

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, August 5, 2013

Below are highlights from the August 5, 2013 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.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION CHAIRS

Architectural Commission – Chair James Blakeley

The commission is considering 14 projects – a very big work load. The Kreation Juice Bar built its façade without a permit; much of the façade will be replaced. The Go Greek Yogurt store is being given a temporary operating permit even though the façade is not complete. The Burberry building has been approved by the commission. The commission chair expressed concern that other businesses will take advantage of this precedent and push for higher buildings with roof uses.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Alissa Roston

No report. The commission has not met since the last cabinet meeting.

Fine Art Commission – Vice Chair Sandy Pressman

The commission has gotten overwhelmingly positive feedback about the Plensa installation. The lighting on the Plensa is complete. A very productive meeting was held on July 15 with Council Member and liaison Dr Julian Gold with the FAC and R & P to clarify the jurisdiction of the FAC and R&P when it comes to functions of Fine Art installation in Beverly Hills City Parks.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Richard Waldow

The commission has recommended 14 properties for inclusion on the city's Register of Historic Properties; all 14 have been approved by the City Council. They are exceeding their goal of three properties per quarter. A comprehensive survey of historic properties is underway – the first truly comprehensive survey ever done in Beverly Hills. It should be complete in May of 2014. They are working on creating incentives for owners to participate in the program. The commission has been reaching out to interested groups (including the BH Historical Society and the Friends of Greystone) and the public in general to inform them about the landmarking program and to enlist their participation and support.

Design Review Commission – Commissioner Arline Pepp

The commission is considering a number of challenging residential projects that are massive and unappealing. However there are limits to what the commission can do. The commission believes the Design Review jurisdiction should include the entire City, rather than just homes south of Sunset, but there are issues with staff resources. The Planning Commission's R1 Residential Task Force will help define additional tools that can be used to control the bulk and mass of single-family homes in Beverly Hills.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Gail Millan

National Night Out, a nationwide event to increase neighborhood safety, will be held in Beverly Hill on August 6, from 6-9 p.m. The commissioner encouraged everyone to watch the DangerStoppers, City-produced videos that highlight different safety issues, including distracted driving. September is National Preparedness Month. The City will ask residents to pledge to achieve a certain level of emergency preparedness.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ilona Sherman

Judging is complete for the Anti-Bullying video competition. The quality of the entries was exceptional. The winners will be announced in October which is anti-bullying month. The commission is accepting applications for the embrace Civility Awards. Planning for the Civil City program is underway. No meeting was held in June.

Planning Commission – Vice Chair Howard Fisher

The commission will be looking at R1 taskforce recommendations for setting City standards for homes, including size of basements and ways to achieve modulations in the design. The commission is discussing expanding the in-lieu parking program to the southeast area. A pilot program, initiated with the proposed Spaghettini restaurant, will lower the amount paid for in-lieu parking but make it a monthly charge in perpetuity, rather than a one-time payment. The commission has an increased workload with several big houses and many ancillary structures.

Public Works Commission – Chair Barry Pressman

The commission is finalizing the investigation of an incident earlier this year in which coliform bacteria was reported to be in the City's water supply. The commission will be making recommendations for changes in procedures for testing and monitoring. A full report will be made to the City Council at a future meeting. Trash bin replacement is being planned in the south part of the City. The commission will be establishing an education program for residents and gardeners about green waste dumping in alleys. The Water Tracker online tool is being revised to make it easier to use.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Robert Anderson

The commission is looking for a solution to the problem of people climbing on the Beverly Hills sign in Beverly Gardens Park. The Senior Health Fair is being organized. A special commission meeting providing an update on Roxbury Park improvements will be held. Summer events are underway including Sunday night movies, Classics in the Park at Greystone and Concerts on Canon. The commission is discussing creating a standardized donor recognition program for all the City's parks.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Commissioner Lester Friedman

The commission is considering parking restrictions for the 600 block of Crescent Drive. Nine disabled parking enforcement sweeps will be held in August. These consist of two enforcement officers and will be held in different locations all over the City. The purpose of the sweeps is to raise awareness and gather data on disabled parking patterns, both legal and illegal. The commission is also investigating reports of residents selling their parking permits to businesses.

The next Mayor's Cabinet meeting will be held September 9 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 280B.