

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Wednesday January 28, 2015

Below are highlights from the January 28, 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

Architectural Commission – Chair Barry Bernstein

Commission met with the two City Council liaisons on the issue of commercial signs being installed or changed without commission approval; the staff will be reviewing ways to increase enforcement. Rodeo Drive is undergoing significant changes, including the building where Bally's and Armani Emporium are located. The commission is working on design awards for new commercial projects and would like to recognize all the Rodeo Drive stores that have been renovated in the past few years.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Murray Fischer

Two new commissioners were installed: Pam Kraushaar and Joe Safier. Murray Fischer is now chair. The commission approved six permit requests and 16 financial statements (to verify if they meet the City's 50% requirement for proceeds to go to the charities.) They are working on letters to be sent to charities that do not fulfil this requirement. This year they are examining options to make code changes to assist with enforcement, including increasing the fines for violation. Commissioners are working with beverage managers at City hotels to ask for their assistance in urging charities to apply for permits. Many new charity events are being held in private homes and the commission is contacting these event organizers to get them apply for permits. Commissioners are reviewing other cities to see how they handle violations to see if a more efficient system is possible. Many street solicitors sell items on Rodeo Drive. Some do have permits and are legal. However, the commission is assisting with the effort to stop aggressive soliciting for donations, which is illegal.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Maralee Beck

The Commission is recommending as a historic site, the Neutra (Kronish) house, which is the home that spurred the creation of the City's historic preservation program. A liaison meeting was scheduled with Planning Commission members and City Council members to discuss proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance. A meeting is scheduled for next week to take comments from the community. Commission staff liaison Bill Crouch had an accident at home and its recuperating.

Design Review Commission – No Report

Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman

Commissioner Michael Smooke was sworn in as FAC commissioner. Art consultant Diane Rosenstein, representing The Roy Lichtenstein and The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, presented a proposal to the Fine Art Commission to purchase the work by Mr. Lichtenstein. The work is currently installed on the corner of Little Santa Monica and Crescent Drive. The commission decided not to pursue acquisition of the piece due to high cost. Chair Pressman, Vice Chair Potter and City staff met with City Council liaisons on January 14 to discuss several issues: 1.) The proposed purchase of the William Kentrige Sculpture, *World On Its Hind Legs*, and its preferred location. 2.) The Kusama fencing design by designer John Lavezzo. 3.) The proposed donation to the City from the Carol Wiseman estate of a Woods Davey sculpture and the preferred location; the FAC will bring this to the next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission. The scope of the existing contract with Lavezzo has been expanded to include an engineering report on the footings for the fencing. Two new sites for the Joan Brown Obelisk have been identified and are being researched. A bonding agent to secure the decomposed granite near the sculpture “Conversation” is being tested.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Myra Lurie

The regular CERT class is coming up in April. Participants will earn new skills, including fire suppression, first aid and search and rescue. The most recent Dangerstopper video is called “Move It or Lose It,” promoting exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Other items on the commission’s work plan are brain health and promoting immunizations. Like elsewhere in the nation, there is a high rate of person belief exemptions (PBEs) from vaccinations for incoming kindergarteners in the public schools – ranging from 9.2% at Beverly Vista to 14% at Horace Mann. The commission would like to work with the school district to get the word out about the importance of vaccinating children. The commission has reinstated the Health and Safety Award recognizing an individual or business each month. Dr. Daniel Fink, a resident, gave a presentation on the health impacts of noise in public places.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

There have been a lot of changes on the commission. Ori Blumenfeld is the chair and Karen Popovich Levyn is the vice-chair. The commission recently made recommendations on recipients of the community assistance grant fund process. Nestor Otazu from code enforcement has been educating the commission on landlord/tenant issues; the commission hopes to provide a forum for resolving issues; making various

recommendations, and educating the community. They will be an advisory board and will have no legal authority. The Beverly Hills Bar Association has offered to provide pro bono, etc. legal services. Rochelle Ginsburg, the former chair, received the 2014 State Parks and Recreation Service Award of Excellence. Fifty volunteers will help at the biennial homeless count; the count will be reported to LA County authorities. The commission will be addressing the problem of aggressive panhandling by working with the business community. They are looking into Block by Block, a system of increasing enforcement visibility to help curtail aggressive panhandling.

Planning Commission – Chair Howard Fisher

The commission will be meeting with the L.A. Conservancy to discuss changes to the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance. Two apartment buildings on Palm Drive are scheduled to be torn down and replaced and there is no provision for helping some of the long-time tenants relocate; the commission was unable to intervene but asked the developers to consider tenant needs. A residential project on Lexington includes an 18-care subterranean garage. Brian Rosenstein has resigned from the commission and Craig Corman terms out soon, opening up two slots on the commission; interviews will take place soon.

Public Works Commission – Chair Ron Shalowitz

The commission is close to finishing the 10-year Water Master Plan, and hope to send it to the City Council in April. They are looking at alternative water sources and how best to spend money on water development in the next 5-10 years and creating a "water czar" position to oversee the process.

Recreation and Parks Commission –Chair Simone Friedman

Simone Friedman is the new chair and Francis Bilak is the new vice chair. New and innovative playground equipment will be unveiled at Roxbury in March. Gateway signage and landscaping improvements for Wilshire/San Vicente and Olympic/Spalding are scheduled to go before City Council on Feb. 3. Staff anticipates bringing the Electric Fountain Restoration contract to City Council on Feb. 17 with restoration work hoped to commence shortly thereafter. Staff will be presenting an overview of the Dec. 10 public meeting regarding possible improvements to La Cienega Park to City Council on Feb. 3 and will be seeking their direction regarding desired next steps. There will be a Public Meeting at La Cienega Community Center on Wed., Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. with regard to the ficus trees on S. Robertson Blvd. The residents of Peck Drive will present their petition for replacement street trees at the February Recreation and Parks Commission meeting. More than half of residents on Parkway have signed a petition to remove the ficus trees. This will be placed on the agenda for the March Recreation and Parks Meeting. Upcoming events include Music in the Mansion and Woolstock 90210 (Mar. 8). All City fields are now closed for renovation in preparation for the

upcoming baseball season. The City is offering 23 different camps this summer. The Winter Session of the City's Adult Basketball League began in January with 54 teams registered. A fence was installed around the Roxbury Preschool location to provide an area for safe tricycle riding, outdoor play and lunch time.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Lester Friedman

Lester Friedman is the new chair; Jake Manaster is the new vice chair. David Seidel is new on the commission. Commissioner Alan Grushcow passed away. A meeting on tour bus activity tentatively will be held on Feb. 17. The commission will be spending a lot of time on the procedures for the new taxi franchise system, which is scheduled to start Apr. 1. The commission is considering preferential parking permit zones, with one-hour parking on Smithwood and two-hour parking on N. Sierra drives. The commission will be reviewing the inventory of valet parking spaces in response to reports that there are too many spaces devoted to valet parking. They will be working on recommending mitigation measures for Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction and on the Trousdale traffic plan.

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