



Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, September 9, 2013

Below are highlights from the September 9, 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.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The mayor reported on actions taken at the last City Council meeting, including approval of a gateway project and the lily pond construction. The Council also approved use of an outside negotiator for employee contract negotiations and an outside analysis of the fiscal impact of salary and compensation proposals. The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has rebranded itself as "The Wallis." The mayor proposed that the City speak to the Annenberg officials about how to improve the look of the new theater façade and the possible implications of the new name. In upcoming items to come before the council, the mayor mentioned a proposal to build a high-end movie theater on Canon Drive and a proposal from the AKA extended-stay facility to allow shorter stays.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION CHAIRS

Architectural Commission – Chair James Blakeley

The commission considered 12 projects last month, including remodels of Yves St. Laurent and Gucci. Vera Wang is coming to Rodeo Drive. The Infinity dealership on Wilshire and Olympic will have its dedication soon. The Paolobongia jewelry store was built using a design that was approved by the commission but later changed by an inspector in the field. The commission is seeking ways to be sure this does not happen in the future. The commission would like to have jurisdiction over all commercial signs, including those currently approved by staff, in order to save the City money.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Alissa Roston

A lot of fundraising events are taking place in the City right now. There is an increase in the number of fundraising groups failing the City standard of 50% of proceeds going to the charity. Many of these organizations are coming to the commission for guidance.

Fine Art Commission –Chair Fiona Chalom

Sometimes, the final, installed Public art piece is not what the commission approved. The commission recently approved a new process whereby two commissioners must be on site during the installation to sign off on the design and installation. A researcher is currently investigating the City's public art collection to make sure that everything is still there and being

maintained. Staff will also reach out to the businesses to verify if they have insurance on the artwork. The commission is noticing some art pieces on commercial property that were installed without any commission approval. The commission has completed a revamp of the Fine Art Ordinance that addresses many weaknesses; it still awaits approval from the City Attorney's office. The dedication ceremony for the Millard Sheets mosaic will take place Nov. 2. A new member has been chosen to fill a vacancy and will be announced soon.

Cultural Heritage Commission –

No commissioner attended the meeting. Some of their topics were discussed by the Planning Commission chair.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Gail Millan

National Night Out was very successful. The event included health as well as safety information. Resolve 2B Ready, an emergency preparedness campaign, has been launched; the City is asking residents to pledge to achieve a level of technological readiness. The Senior Health Fair took place and was very popular, particularly the health screenings.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ilona Sherman

Judging is complete for the anti-bullying video competition. Four outstanding winners were selected. They will be announced in October, which is national anti-bullying month. A City PSA about bullying will be created using the videos; it will be shown at a City Council meeting and broadcast on the City's cable channel. The commission will consider applicants for the Civility Award at their next meeting; the winner will be announced in October. The commission's civility campaign will now focus on streets, emphasizing courtesy in biking, walking and driving. LA Times columnist Steve Lopez wrote a very positive article last month about the City's efforts to help the homeless.

Planning Commission – Chair Brian Rosenstein

The commission is considering changing public noticing and signage requirements so that more people are aware of large-scale projects earlier in the process. The commission is looking at a lot of accessory structure applications, e.g. for guest houses, etc. They are considering whether to get involved in a dispute over parking at a location on Wilshire and Spalding. The Phoenix restaurant and nightclub has been cited for numerous code violations; their operating hours have been limited and so far they are complying. The commission is working on creating stricter standards to limit bulk and mass of single-family homes north of Sunset.

The Cultural Heritage Commission is considering extending the Mills Act program and ways to encourage property owners to take part in historic preservation.

Design Review Commission – Chair Ilene Nathan

Four new residential projects that need a lot of revisions are before the commission. The commission is trying to stop the practice of homeowners getting a permit for a minor façade change but then doing major work without permits. Or, in some cases getting, a homeowner will apply for a series of small permits one-by-one for a remodeling project that, when taken as whole, should come before the commission for approval. Staff has recently been tracking these piecemeal permits and alerting the commission. In order to stop illegal construction, code enforcement is needed at night and on the weekends.

Public Works Commission – Vice Chair Ron Shalowitz

The commission has concluded the investigation of an incident earlier this year in which coliform bacteria was reported to be in the City's water supply. The Public Works and Transportation Department has been reorganized into two separate departments: Public Works Services and Capital Assets. There are currently two openings on the commission.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Robert Anderson

Construction of the lily pond in Beverly Gardens Park is underway; it will be complete in time for the Centennial on Jan. 28, 2013. City crews are trimming trees on Wilshire Boulevard and in the Business Triangle at night. The 2013 summer and aquatic camps served 2,833 kids. AYSO Beverly Hills has 2,300 participants. Restoration of Hamel Minipark is complete; the dedication will take place soon. The City will be converting the Greystone fire house to restroom facilities and office space for the park rangers. Friends of Greystone is presenting a "Tea and Talk" series; on Sept. 22 the topic is "The Role of the Royal Mistress in the Design of Great French Palaces."

Traffic and Parking Commission – Vice Chair Andy Licht

The commission is now part of the Community Development Department. Reconstruction of Santa Monica Boulevard is getting started; a citizen's advisory body will be selected to monitor the process. The council is considering using trained volunteers for parking enforcement, including stopping disabled parking abuse.

The next Mayor's Cabinet meeting will be held October 7 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 280B.