

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights Mon. Dec. 5, 2016

Below are highlights from the Dec. 5, 2016 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 (AC) – Chair Gidas Peteris

Two projects were reviewed. The first is the Goyard store on Rodeo Drive, which was approved with conditions. The second, the Audi showroom, is being reviewed; the company is proposing “reskinning” the facade of the historic building.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Chair Karen Platt

This was Chair Platt's last meeting. The CSC approved the 2015 annual report, which will be presented to the City Council in the near future. In 2015, \$113,908,456 was raised in Beverly Hills; of that total, \$36,552,664 million went to expenses and the remainder was used for charitable purposes. Also in 2015 there were 29 overdue financial statements and 33 unpermitted events. 98 events permitted by the City of Los Angeles in 2015 took place in Beverly Hills, however the CSC was unaware of 40 of them. The next step is to reach out to those organizations. The CSC is working on a process where the information provided by a pilot information exchange with Los Angeles can be used by the charity for a Beverly Hills permit as well. The Commission is in the final stages of amending the Charitable Solicitation provisions in the BH Municipal Code. Further, in the last month 42 applications and 12 financial statements were approved.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Commissioner Noah Furie

A recommendation for landmarking a home on Virginia Place will go to the City Council on Dec. 6. The CHC is working on landmarking a mid-century apartment building on Rexford Drive; as part of this designation the owner would be able to remove a ramp in front of the building. In February, the CHC will launch a Golden Shield designation for culturally significant buildings that do not rise to the level of a historic landmark. The CHS is recommending that the City Council extend the Mills Act program; evidence shows that it is working well.

Design Review Commission (DRC) – Chair Ilene Nathan

The number of projects to come before the commission has increased. The biennial design awards will be presented at the Dec. 6 City Council meeting. Arline Pepp is ending her term on the commission; new commissioners will be considered at the Dec. 6 meeting: one for a vacancy in January and one for a vacancy in July. At a recent meeting the DRC denied a project for the first time.; the project owners requested the denial so they can take it to the Planning Commission on appeal. A project on the 700 block of Beverly Drive was asked come back to the DRC with a redesign.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – Chair Alan Kaye

Signage is being developed to discourage climbing on the City's public art. New cracks have been found on the Kusama sculpture. A request to extend the loan of the Serra sculptures from the Gagosian gallery in three-month increments goes to the City Council on the Dec. 6 agenda. MOCA director Philippe Vergne spoke to the commission and evaluated the City's public art collection. Vergne and other art curators have recommended that the City focus on collecting California artists. The two most significant pieces now on display are the Lichtenstein and Serra sculptures, which are on loan.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) – Commissioner Myra Demeter

The recent Health and Safety Award was given to Karen Setian and Inaida Nalbandian, who have helped raise awareness of the dangers of drunk driving; they were chosen by Commissioner Gary Ross. Also monthly, the commission recognizes awareness programs around the country, such as Pet Safety Awareness, Breast Cancer Awareness and Bullying Prevention. At City Council direction, the HSC is researching the feasibility of banning smoking in multifamily buildings. Some of the issues include owner-occupied units and enforcement.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Karen Popovich Levyn

The 2016 Embrace Civility Award will be announced at the Dec. 6 City Council meeting; a City staff member was chosen. Civility banners have been installed. The City's civility statement plaque is now permanently displayed in the commission meeting room; the commission encourages all commissions to read the statement before each meeting. The HRC continues monthly hearings on tenant/ landlord cases; some of the issues include the 10% annual rent increase allowance, no cause evictions and poor living conditions. Tenants are afraid to open a case with Code Enforcement for fear they will be evicted.

Planning Commission (PC) – Chair Joe Shooshani

The Wanda project at Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards was approved. No major new projects came before the commission in the past month.

Public Works Commission (PWC) – Chair Sandra Aronberg, M.D.

The water treatment plant is up and running but there are some problems that still need to be addressed. The PWC is considering drilling wells at La Cienega Park. An audit of Public Works Department expenses was completed and concluded that they're appropriate to the department operations. The City continues to reduce water consumption by about 19% monthly. An excessive usage policy is being developed; the goal is to have a policy that is fair and easy to understand. The design for the reconstruction of the Burton Way median is still in development.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Frances Bilak

The Active Adult Thanksgiving lunch hosted by the Fire Department was very successful. Ten people were interviewed for the Assistant Director of Community Services position. Some of the candidates might be qualified to fill Brad Meyerowitz's position. Beverly Hills AYSO Coach Michael Karlin is being honored for 20 years in the program. The Greystone "Party to Preserve" was highly successful, thanks to the support from Steve Gordon. The Farmers' Market will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The ordinance to regulate personal trainers in City parks will go to the City Council in January. Robbie Anderson will finish his term on the RPC in June; Alissa Roston will take his place. A young commissioner, Julian Javor, will come on the RPC in July. A Recreation and Parks Award will go to residents of Peck Drive who successfully petitioned to replace the trees on their street.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Chair Jake Manaster

This is Jake Manaster's last meeting as chair of the TPC. Construction on N. Santa Monica Blvd. will start on January 11. Attendant assisted parking will be offered at the Santa Monica Five parking lots to help make up for the meters temporarily taken out of service on S. Santa Monica Blvd.

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