

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights Tuesday January 6, 2014

Below are highlights from the January 6, 2014 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.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Medical use and other changes to the 8767 project is being considered Jan. 7 by the City Council *de novo* by after being rejected by the Planning Commission. Originally, the four-story project was approved by the City Council with the condition that it would not be leased for medical and other specified uses. The owners later came back and asked for medical use, which was denied by the City. They sued and lost on summary judgment, but are appealing the decision. In the meantime, the City Council reached a settlement allowing 45% medical use, but asked them to go back through the process including hearing public comment.

The Centennial concert and sing-along will be held Jan. 28 at the Saban Theatre. The new lily pond in Beverly Gardens Park will be dedicated on Feb. 4. Many other Centennial events are planned in the next few months.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Architectural Commission – Chair James Blakeley

The commission will consider nine projects at its next meeting, five new and the rest are returning. At the last meeting they approved the City's seventh steakhouse, which will be opening at the end of spring. The commission continues to have problem with signs that have not been approved by the commission. The commission chair proposes that the commission chair write a letter to business advising that their signs are in violation, which should eliminate some of the violations. The mayor gave the go ahead to do this.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Alissa Roston

The Commission has had problems getting financial statements from the charities. However, when they started sending letters from the Police Department, the response improved. Recently compliance on sending reports and fundraising standards has been good.

The commission would like to improve web access to commission information and has been looking at the city of Los Angeles website for ideas. The website is the commission's main way to educate the public about organizations that do not meet the City's standard that 50% of fundraisers proceeds go to the charity.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Rich Waldow

At the Jan. 8 meeting, the commission will finalize negotiations with the Beverly Wilshire Hotel about landmarking issues. This will be coming before the City Council soon. The commission will also be considering landmarking a Wallace Neff house on N. Alpine Drive and beginning the proceedings for several new properties, including three nominated by owners. In December, the commission held a special meeting to consider several properties with pending demolition permits in Trousdale that were designed by Beverly Hills master architects.

Recently owners of a home at North Rodeo Drive came to a meeting and spoke against historic preservation, but later withdrew their request for a demolition permit and now realize they can make the needed changes to their home and still maintain the integrity of the home.

The commission is considering more public education to counter misinformation about the commission and the historic preservation ordinance. There is also a need to help homeowners who want to preserve their home by making it as easy as possible.

Design Review Commission – Chair Ilene Nathan

At their most recent meeting the commission considered eight projects: two remodels and six new homes. Recently an ad for a home for sale used as a selling point an award presented by the Design Review Commission. They approved two of the houses and asked for changes to six, including two projects, for which they asked the designers to start over. Commissioners were disappointed that the City Council did not give a higher priority to expanding the jurisdiction of the commission to include the entire City.

Fine Art Commission – Chair Fiona Chalom

The commission has finished the conservation and restoration work on the City's public art. The City Attorney is reviewing final changes to the Fine Art ordinance and the commission hopes to present this to the City Council soon. They are proposing an inverted barrier to protect the Kusama sculpture, but will want to take it to the council to be sure they are interested in this plan before the commission spends money on an architectural plan.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Gail Millan

The commission continues to study the sale and use of e-cigarettes. They hope to be presenting their recommendations to the City Council at the Feb. 4 meeting. In January and February the commission will also be talking about the regulation of tobacco sales. Flu shots are still available and still valuable.

Human Relations Commission – Commissioner Sharona Nazarian

The commission is finalizing the promotions for launch of the “Civil Streets, Civil Sidewalks, Civil City” campaign later this month, including banners, flyers and stickers. They hope to kick it off in early February and will incorporate a Centennial message. They are excited about this program that will expand their message of civility outside of City Hall to the rest of the city and have an impact on safe biking, texting and driving and other issues. They are waiting to hear back about filling the vacant seat on the commission. Another issue that will be coming before the commission is rent stabilization.

Planning Commission – Chair Brian Rosenstein

The commission unanimously voted to deny medical use at the 8767 Wilshire Blvd. project after hearing a lot of testimony on both sides. The commission has voted to allow the AKA Extended stay to offer shorter stays, which means the City can collect transient occupancy tax for stays less than 30 days, plus an additional 6%. There are several safeguards in place to be sure the City collects the taxes that are due. Dan Yukelson is leaving the commission and the replacement will be voted on at the next City Council meeting.

Public Works Commission – Vice Chair Ron Shalowitz

One commissioner is terming out in January. The commissioners will be visiting the Glendale Water Treatment Plant. The commission is starting work on the Water Rate Development Process. Officials from the Metropolitan Water District made their presentation about the state water supply, which is lower than desired for this time of year. The commission will be starting a conservation campaign; elements may include possible rebates for waterless urinals, and enforcement of watering days.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Howard Rosoff

The mayor read a letter of thanks from Robbie Anderson, who is stepping down as chair. The Beverly Hills Active Adult seniors celebrated the New Year with food and entertainment at their Dec. 30 meeting and had a successful trip to Olvera Street on Dec. 19. Over 90 children enjoyed the camps offered over Winter Break. The Beverly Hills Basketball League begins

their season with over 1,300 youth ages 5-15 participating. The City's Adult Winter Basketball League also begins with 52 teams registered. Beverly Hills AYSO held its annual Sportsmanship Tournament over the Dec. 21-22 weekend with 70 teams from the Southern California area participating. The Teen Advisory Committee is helping to plan the 8th Grade La Cienega Lock-Down Party on Sat., Jan. 18 from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. at La Cienega Park Community Center. A classical music concert by the Atapine – Park Duo will be held at Greystone Mansion, on Jan.19.

Roxbury Park project is on schedule and under budget.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Commissioner Alan Grushcow

Every year the City assigns a Halloween Special Event Task Force to alleviate additional vehicles encroaching onto Beverly Hills neighborhoods from the West Hollywood Halloween Party event. A special restricted permit parking zone is established and signs are posted west of N. Doheny Dr. and north of Alden Dr. Each home in the area receives three auto permits plus the ability to request additional permits for their guests, if needed. This year additional parking enforcement officers were deployed on an overtime basis and 182 parking citations were issued.

Residents of the 700 block of N. Crescent Drive are asking for daytime two-hour parking zone, except for Sundays. This block currently has no daytime parking restrictions and there is significant intrusion by commuter vehicles. There will be a negligible impact on Hawthorne School parking resulting from the proposed change. The change was approved by the commission by a vote of 5-0.

The commission will be reviewing the construction mitigation plan for the Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction project.

The next Mayor's Cabinet meeting will be held Feb. 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 280B.