



Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, July 1, 2013

Below are highlights from the July 1, 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 – James Blakeley

The proposed Burberry building is under review. It's a three story, 45-foot building with a stairwell structure on the roof. The commission wants modification of the stairwell structure so the building doesn't look like a four-story building. The commission chair expressed concern that direction given by the commission for facades and signage sometimes is not carried out by the builders. In addition, some businesses build their facades without consulting the commission at all. The commission is also concerned about sign permits given over the counter without commission input.

Fine Art Commission – No commissioner attended

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Alyssa Roston

The commission is looking at changing the required financial statement form. The commissioner explained the purpose and value to the community of the commission's watchdog activities.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Noah Furie

This is Noah Furie's last meeting as chair. The commission looked at making Oakhurst Drive a potential historic district, but found it did not meet the threshold of 70% consistency. The commission is considering historic landmark designation for the Union 76 station, three buildings with Millard Sheets mosaics, the Writers and Artists building and homes at 910 N. Bedford and 724 N. Camden. The Saban Fox Theatre has applied for Mills Act status.

Design Review Commission – John Wyka

There is an increase in commission activity, which is reflective of the improving economy. The commission is having discussions about how to deal with the issues of massive homes and basements, and the lack of setback requirements for porte cocheres, which are structures that

cover a section of a driveway. The commission has requested an update on the work of the Planning Commission's R1 Residential Task Force.

Health and Safety Commission – Karen Setian for Gail Millan

Gail Millan is the new commission chair. 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 Commission is encouraging residents to become block captains and join the Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program. The Los Angeles American Red Cross will be holding Family Preparedness Day on Sunday, July 14 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at the West Los Angeles Office on the VA grounds. The commissioner encouraged everyone to watch the DangerStoppers, City-produced videos that highlight different safety issues, including distracted driving.

Human Relations Commission – Ilona Sherman

Judging is underway for the Anti-Bullying video competition. A lot of high-quality entries were received, particularly from Beverly Hills students. The deadline for the embrace Civility Awards was extended to August 15, in order to increase the number of entries. The City's Civil City program is underway. No meeting was held in June.

Planning Commission – Brian Rosenstein

The commission is considering a condo project next to L'Ermitage Hotel. The commission wants to do a feasibility study to see if the building can be lowered from six stories to five, and if low-income housing requirements can be modified. The AKA Extended stay business has applied to become a hotel so they can offer two-week visits instead of the 30-day minimum. A subcommittee of the commission is looking at ways to revise a home on Laurel Way to bring it more in scale with the neighborhood. The commission will establish a task force to examine mass and scale for single family residences above Sunset Blvd.

Public Works Commission – Barry Pressman

The commission is investigating an incident earlier this year in which coliform bacteria was reported to be in the City's water supply. Commissioners are satisfied that the water supply is safe, but are examining the process to see if staff communication and education can be improved. They will report to the City Council when the investigation is complete. The commission recently visited the Greystone reservoir.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Robert Anderson

New recreation coordinator Jennifer Leuning has been hired. Summer camps are under way. July is Parks and Recreation month and the entire community is encouraged to participate in

recreation events. Upcoming events include Concerts on Canon, Sunday Night Movies, Music in the Mansion, Shakespeare by the Sea, the iPalpiti concert at Greystone and the Tea and Talk event. Construction is underway at Roxbury and Beverly Gardens Park. The lily pond will be mostly installed on Beverly Gardens by September. Landscape designer Mia Lehrer has presented her plan to protect the Kusama sculpture.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Andy Licht

Next month, the commission will discuss a request to eliminate a left-turn pocket on Little Santa Monica in order to increase on-street parking. The City of Beverly Hills is engaged in discussions with other cities in California and a disabled advocacy group to find ways to reduce disabled placard abuse, including advocating for legislative change at the state level. The commission will participate each month with disabled parking stings in different areas of Beverly Hills to crackdown on abuse.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mirisch explained his reasons for voting against the 2013-14 budget. He said he would place on a Study Session agenda a discussion item on how to better enforce Design Review and Architectural commission decisions. In addition, the City Council will discuss at the July 2 meeting, ways they can influence the School Board's recent decision regarding Measure E.

The next Mayor's Cabinet meeting will be held August 5 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 280B.

