

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, May 21, 2015

Below are highlights from the May 21, 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 – No report

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Murray Fischer

The commission approved 29 permit applications and financial statements for nine charities. One charity did not meet the 50% requirement. The commission enjoyed working with the Human Relations Commission to review applicants for community assistance grants. Richard Schreiber on the CSC took the lead and evaluated the financial statements of the charities, including executive compensation. Two other commissioners are reaching out to the major hotels to get their cooperation in encouraging charities to get permits. They have also spoken with the CVB to express concern about professional panhandlers. The commission hasn't had much luck working with newspapers to ask the charities they write about if they have permits. The mayor asked that permit numbers be included on advertisements in local newspapers for charitable events.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Maralee Beck

Urban Designer Bill Crouch is leaving the City. The walking tour app of Beverly Hills historic resources is still not working properly. Homeowners on Linden Drive are not following the City's permit requirements in the restoration of their house. The commission has had a very successful partnership with Planning Commission for rewriting the Historic Preservation ordinance; the recommendations will come before the City Council soon.

Design Review Commission – Vice Chair Arline Pepp

Owners of a home under construction on Crescent Drive listened to neighbors when making design revisions and accommodated all of the concerns in the new design. The commission recent sent back for restudy a home that did not meet any of the City's five criteria which are consideration of overall aesthetic impact, bulk and mass, garden-like quality of the City, privacy of the neighbors and compatibility with the streetscape.

Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman

Installation of the Woods Davey, Carol Bove, Joan Brown and Richard Serra sculptures should be complete by early fall. The commission voted to put out to bid construction of the John Lavezzo fencing for the Kusama sculpture and also voted to proceed with the restoration of Kusama. The commission voted to reorient the Serra sculpture as specified by the artist and the gallery and will bring the proposal for acquisition of “World on its Hind Legs” by William Kentridge to the City Council on June 16.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Myra Lurie

This month, the commission gave the Health and Safety Award to the Challenger Division of Beverly Hills Little League, which makes it possible for handicapped children to play baseball; they were nominated by Commissioner Gary Ross. The commission welcomes nominations. The commission is still following the vaccination story: A bill SB277, that recently passed the state senate, bans the personal exemption for vaccinated children who attend public or private schools. The City wrote a letter in support of the bill. A Dangerstopper video on vaccinations will be created by the City’s cable studio. Adults and adolescents, as well as children, should keep all vaccinations current. The commission encourages all residents to sign up for Nixle alerts and to follow the City’s Facebook and other social media pages.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

The commission has selected the for recommendation to City Council, the company Block by Block to provide ambassador services to reduce aggressive panhandling and enhance quality of life. Starting June 3, the commission is accepting applications for the Embrace Civility Award for 60 days. The City Council approved \$740,000 in community assistance grant funds to be distributed to 12 local organizations. Chair Blumenfeld thanked the Charitable Solicitations Commission for their help in evaluating the charities’ financial status.

Planning Commission – Chair Howard Fisher

The commission recently turned down an application for a non-conforming use for a condominium project. A project on Oakhurst that is 70% located in Los Angeles has had a series of issues, partly caused by the confusion over jurisdiction. The façade is 100% in Beverly Hills and must meeting all City standards. A commission subcommittee is looking at creating standards for rooftop uses on commercial buildings.

Public Works Commission – Chair Ron Shalowitz

Water conservation is the commission's top priority. They will be proposing enhanced rebates for water-saving devices and turf replacement. They will be setting up an appeals process for water customers who are fined under the Stage D emergency water restrictions ordinance. The commission needs to consider an overall growth management policy because, if the City continues to attract new businesses and residences, overall water use may not go down enough even if everyone conserves. The Water Enterprise Plan needs more work before resubmission to the City Council. The commission will be considering a Zero Waste Management Plan. The outdoor watering restriction information needs to be provided in Spanish.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Commissioner Robbie Anderson

The next Beverly Hills Forum lecture event is scheduled for June 31. The city is offering 23 different summer camps. Adults and seniors can attend one class free to see if they are interested. The aquatics season is starting, with teams and competitions, including the swim challenge to encourage people to be safe in the water. The popular Concerts on Canon series starts on June 4. The new playground at Roxbury Park is interesting and challenging for kids of all ages.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Commissioner Andy Licht

Jeff Levine has rejoined the commission for the rest of the year. The commission is getting ready to hear appeals of staff decisions from taxi companies under the new franchise system. The commission is waiting for a report about the Olympic/Beverwil intersection to discuss ways to make that intersection safer. The City Council has authorized the purchase of bicycles for the bike sharing program. The discussion continues over abuse of disabled placards parking, which continues to be a problem in the business triangle.

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