

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

**Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

Below are highlights from the June 23, 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**

#### **Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Howard Fisher**

The PC's recommendations for revisions to the Historic Preservation ordinance recently were passed by the City Council; a second reading is scheduled for the July 21 meeting. A provision will be included specifying that no additional height will be allowed in Trousdale. Developers for the 9900 Wilshire project are proposing adding a hotel to the project.

#### **Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Commissioner Noah Furie**

The changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance, recently passed by the City Council, will allow homeowners greater certainty about their homes. In addition, the changes will require objective criteria for involuntary landmark designations and allow for historic districts in other than R-1 zones.

#### **Public Works Commission (PWC) – Chair Ron Shalowitz**

The intense focus on water conservation continues. The PWC is recommending hiring a public relations firm to help with drought outreach efforts. The City Council approved enhanced rebates for water-saving devices and turf replacement, effective July 1. The Council also approved a subsidy for a "garden guru" consulting session for converting to drought tolerant landscaping. The Public Works Services Department is recruiting for two key positions, including a Conservation Coordinator. The PWC is investigating the possibility of installing two water meters for indoor and outdoor usage.

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

This month, the HRC gave the Health and Safety Award to The Maple Counseling Center. National Night Out is set for Aug. 4. The HRC will be recommending updates to the ordinance to more accurately reflect the commission's current mission. Among the upcoming projects is a focus on the benefits of mindfulness for mental health.

### **Design Review Commission (DRC) – Vice Chair Ilene Nathan**

Business has been slow; very few projects are coming before the DRC at this time. The quality of the projects is poor, generally involving too much mass and bulk. One commissioner will not be seeking a second term and a previous commissioner, Susan Strauss, will be returning.

### **Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Chair Brenda Potter**

The Woods Davey, Carol Bove and Joan Brown sculptures will be installed by fall. The FAC received two bids for the restoration of the Kusama sculpture and is seeking information on how an extensive restoration might affect the value and provenance of the piece; cost would be about \$40,000. The fencing designer will have the design ready soon. The reorientation of the Richard Serra sculpture was approved by the City Council, but it will be on grass rather than concrete. The FAC will bring the proposal for acquisition of “World on its Hind Legs” by William Kentridge to the City Council on July 21. Sandy Pressman was recognized for her service on the FAC and the excellent job she did as chair this past year.

### **Architectural Commission (AC) – Chair Andrea Gardner Apatow**

An excellent renovation of a building on South Robertson, originally designed by a master architect, was completed. Marimekko is leaving the space on Beverly Drive and the Alo Yoga clothing store will be moving in.

### **Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Chair Murray Fischer**

The CSC approved 10 permit applications and seven financial statements; two were incomplete. They are reaching out to the hotels for help in identifying charities that are holding charitable events without a permit; the response has been good. The CSC will be working with the Fire Department because often an inspection and a fire safety permit are required for an event. The CSC will be working on amending the Municipal Code to allow permit fees. They are working out a way to require placement of the permit number on the invitations and on ads.

### **Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Simone Friedman**

Twelve summer camps are underway, including the popular junior police academy and science and drama camps. Little League is hosting all-star tournaments. The second session of Catskills camp at Greystone will be rehearse and perform at the Wallis. The adult softball league, 36 teams, is also underway. The Active Adult Club will be taking a field trip to Chinatown and hosting a luau/ Hawaiian dance. Gateway signage projects are under construction at Olympic/Spalding and Wilshire/San Vicente; they will be complete at the end of August. Greystone Theater is being restored. Preliminary discussions have begun about Coldwater Park restoration, possibly with a donor. La

Cienega Park is the next major renovation to be undertaken. The replacement of mainline water pipes under La Cienega Park is complete. Concerts on Canon and Sunday Movie Nights are underway; Beverly Gardens Park also has a monthly movie night.

**Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Chair Lester Friedman**

A fatal accident occurred on La Cienega Boulevard. The City Council asked the TPC to evaluate and recommend possible locations for tour bus staging in the business triangle. The TPC will be considering a permit parking zone for the 400 block of South Almont. They will be evaluating construction mitigation measures for the Santa Monica Boulevard project. The TPC will be doing a survey of valet parking operations, to evaluate possible overuse of parking spots by valet parking. A bike sharing ad hoc meeting is scheduled for July 1. The discussion continues over abuse of disabled placards parking, which is still a problem in the business triangle; former commissioner Jeff Levine is working on it.

**Human Relations Commission (HRC) – Vice Chair Karen Popovich Levyn**

The deadline for applications for the Embrace Civility Award is Aug. 3. Nominations are needed. The City Council approved hiring the company Block by Block as a pilot program for providing ambassador services 21 hours a day to enhance quality of life by reducing aggressive panhandling, offering way-finding services, patrolling the parking garages at night and more. The HRC will be considering ways to help raise awareness on human trafficking. The HRC is finalizing the process for a tenant/landlord forum for settling disputes.

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