

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Wednesday February 25, 2015

Below are highlights from the February 25, 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

Because of commission action, illegal signs and decals are being removed from store windows and walls. The commission is working on design awards for recent commercial projects and would like to recognize some outstanding remodels on Rodeo Drive. Only three new projects have come before the commission in the few months.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Murray Fischer

The commission approved 15 permits and evaluated 17 financial statements (to verify if they meet the City's 50% requirement for proceeds to go to the charities.) One charity was turned over to code enforcement. Charities typically are contacted after their events when the commission receives complaints from residents. They are working with the hotels to reach out to charities to educate them about the need for a permit. Recently a lot of fundraising is done at private homes without permits and charities outside of the City that solicit Beverly Hills residents; both these types of events need solicitations permits from the City. The commission's charge has been expanded to include assessing the effectiveness and services of applicants for community assistance grants. The commission continues to assist with efforts to stop aggressive panhandling.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Maralee Beck

The commission has had two special meetings recently. The commission has received great feedback from the community and the ad hoc committee continues to have conversations with the Planning Commission to discuss proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Videos with 163 interviews videotaped during the Centennial were given to the commission to manage; only 112 people interviewed signed releases. The videos are stored in the Community Development library.

Design Review Commission – Chair John Wyka

Three single-family homes were given awards for design excellence: one traditional, once modern and one restoration. They had an excellent turnout for the reception. Only one new case came before the commission in the past month.

Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman

Artist Carol Bove's sculpture *Io* should be completed in April. The commission will be receiving a \$500,000 payment from the Waldorf Astoria fine art obligation. The City Attorney spoke to the commission about overall commission restructuring and the Brown Act. The commission unanimously approved a piece to be installed at the Kennedy-Wilson offices on El Camino. The City Council approved the commission's recommendation of the site for the temporary Richard Serra installation (loan from the Gagosian Gallery) on the southeast corner of Crescent and N. Santa Monica Blvd. They also approved the donation and siting of the Woods Davey piece at Coldwater Canyon Park. The Woods Davy sculpture is a gift from the estate of Carol Wiseman. There is no cost to the City for these pieces.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Myra Lurie

The commission is engaged in community education about dropping vaccination rates, including a possible Dangerstoppers video. Legislation is being introduced to remove the personal belief and religious exemptions for vaccinations and they hope the City Council will support this. The Every-15-Minutes program, which recreates a fatal car accident and discourages distracted and drunk driving among high schools students, is scheduled for Feb. 26. CERT refresher classes start Feb. 28. The regular CERT class is coming in April. The commission has reinstated the Health and Safety Award and given the first award to resident Linda Berghoff for starting a dance program to help Parkinson's patients. The awards are given monthly and nominations can be made on the City's website.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

Annette Saleh was appointed to the commission and will be seated in April to replace Rochelle Ginsburg. The commission is evaluating Community Assistance Grant Funds and will make recommendations to the City Council along with the Charitable Solicitations Committee. The commission will be addressing the problem of aggressive panhandling by working with the business community; they are looking into Block by Block and similar programs as a possible approach to increasing enforcement visibility to help curtail aggressive panhandling; they may recommend the RFP process for selecting a program. Beverly Hills will be a host city for the Special Olympics for delegations from two countries. The commission continues to evaluate how they want to handle landlord/tenant issues: for example appointing an ad hoc committee to preselect which issues come before the commission and chose cases that will provide the most education to the community.

Planning Commission – Chair Howard Fisher

Two vacancies have been filled; Lori Gordon will come on the commission in April and Andy Licht will join at the end of the year. There are few projects under consideration at this time, because of fewer applications and staff restrictions. The City of L.A. has published a map of cultural resources.

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. As part of that process, they are looking at alternative water sources and how best to spend money on water development in the next 5-10 years.

Recreation and Parks Commission –Chair Simone Friedman

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Wednesday for the Electric Fountain Restoration project. Woofstock will be held March 8 at Roxbury Park. Summer camps registration starts this weekend; new summer camps are offered. The Community Services Department Showcase is scheduled for March 1. Little League is starting soon. A musical trio and a cabaret and dinner will be held at Greystone March 22 and 28 respectively. Discussion on the dog park continues; the City Attorney will have some input soon. The playground equipment at Roxbury Park is nearly installed; they are waiting for shade canopies, which should be ready by the end of March. A public meeting on improvements to La Cienega Park will be scheduled soon. The next Greystone project will be renovating the small theater. The City is hosting the Special Olympics in July.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Lester Friedman

There is a vacancy on the commission due to the death of Commissioner Alan Grushcow. The commission will soon see possible options from the city's consultant for mitigating traffic during the Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction project. The commission anticipates the results of the usage study on disabled parking abuse. The L.A. marathon will be held March 15; traffic will be stopped north-south, and the streets should reopen by 1 p.m. No red light cameras are currently in operation; the new cameras are currently being installed. There will be a test period before violations are issued. The cameras will be installed at both new and old locations. A study on parking inventory is nearly complete. City staff will go to the City Council for consideration of fees to cover the cost of Trousdale traffic mitigation. A taxi ad hoc working group will meet regarding issuance of violations to taxi companies.

###