

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, October 7, 2013

Below are highlights from the October 7, 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.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION CHAIRS

Architectural Commission –Chair Barry Bernstein

A new member Michelle Kaye, will be starting soon.

The quality of the projects has improved over the past four years and applicants are, for the most part, happy to work with the commission.

The commission is working on improving signage.

No controversial issues at this time.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Rich Waldow

A public hearing will be held Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 1:30 p.m.

The commission will discuss the application for a demolition permit for the 805 N. Linden Dr. home designed by Wallace Neff, who is on the City's list of master architects. There seems to be a misunderstanding from the public that an application for a demolition permit means it will be demolished. However, the commission and the council have 30 days to consider the historic importance of the home, and it may be preserved.

The commission will consider historic designation for the Fine Arts Theater.

Four other properties are being recommended for historic designation: the Union 76 Station at the corner of Little Santa Monica and Crescent drives, the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Gardens Park and three buildings with Millard Sheets mosaics. The Beverly Wilshire Hotel is asking for more details on what the City considers to be historically defining features.

The Council will also discuss the recently demolished Gershwin house and consider changing rules so that all architects who made significant changes to a home will be considered, not just the original architect.

Design Review Commission – Chair Ilene Nathan

The commission is working with a homeowner who does not have a licensed architect working on the project. The subcommittee will be meeting to discuss how best to get the necessary changes made.

Two other projects will be coming back to the commission.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Alissa Roston

Nothing new to report.

Fine Art Commission –Chair Fiona Chalom

The City's Urban Designer William Crouch spoke to the commission about the possibility of the Millard Sheets mosaics in the City being designated historic landmarks, including the City's mosaic at the Civic Center. Two other Millard Sheets mosaics are located in Beverly Hills on Wilshire Boulevard: at the Chase Bank and First Bank. A dedication of the City's Millard Sheets installation will be held Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

The City Attorney's office has completed its analysis of the revised Fine Art ordinance, and the commission is reviewing it.

The commission is considering more protections for the Kusama sculpture, including a moat-like planter with shrubs and security cameras.

Remaining public art in need of restoration includes a sculpture at Santa Monica and Whittier.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Gail Millan

The Great California Shakeout will take place on October 17, 2013 at 10:17 a.m. All City employees and customers in City facilities will participate to drop, cover and hold. This is a good opportunity to practice for a real earthquake. Information may be found at <http://www.shakeout.org/california>.

Dangerstoppers, which are short safety videos, will be running regularly on BH Cable TV.

Fight the Bite is the newest feature.

Flu season has started. Free adult vaccinations will be available at La Cienega Park on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 from 9:00-11:00am. Additional flu clinics will be scheduled around the area. More details on the locations and hours of these clinics will be available on the website.

Three new commissioners have been named: Gary Ross, Daniel Nazarian and Myra Demeter.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsberg

Two positions are opening up on the commission.

The winners of the anti-bullying video competition will be announced at the next City Council meeting. The commission has chosen a winner of the Civility Award, and will make the announcement later this month.

The Commission has adopted a Civil City proposal expanding its Embrace Civility campaign.. Its focus will be on bicyclists, pedestrians and drivers to promote awareness of the need for safety and consideration on our busy streets and sidewalks.. Flyers, stickers and banners are among the details that are currently under design.

Planning Commission – Howard Fisher

The commission is working on creating stricter standards to limit bulk and mass of single-family homes. Options being discussed include counting basements as living space, requiring more parking spaces and possibly reducing floor area ratio.

The Planning Commission and the Design Review Commission would like to extend design review jurisdiction to the entire City.

Public Works Commission – Vice Chair Ron Shalowitz

The commission will be promoting water conservation, due to the low rainfall levels this year.

They are looking at new sources of water in order to be less dependent on the Metropolitan Water District. The sources include developing deep wells and reverse osmosis for reclaiming water. Two new commissioners will be coming on board soon.

The commission will be proposing a plastic bag ban based on what the city of Los Angeles is doing; a survey sent out to more than 1,000 businesses yielded only 36 responses.

The commission is designing a new appeals process for resident who want to challenge their water bills.

Recreation and Parks Commission – No commissioner attended

Traffic and Parking Commission – Vice Chair Andy Licht

A weekly patrol is checking on disabled parking abuse. Approximately 3% of placards of those being approached are being confiscated. .

The commission is considering establishing a new restricted parking zone on the 300 block of El Camino.

An appointed committee of 15 citizens will be taking public comment and making recommendations on the Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction project, particularly on bike lanes and median strips.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, aka The Wallis, is holding a series of opening events. The City Council will be participating on the 15th and 17th. The mayor spoke with Jerry Magnin, president of the Wallis board, about changing the building's facade to beaten copper panels, but The Wallis doesn't have funds to pay for it.

The City Council is considering proposals to change the zoning of the western Gateway area of the City. The mayor is interested is knowing what benefit zoning changes would bring to the City.

The City is working on producing Centennial events, including a concert at the Saban Theater on Jan. 28 with performances by the Lawyers Philharmonic and a sing-along to songs written by Beverly Hills composers. There will also be a tree planting and possibly a cake on Rodeo Drive on the 28th. Later in the year, there will be a Rose Parade float and perhaps a street festival.

The mayor asked the Cultural Heritage Commission to consider working with resident and documentarian Phil Savenick to help develop a visual archive of the City by collecting and creating video footage about Beverly Hills history.

In upcoming items to come before the council, the mayor mentioned possibly regulating sales of e-cigarettes, more detailed lobbyist registration forms and creating a database of lobbying organizations.

Labor negotiations are underway. Changes to the process this time include a study of the long, medium and short term impacts of any settlements with employees and establishment of a 10-day period between publicizing terms of the agreement and voting on it.

Public Comment

Resident Michael Hakim asked the Council to consider improvements to the 100 block of South Beverly Drive. He says that empty storefronts, and a pedestrian-unfriendly intersection make the area less prosperous than it could be.

The next Mayor's Cabinet meeting will be held November 4 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 280B.