert Block

The PC did not approve a condominium project on Oakhurst Drive that has seven units in Beverly Hills and the rest in Los Angeles because they found that it was not compatible with the City's General Plan; the developers agreed to work with a subcommittee to redesign the project. The PC is considering a sunset clause – most likely longer than two years – for properties with non-conforming uses that go vacant for an extended period of time. The City Council rejected an expanded medical use project for Rite Aid, finding that it did not provide enough public benefit. The PC's main priorities include developing an ordinance to govern development in the hillside areas of Beverly Hills and automated parking.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

The HRC recently wrote an editorial that was published in the Beverly Hills Courier encouraging civility in local elections. The Ambassador Program is getting very good response; the number to text is 424-302-1487. The HRC will begin hearing tenant/ landlord cases at the November meeting. They will not be intervening in disputes, but guiding the parties to resources that will help address their issues. They will collect data on the number and types of cases.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Vice Chair Alan Kaye

\$2.8 million is in the Fine Art Fund, and \$700,000 is committed. The FAC recently received a check for \$55,000 from a business on S. Beverly Drive to meet their Fine Art obligation for a piece that is no longer there. There is missing art in a number of other locations, including the Beverly Hills Hotel and 2 Rodeo. Letters were sent to 55 property owners reminding them of the need to file a covenant for their fine art obligation so that ownership of the art stays with the property if the property is sold or transferred to a new owner later. No bids were received for the fencing contract for the Kusama sculpture as of our last commission meeting; staff will be reaching out to possible contractors after the public bidding process expires if no company has bid at that time. Restoration of the Kusama will be starting soon. The *Obelisk* in front of the Library is now restored; other improvements, such as a path, will be considered later. The Woods Davey donation is close being installed. The FAC is finalizing the contract with William Kentridge for the acquisition of *World On Its Hind Legs*.

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Arline Pepp

The DRC will review three homes at the next meeting, with three very different designs. The DRC have discussed the possibility of training designers on the City's criteria for single-family homes.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Vice Chair Rebecca Pynoos

The CHS recently adopted a revised list of master architects using the new criteria. The CHC is talking to the new owners of the Kate Mantilini building about historic designation.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Chair Murray Fischer

The CSC is waiting for a response from the City Attorney's office on proposed changes to the Municipal Code. The CSC analyzed data on solicitations collected for charities in 2013 and so far in 2015. Among the findings: Many more events are being held this year compared with 2013. Overall, in 2013 approx. 74% of funds raised went to charities and about the same amount so far this year. This compares favorably with the City's 50% goal and indicates that the charities are doing a good job. Many charities consistently give away 90% or more of what they raise. The CSC is considering a program to recognize outstanding charities.

Architectural Commission (AC) – Chair Andrea Gardner Apatow

A new commissioner, Sheri Hirschfeld, was approved and will start in January. A number of projects were revised and approved, including an apartment building and signage for Live Nation.

Mayor's Report

City officials spent a very productive week in New York, meeting with existing retailers and investigating possible new businesses for Beverly Hills. Councilmember Willie Brien is moving to Texas but no date for his departure has been set; the City Council may rescind the current ordinance for filling a City Council vacancy so they will have more options. The City is in the process of recruiting a permanent police chief. The holiday lighting ceremony will be held Nov. 22 on Rodeo Drive.

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