

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
MINUTES – ADJOURNED REGULAR STUDY SESSION  
May 18, 2015  
2:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mayor Gold  
Vice Mayor Mirisch  
Councilmember Brien  
Councilmember Bosse  
Councilmember Krasne  
Mahdi Aluzri, Interim City Manager  
David Lightner, Deputy City Manager/Director of Capital Assets  
Laurence Wiener, City Attorney  
Teri Angel, Recreation Services Manager  
Michelle Tse, Senior Management Analyst  
Ken Pfalzgraf, Urban Forest Manager  
James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator

A – DIRECTION

1. Proclamation of May as Older Americans Recognition Month and Recognition of Beverly Hills Older American Gloria Gordon  
May is Older Americans Recognition Month and the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults invites each community to recognize a deserving older adult to be honored at the 50th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day on Thursday, May 21st at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Recreation Services Manager Teri Angel provided a brief background on the item and introduced Beverly Hills Older American Gloria Gordon. Mayor Gold and the entire Council congratulated Ms. Gordon and presented her with a certificate of recognition.

2. Artificial Turf and Live Plant Alternatives for Residential Front Yards and Parkways  
This report transmits a review of artificial turf and live plant options for residential front yards and parkways.

Mayor Gold announced a preamble to the presentation that materials and other resources will be made available to assist people with making decisions about their landscaping.

Senior Management Analyst Michelle Tse gave a brief presentation on the item which was originally requested by Councilmember Krasne at the April 21, 2015 Study Session. Ms. Tse introduced Green Garden Group (G3) Managing Member Pamela Berstler who explained the importance of replacing turf with live plants and presented examples of drought tolerant and water saving living plant alternatives. She noted the multiple benefits of retrofit curb cuts and spoke about front yard sponge gardens and plants for erosion control and fire setbacks.

Ms. Tse asked for Council direction on the use of artificial turf in front yards and parkways and for direction on drought tolerant/native plant and plant height restrictions. She noted that any changes to current regulations would require amending the City's Municipal Code.

Urban Forest Manager Ken Pfalzgraf, Ms. Tse and Ms. Berstler each answered Council questions on the topic.

Council asked staff to study provisions to turf alternatives in front yards and parkways and report back to Council at one of the upcoming June Council Study Sessions. They also asked staff to look into whether the current Stage D standards works with drip irrigation systems and to create a demonstration garden at either Maltz Park or the Sunset Reservoir.

3. Recommendations of the Human Relations Liaison Committee for Allocation of the Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) for FY 2015/16  
Funds for the CAGF program come from the General Fund and provide services the City does not, or cannot, provide directly to the most vulnerable and underserved members of the community.

Human Services Administrator James R. Latta presented the item and reviewed the Human Relations Council Liaison Committee recommendations.

Speaking:

1. Les Bronte, BHCPD
2. Linda Spiegel, Beverly Hills Bar Association
3. Bruce Rankin, Westside Food Bank
4. Shiela Moore and Vivian Saller, Jewish Family Services
5. Barry Brucker, Chiron Crisis Response Team
6. Derek Oye, Saban Community Clinic

Council consensus was to approve the recommendations and to add an additional one-time funding of \$40,000 to increase funding to the following applicants:

1. BHCPD – additional \$5,000
  2. Chiron - additional \$5,000
  3. Jewish Family Services - additional \$15,000
  4. People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) - additional \$5,000
  5. Step Up on Second - additional \$10,000
4. Request by Beverly Hills Unified School District for Permits Assigned to Specific District Personnel for Parking Adjacent to School Properties While Engaged in District Business  
Item First Agendized April 21, 2015  
The Beverly Hills Unified School District has requested the City Council consider a request for parking permits adjacent to District Properties for use by District Officials while on official business.  
  
Item not discussed.
  5. Proposed Improvement Options for the La Cienega Blvd. Median Between Olympic Blvd. and Gregory Way  
Item First Agendized April 21, 2015

This item presents multiple design options for City Council requested improvements to the existing median. Staff seeks City Council direction to proceed.

Item not discussed.

**B – ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER (TIME PERMITTING)**

None at this time.

**C – INFORMATION**

6. Fees to Recover City's Cost of Implementing Special Construction-Related Regulations on the Use of Heavy Vehicles in the Trousdale Estates Area  
Provides information on next steps to establish a fee and prepare an ordinance for measures associated with construction in the Trousdale Estates area.

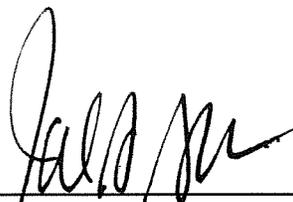
Item not discussed.

7. April 28, 2015 Audit Committee Meeting  
Transmits the Audit Committee Minutes from the April 28, 2015 meeting.

Item not discussed.

The Study Session recessed at 5:24 pm to the Closed Session to discuss items that are identified on the agenda that has been prepared for the meeting.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted  
this 8th day of June, 2015

  
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**JULIAN A. GOLD, M.D., MAYOR**

  
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**BYRON POPE, City Clerk**

This meeting was televised on City of Beverly Hills Municipal Government Television Access, BHN/10, Time Warner Cable.