

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Below are highlights from the April 28, 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

Mayor Julian Gold thanked all the commissioners for a great year and each commissioner in turn thanked the mayor for a successful year.

Architectural Commission – Chair Barry Bernstein

The commission has previewed a request for a façade remodel of the former Post Office on Maple Street. The building is an existing commercial space, which will continue to provide PO Boxes at that location. All other post office services have been moved to the San Vicente Post Office.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Vice Chair Karen Platt

The commission approved 30 applications and evaluated four financial statements. One charity did not meet the 50% requirement and will be contacted about this issue. The commission joined the Human Relations Commission to review applicants for community assistance grants. They are working together to further streamline this process.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

The commission provided an update on their joint project with the Charitable Solicitations Commission. Together, they evaluated 14 community assistance grant funds applications. The commission continues to work on helping to curtail aggressive panhandling and will entertain two ambassador program presentations at their May meeting for recommendation to the City. Starting in June the commission will begin accepting applications for the Embrace Civility Award. The commission is also working with Library on the next version of One Book, One City program.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Vice Chair Lisa Greer

The commission is jointly working with the Planning Commission on an updated historic preservation ordinance. They are also reviewing a Lloyd Wright property in the Trousdale area for possible historic designation.

Design Review Commission – Chair John Wyka (absent)
Report was not provided.

Fine Art Commission – Chair Sandy Pressman

Celluloid, a City-owned public art piece has been designated as an historical landmark. The City's National Urban Fellow, Emma Osore provided the commission with a draft of a developer owned FAO art process map. Commission ad hoc representatives met with Ken Pfalzgraf, the Urban Forest Manager, to discuss replacing the decomposed granite around the base of 'Conversation' (art piece) located at Roxbury Park. Installation of the Carol Bove Sculpture 'IO' is moving forward. Fencing of the 'Kusama' piece has been approved and will also move forward. The Joan Brown 'Obelisk' will be placed outside the Library. The agreement with the Gagosian Gallery has been completed for the loan of the Richard Serra art piece. The commission welcomed Richard Zale Rubins as a new commissioner.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Myra Lurie

The commission recently awarded the Health and Safety Award to Councilmember Lili Bosse for her various #BHHealthyCity initiatives during her term as mayor. They will soon launch a disaster preparedness certification training for businesses. Commission representatives were also going to attend the upcoming CERT graduation in May. The commission continues to look at ways to use online delivery of packets.

Planning Commission – Howard Fisher

New commissioner Lori Greene Gordon was welcomed at the planning commission meeting. The commission received and subsequently denied a request for a height increase to a five story building on Crescent drive. The matter is now being appealed.

Public Works Commission – Chair Ron Shalowitz

The Water Enterprise Plan has now been completed and will be presented to the City Council. Per the Council's approval, the City is now in a mandatory Stage D for water conservation. The commission shared concerns about a possible decrease in water revenue. There was some discussion on ways to utilize shallow ground water as an alternative. The City's updated Water Tracker system is now active for all water customers.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Simone Friedman

Two trees were planted by Roxbury Drive, commemorating Arbor Day. Summer camp sign-ups are now taking place, the most popular being the Junior Police Academy, which is almost filled. Various large-scale City events were highlighted, such as Concours d'Elegance, Beverly Hills artSHOW, Summer Concert Series and Sunday Movie Nights. The Gateway projects along Wilshire, San Vicente, Olympic and Spalding have begun; it is estimated to be completed in 5 months. Fundraising is being sought for the Greystone Mansion theater renovation. The Roxbury Park playground area was opened to the public. Upcoming projects; a proposal for the Veterans Memorial at Beverly Gardens Park and outreach for the La Cienega Park renovation continues.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Lester Friedman

The Taxi Ad Hoc Committee met and discussed the current state of the new taxi franchise agreement and regulations. There are four franchises and so far 111 taxis have been certified. New decals are affixed on the taxis in three locations for easy identification. Staff will make a presentation to the entire commission at the May 4 commission meeting. The Tour Bus Ad Hoc also met to discuss issues regarding tour busses and their impacts on commercial business as well as traffic concerns. Santa Monica Boulevard mitigation discussions are getting underway. Traffic calming measures in Trousdale have begun with the installation of a chicane which will have the effect of making drivers reduce speed.

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