# Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

**Tuesday, November 12, 2013**

Below are highlights from the November 12, 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.

## REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

### Architectural Commission –Chair James Blakeley

The commission is considering 17 projects. They have recently approved a Fatburger and a combination Starbucks/Teavana expansion in the old Wilsons leather store. Starbucks will add art work on the white wall on the corner. Ocean Prime, a prime rib and seafood restaurant, will go into the former El Torito location on Wilshire Boulevard. The commission also approved the plans for the jazz club Spagettini on Canon Drive. The recently opened Nespresso store is an example of the commission process working well: they presented five concepts and responded well to feedback from the commission.

### Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Rich Waldow

The commission has initiated landmark proceedings for the Water Treatment Plant on La Cienega, the Fine Arts Theatre, the Beverly Professional Building at Brighton and Camden and the Wallace Neff house at 805 N. Linden. The new owners of the Neff house have withdrawn their demolition application. The commission is continuing its outreach to realtors so they can inform their clients of the City's historic preservation program.

The Millard Sheets mosaic installed over the entrance to the Civic Center parking structure recently gained historic landmark status. Other properties in the final stages of consideration for landmark status are the Union 76 station at Crescent Drive and Little Santa Monica, Beverly Gardens Park, and the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. The Commission approved a Mills Act contract for the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. The commission recently revised the process so that staff will check to see if the property was ever remodeled by a master architect. Previously only the original architect was considered when evaluating a building for historic status.

### Design Review Commission – Vice Chair John Wyka

At the recent meeting the commission heard nine cases. Construction at 601 N. Crescent has been halted until the owners comply with commission instructions about the color of the house.

Councilmember Nancy Krasne spoke at the commission about the need to expand commission jurisdiction to the entire city.

The commission is concerned that their decisions are not being followed by the owners and suggested that code enforcement should be expanded to weekends; and that the commission could conduct an additional inspection before an occupancy permit is issued.

**Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Alissa Roston**

The commission chair complimented staff for their work preparing materials and anticipating questions, which made the commissioners' job much easier.

**Fine Art Commission –Commissioner Alan Kaye**

The commission has passed a resolution to endorse the idea that the City work with REED Expositions France with the aim of bringing FIAC to the City of Beverly Hills to enhance art and culture in the City. The art show La Foire Internationale d' Art Contemporain (FIAC) plans to open in April of 2015. Locations under consideration include the center median on Burton Way. The commission believes that FIAC, which could be a multi-year event, is compatible with the Beverly Hills brand and could be beneficial to the city.

The commission is continuing the public art maintenance and restoration program and is currently working on "Celluloid" at Beverly and Olympic and to finish the works along Santa Monica before the Centennial celebration. The Kusama sculpture continues to show signs of stress fractures and paint loss from misuse. This very valuable piece has become compromised and signs have not discouraged people from standing on it and destroying the work. The commission is installing a temporary barrier to protect the sculpture until a permanent solution can be decided on.

The commission heard a presentation from artist Nicole Maloney about her project "Out of Many One: LA, and her desire to loan the city a piece of art. This project should be reviewed by the Human Relations Committee.

The commission is working with the city attorney on the final changes to the Public Art Ordinance.

The commission has been inquiring with an artist regarding a commission for the city.

**Health and Safety Commission – Chair Gail Millan**

A CERT training program for businesses will be held Nov. 19 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The class is full and there's a waiting list. The new Dangerstoppers video about the flu is out and available online. Additional flu clinics will be held at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Information is available on the City's website. Commissioners Debra Judelson, Peter Landau and Karen Setian are coming off the commission. The 5K run/walk event to benefit the Vaughn Setian Charitable Foundation will be held Sunday Dec. 1 in the City's Civic Center Plaza.

**Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsberg**

The commission awarded their second Embrace Civility Award to resident Raymond Flade at the Nov. 5 City Council meeting. Flade is a longtime volunteer with the Beverly Hills Animal Hospital and the City's Disaster Communications System volunteer program. The program is intended to reward low-profile residents who contribute tremendously to the community.

The commission will soon launch the Civil City, Civil Streets program with banners and stickers and other media to encourage better interactions among drivers, pedestrians and bike riders. They are also considering a citywide read program, in which everyone would be encouraged to read a book chosen by the commission, with a multicultural message.

**Planning Commission – Report provided by City Planner Jonathan Lait**

The Planning Commission case load has been light the past few months as they await applications from some larger projects. Projects under consideration include an R-1 permit at 11 Oxford Way, an application for a cupola above a two-story structure, an apartment above a garage on Beverwil and a storage room illegally converted into a rental unit The commission is also reviewing historic preservation amendments and changes to R1 development standards. Public hearings are coming up for the AKA project, which is asking for a zoning change to allow shorter term stays; and the 8767 Wilshire Blvd. office building, which is asking to rent to medical providers, although their current agreement with the City precludes medical use.

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

The commission will soon start on a Water Master Plan, which will include consideration of additional sources of ground water. Two new commissioners were seated: Dr. Sandra Aronberg and Jeff Wolfe. The commission is awaiting the council's decision on possible

expansion of the commission from five to seven seats. A new utility billing system starts implementation in April 2014.

**Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Robbie Anderson**

The Community Services Department's recent Request for Proposals from soccer vendors resulted in 12 submissions of which five were selected to move on to the interview phase. Based on comments from the interview panel, staff is following up with the top vendors and will present a final recommendation at the next commission meeting.

Over 80 seniors attended the October 27th Halloween Dance at La Cienega Community Center. The Thanksgiving Luncheon for the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club is being held Mon., Nov. 25 at 11:30 a.m. at Fire Station Headquarters.

Over 70 children have been enrolled an after-school program at Beverly Vista, because of the BHUSD's decision to end afterschool supervision at 4pm. For the 2013 season, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) recorded 2,188 players of which 39% are residents and 61% are non-residents: a decrease of 93 players from the 2012 season, but resident/non-resident percentages remained the same.

Beverly Gardens lily pond work remains on schedule with completion anticipated by early 2014. The City Council is scheduled to approve construction agreements for the final two large gateways: At Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards and on Olympic Boulevard adjacent to Beverly Hills High School. Both locations should have new signage and landscaping by late summer 2014. The Hamel Mini Park renovation is completed and a public dedication was held on Oct.13, the same day as the groundbreaking ceremony for the lily pond construction.

The firehouse building adjacent to the Greystone Mansion is being converted into public restrooms on the ground floor and staff offices on the second floor. All work should be finished by next March. The Roxbury Community Center project is approximately 50% done and on target for completion by next spring. Additionally, athletic field renovation and new playground and public restroom facilities will be constructed this winter and are also scheduled to be completed by next spring.

The "Titans of Business" Design Show House at Greystone is underway and runs through Nov. 24. It is open Thu.-Sun. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The next Beverly Hills Forum is scheduled for Mon. Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. The speaker is Edwin Black, on his book "Financing the Flames."

**Traffic and Parking Commission –Chair Alan Grushcow**

The Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction Project is in the planning stages. A consultant is working on a construction mitigation plan, which will come before the commission in December. They expect to discuss it over the course of two regular commission meetings and may hold additional meetings. Construction is expected to begin in 2015 and take one to two years depending upon the mitigation plan desired. The City will soon roll out Phase 1 of the bike rack program, which includes new custom-designed bike racks at City sites and in the business districts. The commission is working on the problem of tour bus parking on Dayton Way near Louis Vuitton.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Upcoming Centennial events include the Rose Parade float, the Arts of Palm Installation, the planting of the Centennial tree, a sing-along concert for residents at the Saban Theater, the ribbon-cutting for the historic lily pond, Robbie Anderson's book on the history of Beverly Hills and an oral history video project, led by resident Phil Savenick.

The Sunshine Task force is developing a lobbyist registration form and will recommend that lobbyist information be available on the City's website. The Council has approved more openness and public involvement in labor negotiations; now there will be at least a 10-day and two-meeting process to approve labor contracts to allow for public input. There will also be an independent financial analysis of the financial impacts of any labor contracts. The mayor is proposing a hire-local program in order to tap into the pool of talented residents.

Now that the Gateway overlay zoning project has been rejected by the Council, the Council may consider other options for the area, including green space.

Alissa Roston, who is also a Centennial committee member, gave an update on the Arts of Palm project: A number of artists will create public art installations using the iconic palm tree as their inspiration. Six of these pieces will be at the Civic Center, including four on the City Hall lawn. The Library will display "Altered Book' art and additional sculptures will be placed on the Burton Way median and in Beverly Canon Gardens. The committee is also asking commercial property owners to install palm tree centennial art on their property.

*The next Mayor's Cabinet meeting will be held Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 280B.*