

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

### **Wednesday March 18, 2015**

Below are highlights from the March 18, 2015 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**

Mayor Lili Bosse thanked all the commissioners for a great year and each commissioner in turn thanked the mayor for a successful year.

##### **Architectural Commission – Chair Barry Bernstein**

A few new projects came before the commission this month. The Commission is no longer looking at commercial signage; it's being evaluated by staff. The City has started to crack down on violations to the signage ordinances. They will soon announce winners of the commercial design awards. Winners will include seven categories of businesses.

##### **Charitable Solicitations Commission – Vice Chair Karen Platt**

The commission approved 11 applications and evaluated seven financial statements. One charity did not meet the 50% requirement and will be contacted about this issue. The commission is assessing the fiscal health of applicants for community assistance grants. They will work with the Human Relations Commission to make recommendations to the City Council. They are working on evaluating guidelines and procedures for the commission.

##### **Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Maralee Beck**

Commissioners Beck and Furie met with a member of the Planning Commission to discuss proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance. They will meet with the Los Angeles Conservancy and liaison committee before going to the City Council with recommendations. The Beverly Hills Heritage Foundation will hold a fundraising event Saturday at the Greene & Greene house. The commission will be looking into opportunities for having a Beverly Hills building declared a World Heritage Site.

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

Two new cases came before the commission in the past month. Many cases are pending as they wait for designers to come back to the commission with changes.

### **Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman**

All projects are progressing in an orderly fashion. An ad hoc committee was formed to work with Ken Pfalzgraf, the urban forest manager, on solving the irrigation problem near public art; specifically they are looking for a way to protect the artwork from exposure to water from the sprinkler system. A proposal to appraise 28 pieces in the City's fine art collection was approved.

### **Health and Safety Commission – Chair Myra Lurie**

The commission has not met since the last cabinet meeting. The commission will be following proposed legislation to remove the personal belief and religious exemptions for vaccinations. The commission will be giving out monthly Health and Safety Awards to an individual or group that has made a significant impact on the community's health and safety. The commission will be looking at using online delivery of packets. The CERT program resumes in April.

### **Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld**

The commission has not met since the last cabinet meeting. They will be evaluation nine community assistance grant funds applications. The City will be giving out a total of \$700,000. They are looking an ambassador to be eyes on the street help curtail aggressive panhandling; they will have a recommendation soon. The commission is looking at some of the landlord/tenant issues, including tenants not getting information about the City's ordinances.

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

The commission heard a presentation from an automated parking company; cost is about the same per parking space, but land is used more efficiently. Other cities are building these facilities now. Evaluation of code enforcement shows that 21% of complaints are for illegal use of gas-powered leaf blowers. One idea discussed was requiring gardeners to have licenses, which would give the City an opportunity to educate them about regulations. The commission is looking at changes to an existing multi-residential project, including changes that would increase safety. The commission is participating in the process for hiring a new director of Planning.

### **Public Works Commission – Chair Ron Shalowitz**

The commission is meeting nearly every other week to complete the Water Enterprise Plan. The plan is to present it to the City Council on April 21. They are looking for a speaker to educate the commission on Prop.1 funding opportunities. Other issues they will address include hiring an employee to apply for grants and commission input into

hiring a water resource manager, street light replacement and commissioning a zero solid-waste study.

### **Recreation and Parks Commission – Vice Chair Frances Bilak**

A number of events are scheduled at Greystone Mansion in the coming weeks. Woolstock attracted more than 3,000 people. Earth Day is April 22 and will include a pet adoption booth. New playground equipment should be ready for use by the end of March. This equipment was created by a leading playground equipment company and has uses for older and physically disabled children in addition to young children; a water feature is included. The Teen Scene room at Roxbury is very popular for kids in grades 6-10; it will be open during the summer. The commission is also working on the Beverly Gardens Park restoration and renovation of the Greystone Mansion theater. Two father-daughter dances and the first mother-son dance will be held this year.

### **Traffic and Parking Commission – Vice Chair Jake Manaster**

The Xerox red-light camera agreement has been approved and a 30-day trial period is underway; during this period, no tickets will be issued. The new cameras are radar based and high resolution. The commission is moving forward on the Santa Monica Boulevard traffic mitigation plan and is in favor of a model that would lessen the impact of road closures. The LA Marathon went smoothly this year. Former commissioner Jeff Levine has agreed to work with City's lobbyists to find a solution to disabled parking abuse at the state level. The placard study came out and showed abuse in commercial areas.

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