

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights Tuesday April 23, 2014

Below are highlights from the April 23, 2014 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

At the April 22 meeting, the City Council approved the Carol Bove piece and the anti-fracking ordinance. In addition, they approved expansion of noticing for construction projects including posting signage with a rendering of the project.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Architectural Commission – Chair James Blakeley

A commission is considering 10 projects. Commercial sign violations continue to be a problem; there are now 205 observed violations. Code enforcement doesn't have the time to enforce the ordinance. The commission will be considering a proposal that would be presented to the City Council.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Vice Chair Murray Fischer

Lillian Raffel is the new chair. They processed 28 requests for permits and reviewed 14 fundraising reports. A new charity was added to the website as a violator, which brings to seven the number charities that do not meet the city's 50% rule. Six organizations have not filed reports. The commission is following up with the violators; they are looking at the overall record of the charity, in addition to an individual fundraising event.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Vice Chair Maralee Beck

Current properties under consideration include the Water Treatment Plant, the Beverly Gardens apartment building on Olympic Boulevard and the Helms Estate. A new survey of historic properties is almost complete, which includes the Trousdale area. Work is proceeding slower in the commercial areas, because it is difficult to establish contact with building owners. The commissioner noted that historic events such as immigration waves and natural disasters will have an impact on the City's built environment. Many properties owners are coming to the commission to get their homes designated. An extension to the Mills Act was approved by the City Council.

Design Review Commission – Chair Ilene Nathan

The commission recently considered 11 projects, including three new and eight returning projects; seven were approved. One huge residential project is of concern because it backs up to a public street, is too commercial looking and not in keeping with the neighborhood. The commission will also be discussing the Planning Commission's recommendations for changes to R-1 standards.

Fine Art Commission – Commissioner Alan Kaye

The City Council approved the Carol Bove piece to be located in Beverly Gardens Park near the other sculptures. The commission continues to work on the Fine Art fund update. The obelisk that used to be at the UTA building will move to spot near the Library. There is interest in purchasing the Deborah Butterfield sculpture "Storm Horse;" one possibility is a public – private partnership with Two Rodeo. A subcommittee is still working on plans to protect the Kusama piece. A sculpture by Alex McCrae will be relocated close to the new Community Center in Roxbury Park.

Health and Safety Commission – Vice Chair Stacia Kopeikin

The commission is focusing on healthy lifestyles, pedestrian safety, vaccinations, fall prevention and services for seniors and the homebound. City will begin outreach for the new tobacco and e-cigarette regulations, which go into effect on June 1. Dangerstoppers videos are posted on the website. A CERT training course was to be held that night; 32 people registered. A business CERT class will be held in autumn. Emergency evacuation registration information was provided to the commission.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsberg

Four new members have been approved. The Civil City program is underway. Banners are installed in the City and flyers and bumper stickers are being distributed. The City has been selected as a finalist for a U.S. Conference of Mayors Livable City Award for the Civility program. The "One Book, One City" program has selected "The Boys in the Boat," by Daniel James Brown, about the U.S. rowing team during the 1936 Olympics. The commission will be partnering with the library and the school district to promote this book, and its message of empowerment, during the Centennial year.

Planning Commission – Chair Brian Rosenstein

The commission is considering two projects: Chanel has acquired the Hugo Boss building and will double the size. The commission also will be considering a condo project at Beverly and Palms. The commission has approved a number of single-family projects. They are close to completing new R1 standards, which are aimed at preserving neighborhood character. The Robinsons May project is for sale and the developers are moving forward and may ask for more height. There may be some activity on the YMCA property. A project on Oakhurst is getting opposition from neighbors.

Public Works Commission – Chair Barry Pressman

The commission will recommend that sewer rates not go up. They are still considering what to do about water rates, and will make recommendation for one year only, because of ongoing issues such as the drought, the impact of conservation on water revenues, finding new water sources and recycling and reclaiming water. They are working on completion of a 10-year master plan, which will make recommendations on how resources should best be used for providing water to the community.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Howard Rosoff

The Community Center at Roxbury will have a grand opening on June 8, 1-3 p.m. The City wants to install outdoor exercise equipment, similar to La Cienega Park. The City is working with the Special Olympics to grant them access to the tennis courts once a week. The Greystone Estate Concours will be held May 4. The Art Show will be held May 17-18 and Friday is Arbor Day.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Andy Licht

The commission is working on Santa Monica Boulevard construction mitigation, tour bus routes and disabled placards abuse. They are preparing a list of traffic and parking issues in order to be more proactive.

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