

## **Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights**

### **Wednesday June 25, 2014**

Below are highlights from the June 25, 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.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

##### **Public Works Commission – Chair Barry D. Pressman, M.D.**

There are a number of unresolved violations of state reporting requirements that prompted the City to temporarily close the City's water treatment plant and investigate testing and reporting systems. All City water will come from the Metropolitan Water District during that time. The City will be looking into additional sources of local water. The City's water bills will be changing because of the City's new financial system; electronic bills and online bill pay are coming next. The City is asking residents to conserve water because of the ongoing drought and will be doing some more outreach.

##### **Architectural Commission – Chair James Blakeley**

A commission is considering 15 projects. A current issue on two of their projects is what constitutes legal construction barriers, which cannot display advertising. The commission created a sign program for the MGM Building on Beverly Drive. Ferragamo is undergoing a major remodel in the European style. Owners of a building on Bedford were directed to rebuild historic elements that were illegally removed. The Waldorf Astoria project was approved, even though final designs were not submitted.

##### **Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Lillian Raffel**

The commission is considering 11 events for approval and evaluating 24 charities for their overall health, as directed by the City Council. The National Charity League of San Fernando Valley consistently does not meet the City's requirements for 50% of proceeds donated to the charity. Their name has been posted on the City's web page and a notice sent to the newspapers. Nine organizations held events in Beverly Hills without a permit, and the commission is trying to encourage them to get a permit, even if the event has already taken place. Some organizations filing permits are not technically charities. Six organizations on our fail-to-file list have been reported to the code enforcement team and are subject to fines. The City Council recently directed the commission to make recommendations for local groups to receive the City's block grant funding.

**Cultural Heritage Commission – Commissioner Rebecca Pynoos**

The City Council recently approved the commission's recommendations for historic designation: Beverly Gardens Park, the Helms estate designed by Gordon Kaufman, the Beverly Hills Water Treatment Facility and the Beverly Garden Apartment building, an example of a courtyard apartment building. A special meeting was held in June to consider the Gibraltar Savings building and the Kate Mantilini building, which was designed by the architect Thomas Mayne. The next regular meeting is July 9, at which time they will take final votes on the Writers and Artists Building, a home at 805 N Linden by Wallace Neff and the Millard Sheets bank building at Wilshire and Oakhurst.

**Design Review Commission – Vice Chair Arline Pepp**

The commission turned down the design for one home, because it had too many problems. Another project came back completely redesigned according to the commission's direction and was approved. The commission still continues to have problem with mass and bulk of homes.

**Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman**

The lighting for "Erratic" by Roxy Paine is being installed and soon all the art in the City's sculpture garden will be properly lit. The commission is making final changes to the contract for installing "Io" by Carol Bové. They hope to present the contract to City Council in July. In coordination with the Recreation and Parks commission, they have decided to leave "Conversation" by Alex McCrae at its present location in Roxbury Park. They are looking into a border made of decomposed granite and hope to upgrade the nearby flower beds to complement the beds close to the new community center. The commission will consider installing the "Obelisk" by Joan Brown in one of the planters at the newly rebuilt entrance to the City Center Parking Garage, which would make it visible on all sides. The commissioners will walk the location to help decide an exact location.

**Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsburg**

The mayor received the award for the commission's Embrace Civility program at the U.S. Conference of Mayor's meeting in Dallas – one of five cities that was recognized. The program was recognized for its efforts to improve civility in the community and for its applicability to other cities. The Beverly Hills elements include the City Council civility statement, the Civility Award, the anti-bullying video contest for students, the Civil City Civil Streets outreach campaign and the "One Book, One City" program, which promotes everyone in the community reading the book "The Boys in the Boat," by Daniel James Brown. Sponsorship opportunities are available and they have already received some initial donations from the community.

**Health and Safety Commission – Chair Stacia Kopiekin**

The mayor's Lunch and Learn program will debut June 26 with the "Do It for Your Heart," lecture by Dr. Debra Judelson. A free light lunch will be provided. The 2014 National Night Out crime prevention program is set for Tuesday August 5, from 6-9 p.m. The commission is holding a networking program for seniors to help them receive all the necessary services and help them age in place. Everyone is encouraged to watch the City's DangerStoppers videos at the City's website. All residents are encouraged to enter their full contact information into the Mass Communications System for disaster notification. The current percentage of "opt-in" is very low and more outreach through the schools is planned. Complete contact information is very important during a disaster.

**Planning Commission – NO REPORT****Public Works Commission – Chair Barry Pressman**

There are a number of unresolved violations of state reporting requirements that prompted the City to temporarily close the City's water treatment plant and look into reforming testing and reporting systems. All City water will come from the Metropolitan Water District while the plant is closed. The City will be looking into additional sources of local water. The City's water bills will be changing because of the City's new financial system; electronic bills and online bill pay are coming next. The City is asking residents to conserve water because of the ongoing drought and will be doing some more outreach.

**Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Howard Rosoff**

Summer camp is open; 1,260 kids have enrolled. July is Recreation and Parks Month; the City is offering anyone to attend a class for free class in order to try out a new class. The softball league is starting up. The new Roxbury Community Center opened on June 8. The Greystone firehouse now houses the new restrooms. Sunday movie nights and concerts in Beverly Canon Gardens are underway. The City's gateways and gateway signage are being upgraded. The Electric Fountain in Beverly Gardens Park is being renovated.

**Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Andy Licht**

Ongoing projects include Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction, tour bus management and parking permits block by block. The commissioners are contributing ideas and observations on traffic and parking issues around town.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The City Council accepted the recommendations from the ad hoc committee looking into standardizing operations of the 11 City commissions. Changes include an eight-year maximum tenure in three terms of two, two, and four years. There will be five members on each commission and the Health and Safety Commission will be reduced by attrition. Chairs will rotate based on seniority and can serve only once as chair. Departing commissioners must wait at least one year before applying to another commission, with an exception for the Planning Commission. Appointments will be made in July and January. Prospective commissioners must attend meetings for six months prior to being seated. Commissioners cannot miss more than three meetings in a year or they will be removed. Other details need to be worked out.

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## **Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights**

### **Wednesday July 23, 2014**

Below are highlights from the July 23, 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.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

##### **Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Lillian Raffel**

The commission reviewed 12 event requests, which were approved. Fourteen financial statements were filed. Seven charities that consistently do not meet the City's requirements for 50% of proceeds donated to the charity are listed on the website. The commission is working on a letter of warning to be sent to these charities pointing out the consequences of not meeting the City's standards. Six organizations are on the City's fail-to-file a financial report list. They continue to work with organizations that publicize fundraising events without a permit. A subcommittee was appointed to look into the health of organizations that might receive the City's block grant funding.

##### **Architectural Commission – Chair Michelle Kaye**

A commission is considering five projects. One building at 8600 Wilshire will be an outstanding contemporary mixed-use project. It will be coming back for restudy to resolve a few issues of height and roofline. A five-story condo project at 9265 Burton Way was approved with conditions for landscaping. Commissioners are taking photos of oversized signs in town.

##### **Cultural Heritage Commission – Commissioner Rebecca Pynoos**

The California Preservation Foundation is holding a two-day workshop at the City. At the last meeting, the commission sent to Council four properties:

- Home at 707 Walden, designed by master architect Rene Rivierre. Initiated by the owner.
- A home at 805 Linden designed by master architect Wallace Neff. Part of an original development
- The Writers and Artists Building at 9507 S. Santa Monica Blvd.
- First Bank building at Wilshire and Oakhurst. Elements by Millard Sheets.

The commission is also working on their historic resources survey and on revising their context statement. The commission wants to develop a walking app that would provide information on historic sites in the commercial areas.

### **Fine Art Commission – Commissioner Alan Kaye**

The commission received more detailed financial information on the Fine Art Fund, which resulted in more than \$500,000 being transferred in. The fund is over \$1,900,000 now. There is another \$273,000 that may be transferred in as well. City attorneys are working on the contract for the Carol Bové sculpture. The commission turned down a request to purchase a piece called “Tenderness,” because it does not meet the commission’s definition of fine art. The owner of 151 S El Camino Dr. (old William Morris bldg.) will be installing a sculpture by Jacob Hashimoto to meet their Fine Art Obligation. The commission has decided on a location for the “Obelisk” in one of the planters at the newly rebuilt entrance to the Rexford Parking Garage. They are still working on a design for protective fencing for the Kusama piece.

### **Health and Safety Commission – Chair Stacia Kopeikin**

The City will participate in the fourth annual National Night Out Aug. 5, from 6-9 p.m. on Rexford Drive. The Police Department coordinated the event with help from other City departments, the Red Cross, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Beverly Hills CPR and other groups. Event will feature crime prevention programs and development of safe communities. The mayor’s “Lunch and Learn” program hosted by the SoCal Cardiovascular Foundation continues on July 24<sup>th</sup>. This program will focus on reducing stress; the Amanda Foundation director will speak about how pets reduce stress.

### **Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsburg**

The “One Book, One City” program launches this fall. Everyone in the community is encouraged to read the book “The Boys in the Boat,” by Daniel James Brown. This is a first time collaboration with the Library, the Human Relations Commission and the School District. The book was chosen because of the positive message of how a small group of diverse people coming together in a common effort, can accomplish great things. Resident Jean Rosenblatt bought 500 copies to give to high school juniors and seniors. New stickers for the Civil City campaign are being distributed. Nominations are open for the Civil City award. A winner will be announced in November.

### **Planning Commission – Howard Fisher**

Howard Fisher is now chair and Alan Block is vice chair. The commission is working on revising R-1 standards. Recommended changes under consideration include increased parking requirements, changes in the height of the roofline and limiting hillside terracing to expand lot size. The commission is dealing with many rooftop lunchroom requests.

### **Public Works Commission – Commissioner Jeff Wolfe**

The City’s water treatment plant will be reopening on July 28. The City is hiring an interim operator. Retests in responses to recent violations all came back clear; the

water is fine. As of July 1, a new company has been handling the city's elevator maintenance. An elevator service truck will be available at all times. The City's new water bills are being sent out and thus far there are no real complaints. Development of the City's ten-year Water Master Plan is underway. The commission is starting to consider new service connection fees. The commission will be doing more proactive communication on water conservation. The State Water Resources Control Board recently approved an emergency regulation to reduce outdoor water use.

### **Recreation and Parks Commission – Commissioner Robbie Anderson**

The Team Beverly Hills has a new class. The Sunday Movie Nights continue at Beverly Canon Gardens. The free Concerts on Canon run until August 14. The Farmers' Market 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Picklefest will be held Aug. 3. The removal of deadwood from the City's sycamore street trees continues. The annual palm pruning cycle will begin in about a month. Two trees have been removed from Beverly Canon Gardens and will be replaced. A clean-up effort continues on the east half of Beverly Gardens Park. There are three potential contractors for the Roxbury Park Playground Renovation project. Construction documents are nearly complete for the City's two new gateway features at Wilshire and San Vicente and Olympic and Spalding; construction is anticipated to commence before the end of the year. Staff is working with the landscaping firm Mia Lehrer and Associates to finalize the plans for the restoration of the Electric Fountain; construction should start before the end of the year.

### **Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Andy Licht**

Enforcement of construction traffic rules in Trousdale continues. A subcommittee is working on problems caused by tour buses. The last tour bus stop in the business triangle near the Louis Vuitton store will be removed. Walters Café has moved to S. Beverly Drive and is asking for two loading parking spaces; they need to work it out with their neighbors. The commission is considering restricting more parking because of the Halloween parade in West Hollywood. An ad hoc committee is working on resolving the disabled parking issue at the state level by joining forces with larger cities, such as San Francisco and San Diego.

### **Design Review Commission – Chair John Wyka**

The commission considered three new cases, none of which were immediately approved. The commission wants to accelerate the review process and avoid unproductive sessions by deciding early on if a project will not meet the commission's standards. Most projects just need minor changes. The same few designers come before the commission over and over again; the commission would like to send a message that these designers don't do a good job meeting the City's standards for mass, scale and preserving the City's gardenlike environment.

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