

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Below are highlights from the August 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.

Commissioner Training

Senior Management Analyst Kevin Kearney informed the commissioners of an all-commission training session scheduled for Sat. Dec. 5, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Roxbury Community Center.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Commissioner Alan Kaye

The Fine Art balance is at \$2.8 million, less \$700,000-800,000 to be paid out for two pieces of art. The FAC continues to investigate some missing public art sculptures that were provided through the Public Art Ordinance; the City was recently reimbursed \$55,000 from a property on S. Beverly Dr. where the art had been removed. The Richard Serra "Twins" sculpture is mostly installed on the City Hall lawn. The Kusama restoration plans are ongoing; the FAC has viewed plans for the Kusama fencing and the work is going out to bid. The Woods Davey piece donated by the Weisman family has been restored by the artist and it is ready to be installed in Coldwater Park. The Joan Brown Obelisk has been installed in front of the Library. The FAC is finalizing the contract with William Kentridge for the acquisition of "World on its Hind Legs."

Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Alan Robert Block

A large residential project on Loma Linda was withdrawn prior to the most recent PC meeting; there was neighborhood opposition in addition to issues of size and the amount of dirt removal. The PC approved recommended guidelines for allowing artificial turf in front yards. The PC is considering a lot line adjustment and a two-story accessory structure for a large residential project on Shadow Hill Road.

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Arline Pepp (via conference call)

A project on La Peer was sent back for redesign due to a number of design issues; the second submittal was much better and was approved. Another project on Hillcrest came twice to the DRC and was rejected both times; the owners have indicated they will return with a completely different design.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Simone Friedman

The RPC had just completed a long meeting, which focused mainly on the dog park. All of the speakers and most of the letters and emails were in favor of the park, specifically that it be open during normal park hours. The RPC will hold a special meeting to consider design of the park, lighting, water and how to manage resident and non-resident access. The renovation project for La Cienega Park was reviewed but needs a lot more study. There are possible impacts from closure of school athletic fields on the JPA between the City and the school district.

Architectural Commission (AC) – Vice Chair Gidas Peteris

The City presented Architecture Awards to seven recent commercial projects at the Aug. 18 City Council meeting. Among the new projects the AC is considering are the expansion of the O’Gara dealership in to an empty warehouse building and a House of Cravings restaurant to occupy the old IHOP site – both in the southeast area of Beverly Hills.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Vice Chair Karen Kay Platt

Nine permits were issued in August. Police Department Commander Erick Lee and Commissioner Murray Fischer met with the City Attorney to discuss changes to the Municipal Code regarding charitable solicitations, such as charging a fee and ensuring that a permit number is included on all invitations and advertising. The CSC will be working on outreach to the local hotels and event coordinators to ensure compliance with existing codes.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Vice Chair Rebecca Pynoos

The CHC is working with staff on implementation of the new ordinance. Properties in review from previous meetings include a Ray Kappe multifamily building on Gale, brought forward by the homeowners. Our next meeting will be held on September 2nd at 1:30pm. The LA Conservancy will hold their annual benefit on Oct. 17 at the Waverly Mansion on Sunset, which is one of the City’s landmarked properties.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) - Chair Myra Lurie

National Night Out on Tue., Aug. 4 was very successful. Commissioner Lurie passed out a combination sunscreen and hand sanitizer dispenser pen.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

The Ambassador program started at the beginning of the month. Eight ambassadors are on the streets 21 hours a day in the business triangle and South Beverly Drive. They are reachable most effectively by texting photos and reports to 424 302-1487. They will clean up messes, clean graffiti and provide help for homeless individuals.

Their office is located in the Crescent Garage. The fourth annual Embrace Civility Award will be announced at the Oct. 6 City Council meeting.

Public Works Commission (PWC) – Chair Ron Shalowitz

The City received a notice of violation letter from the State Water Board for not meeting the 32% reduction goal; as requested the City has provided a detailed and comprehensive account of its water conservation efforts. The updated Water Tracker program is much better. Contract work for the water treatment plant has started; all work is scheduled to be complete by February. The Greystone reservoir caulking project is underway. Shallow wells are being drilled on Foothill; they expect to find water by February, followed by a year of testing for quality.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Chair Lester Friedman

City Council has directed staff to implement three additional tour bus loading areas: on the 200 block of N. Beverly for two shuttles only, 10-4 pm daily; on Burton Way in front of courthouse for shuttles, only on weekends; and on N. Crescent next to City Hall on weekends only. New red-light cameras are operational. The TPC will be considering two new applications for preferential parking areas.

Mayor's Report

The recruitment for the City Manager's job is near completion; after the new City Manager is on board, the search for the new police chief will begin, and is expected to be complete by February. The Infrastructure and Technology committees are just about finished with their work. Mayor Gold will be meeting soon with L.A. Mayor Garcetti; they will discuss water conservation, the Orange Grove property and the possibility of Beverly Hills doing some maintenance work and/or replacement of old DWP pipes in the City. The Evening with the Mayor is scheduled for Sept. 9 from 5-7 p.m. The mayor expressed his appreciation for the work done by all 11 Beverly Hills commissions.

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