Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights
Mon. Sept. 26, 2016

Below are highlights from the Sept. 26, 2016 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 Gidas Peteris

The Wells Fargo building at 9350 Wilshire will be getting a modern façade. The Harry Winston Store on Rodeo Drive will be expanding and the offices for ETCO Homes is moving to a location on Olympic Boulevard.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Chair Karen Platt

The Commission recently approved 71 applications and 77 financial statements; the big increase is attributed to a letter sent by the Police Department. The CSC is proposing changes to the Municipal code. One potential change would require event planners and catering managers in the City's hotels to email the commission about upcoming charitable events. Meetings with counterparts in the City of Los Angeles Solicitations Commission to exchange information on fundraisers in their respective jurisdictions are taking place; approximately 40% of events licensed by the LA Commission take place in Beverly Hills. The Commission is working on an annual report.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Chair Rebecca Pynoos

The Los Angeles Conservancy will hold their October 22 fundraising event at the historic Liliore-Green Rains estate in Beverly Hills.

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Ilene Nathan

The number of projects to come before the commission has been declining. The DRC is proposing eliminating the two-track system and that all residential projects are reviewed by the commission. The DRC is evaluating projects for the biennial design awards.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Vice Chair Carolyn Hiller

LACMA curator Stephanie Barron spoke to the commission and evaluated the City's public art collection. She provided a list of recommended artists and suggested the City focus on collecting work by local artists. Two FAC members will be on the committee recommending art for the Purple Line subway stations. The FAC is still in discussions with Jamie McCourt, who wants to loan the City a Ewerdt Hilgemann sculpture. The

Kentridge sculpture "World on its Hind Legs" is being shipped to Beverly Hills. The form to submit suggestions for art purchases is on the website; and to date 12 suggestions have been received. The purchase of a sculpture by Tom Friedman has been approved and will eventually be installed at Rodeo and Santa Monica Boulevard. The fencing around the Kusama sculpture is complete; new cracks have been found in the sculpture. Signage is being developed to discourage climbing on the City's public art.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) – No Report

Human Relations Commission – Chair Karen Popovich Levyn
The HRC is now accepting applications for the 2016 Embrace Civility Award program; deadline for nominations is Sept. 30. The City's civility statement plaque is now permanently displayed in the commission meeting room; the commission encourages all commissions to read the statement before each meeting. Three hundred buildings with 1,800 units have been identified as being at risk for collapsing during a strong earthquake. Upgrade costs will not be passed onto tenants. The HRC continues monthly hearings on tenant/ landlord cases; both tenants and landlords attended the August meeting to air grievances.

Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Joe Shooshani
Major projects include the Wanda project at Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards. Discussion of the project is ongoing. A Michelin-starred restaurant is coming to Beverly Hills in partnership with Cartier. The restaurant's plan for an automatic parking system was approved.

Public Works Commission (PWC) – No Report

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Frances Bilak
The opening of the dog park was very successful and so far it has been operating smoothly. There was a report of people without dogs entering the park and this will be monitored. The RPC is interested in hosting a CicLAvia event in Beverly Hills. The biking program for children on Saturdays is going well. The police department will be in attendance the last Saturday of the month to help instruct children in safe biking. There was some vandalism at Maltz Park; security cameras for the mini parks are being considered. The language for the plaque honoring the Tongva tribe has been written. The commission would like to discuss building a park on City-owned property in the Entertainment Business District.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Commissioner Lester Friedman

The major project before the commission is the N. Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction. Public meetings are being held with both businesses and residents to discuss the traffic impacts. The TPC recommends taking the parking meters on S. Santa Monica Boulevard out of service during the project and provide valet assisted parking on the top level of the SM five parking structures to make up for the loss of spaces. The TPC is studying the addition of crosswalks in mid-block where the decomposed granite walkways end along Beverly Gardens.

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