

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Monday, September 21, 2015

Below are highlights from the September 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 (AC) – Chair Andrea Gardner Apatow

The AC recently considered two projects, a children's store, which was postponed due to no representation at the meeting and the Live Nation offices. They did not approve the signage for Live Nation because it was too brightly neon and not clearly designed. Two project purviews recently considered by the AC including a restaurant and a mixed use building at 9595 Wilshire Blvd. A seat on the commission will open in January.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Chair Murray Fischer

Thirty-three permits were approved and 36 financial reports were reviewed. Not all reports were approved because of missing information. Some charities recently missed the 50% rule and are placed on the City's watch list. The Visionary Women charity recently released a statement saying that the City of Beverly Hills had "approved their event;" they have been notified that they cannot make that statement. The CSC continues 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. A recent study shows that the City's cost is approximately \$46 for each permit and the CSC will likely recommend a \$50 fee and a \$100 deposit. The CSC will invite event coordinators to the next meeting to educate them about requirements. The CSC and Human Relations commissions worked together to evaluate 16 charitable organizations that applied for grants from the City.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Chair Lisa Greer

The CHC is working with staff on implementation of the revised ordinance before it goes into effect, which is 120 days after passage. The changes include a process for obtaining a certificate of ineligibility and an incentive for homeowners to landmark their properties, such that if the home is landmarked certain variances from the building codes could be approved. 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. The CHS is working on

paring down the list of master architects using the new criteria. Commissioners are asking to be informed of potentially historic properties for sale that are being advertised as a teardown.

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Arline Pepp

A new commission member has been chosen and awaits approval. The DRC reviewed three homes recently. One was approved without changes, one with changes and the third was sent back for redesign.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Vice Chair Alan Kaye

Richard Serra's *Twins* sculpture was dedicated on the City Hall lawn Monday; it is a long-term loan from the Gagosian Gallery. The Carol Bove's *IO* was installed the previous week in Beverly Gardens Park. The fencing contract for the Kusama sculpture is out to bid. The FAC did a priority exercise regarding a new public art purchase and the consensus was for a preference for an artist named Thomas Friedman. The FAC met with representatives of a building at 8942 Wilshire to discuss a reimagining of the public art piece. The FAC met with an art conservator to discuss restoration of Yayoi Kusama's *Tulips* and Joan Brown's *Obelisk* sculptures. The FAC is finalizing the contract with William Kentridge for the acquisition of *World on its Hind Legs*, to be installed on the Burton Way median.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) - Chair Myra Lurie

Upcoming events include CERT classes for residents (six modules Feb. 24 – Mar. 12, 2016) and businesses (Nov. 5, 2015). The statewide Shakeout earthquake takes place on Oct. 15 at 10:15 a.m.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

A married couple has been chosen for this year's Embrace Civility 'Award. The honorees will be announced at the Oct. 6 City Council meeting. The Ambassador Program has been very successful. Anyone who sees a problem in the Business Triangle or on S. Beverly Drive should text the information to 424-302-1487; response time is very short. The tenant landlord forum will begin hearing cases in November. Lease information for prospective tenants has been updated. Postcards to all landlords and renters are being sent out. The CSC and Human Relations Commission worked together to evaluate 16 charitable organizations that applied for grants from the City.

Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Alan Robert Block

A remodel for a landmarked property on Hillcrest was approved. At an upcoming meeting, the PC will discuss issues surrounding a project on Oakhurst Drive that has seven units in Beverly Hills and the rest in Los Angeles; it has been approved by L.A. but not by Beverly Hills.

Public Works Commission (PWC) – Vice Chair Sandra Aronberg, M.D.

The water treatment plant will be up and running soon. The shallow groundwater and Greystone reservoir projects are on track. Water bills with penalty surcharges for not conserving 30% will be going out in Oct. for the Aug.-Sep. billing period. Letters to tenants and landlords will be sent soon regarding if/how the usage penalties can be passed onto tenants. The updated Water Tracker program is much better. Water rate increases and a new tiered rate structure will be considered soon by the City Council.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Simone Friedman

The senior health fair was held recently as was a big success. A new feature this year was a preliminary check for skin cancer. Adult flag football and AYSO have begun. Approx. 2,200 youths are enrolled in AYSO. El Rodeo was closed last week because of reports of an unsafe building; the Library and La Cienega Park helped out with after-school care. The fall Art Show will be held Oct. 18-19. New Gateway signage at Olympic/Spalding and Wilshire/San Vicente is nearly complete. The bidding process for the restoration of the Greystone Theater is underway. Staff is assessing the requirements and needs for upgrades at Coldwater Park. Public input efforts continue regarding design concepts for renovation of La Cienega Park. The RPC is working with stakeholders to make final decisions regarding a dog park. Annual pruning of City trees continue; 70% of palm trees have been pruned. The replacement elm trees for Peck Drive have arrived and will be planted when the weather cools. Reaction is mixed to the browner grass at City parks and medians due to the cutback in watering schedule.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Chair Lester Friedman

The bike share program is moving forward, with possible sites being evaluated. The TPC has developed recommendations for two requests for permit parking zones: on S. Almont Drive (one-hour parking, permits excepted) and N. Carson Drive (permit parking only). The commission has spent most of its time working on traffic mitigation measures for the Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction project. The commission's goals are to ensure access to the business triangle and to have two lanes in each direction open, with a few exceptions for special circumstances. Two public meetings are schedule to inform the public about the project and gain input for developing mitigation measures.

Mayor's Report

Beverly Hills bike share system will be compatible with most of the other Westside COG cities, though not with Metro's system. The BHPD continues to seek the public's assistance with more photos and videos of the reckless driving incident that gained international media attention.