

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights Tuesday March 3, 2014

Below are highlights from the March 3, 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

Centennial program are continuing. The art of Palms sculptures are going up, most recently the Brad Howe pieces on the City Hall lawn at the corner of Santa Monica Blvd and Crescent Drive. The mayor will be going to Washington DC for the National League of Cities. We hope to talk about the subway. March 25 is the City Council reorganization will be held for the first time at the Annenberg. This is Mayor Mirisch's last cabinet meeting as mayor. April 27 is the first Beverly Hills Independence Day celebration, at the Rodeo Drive Block Party. Other events coming up include the Concourse d'Elegance at Greystone and the Father's Day concourse. The first annual mayor's lawn bowling tournament will be held in March. This Sunday is the LA Marathon. A preservation conference will be held in April. Several Cultural Heritage commissioners, staff and Mayor Mirisch will be attending.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Architectural Commission – Chair James Blakeley

A project at the corner of Wilshire and Robertson that was approved by the commission was not modified accordingly to their direction; the commission is considering appropriate action. They considered 10 items at their last meeting. The Thompson Hotel changed their name to Hotel 60. Lululemon is change their façade and will prepare a sample for the commission's approval. The Rite Aid has been remodeled inside and out and now has a café inside.

Charitable Solicitations Commission – Chair Alissa Roston

The commission is still considering ways to acknowledge a charity that does a good job. The commission is opening up the application process for two new positions. Lillian Raffel will be the next commission chair.

Cultural Heritage Commission – Chair Rich Waldow

The commission will be bringing four properties to the council for historic preservation designation: The Harry Cohn Estate at 1000 N. Crescent. The 620 N. Sierra, 804 N. Alpine and the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Three of the properties were brought to commission by the owners, who wanted to maintain the homes. The work with staff and the commission to get the process documented. In the case of the hotel the staff negotiation with staff over what the features that needed to be preserved, e.g. certain lines of sight.

Tomorrow night is a resolution to extend the Mills Act program; this is supported by the school board.

Design Review Commission – Chair Arline Pepp

The liaison committee met to discuss a project that had been denied by the commission after four submissions. The main issue was excessive bulk and mass on a small lot. After the meeting owner agreed to make some of the suggested changes and will come back in a few weeks with revisions.

Fine Art Commission –Chair Alan Kaye

The commission continues to work on the Fine Art Ordinance. The obelisk that used to be at the UTA building will move to spot near the Library. The commission continues to discuss the best way to protect the Kusama sculpture. The restoration of the City's public art continues. The commission was asked to look at the possibility of purchasing the Deborah Butterfield horse sculpture at Two Rodeo. One possibility is a public –private partnership with Two Rodeo, which needs to "re meet" its Fine Art obligation. They had a liaison meeting about purchasing a piece by Carol Bove, similar to what she has done at the NY Highline. Lyn Hiller is the new commissioner. Sandy Pressman is the new commission chair.

Health and Safety Commission – Chair Gail Millan

The commission presented their recommendation to the City Council at the Feb. 18 Study Session that e-cigarettes be regulated like tobacco products in terms of use and sales. The recommendations, which were adopted at the regular meeting that night.

A Cert refresher training course was held Saturday March 1; 45 people attended. A new CERT class will be held in May.

The city promotes a pledge drive in association with earthquake preparedness month in April and national Preparedness Month in September. All the pledge campaign checklists have been uploaded to the website and all commissioners are encouraged to review each pledge and pass the information along to friends, family and neighbors.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Rochelle Ginsberg

The Civil City program officially launches at the March 4 meeting. Banners are installed in the City and flyers and bumper stickers are being distributed. Commissioners were asked to distribute the stickers to their fellow commissioners. The City is applying for a Livable City Award with the Civility program. They are paying attention to bicycles, pedestrians and drivers to create a civil community in the streets. Steps have been taken to develop the One City One Read program to engage people of different ethnicities and ages to read a book with theme of how a community dynamic is changes as a result of a crisis or cultural change; the library will be partnering with the commission. The commission held interviews last week with applicants for commission positions and 12 excellent applicants applied.

Planning Commission – Chair Brian Rosenstein

The commission approved the Palm Restaurant on Canon Drive. The commission has been inundated with single family home projects, such as guest houses or grading in the Trousdale area. Overall, requests for single family resident applications are up 20-25%. The 9900 project likely will be doing the demolition work June-August. There is no news about the Hilton project.

Public Works Commission – Vice Chair Ron Shalowitz

The Commission continues to work on the Master Water Plan; the RFP is going out soon. They are starting to work on the water rates and will be setting priorities, including making sure capital costs and bond indebtedness are covered. The new commissioner is Jerry Felsenthal.

Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair Howard Rosoff

The City Council will visit one of the City gateways at the beginning of the March 4 Study Session. The commission is finalizing plans for the protection of the Kusama sculpture. If the streets are widened during the Santa Monica Boulevard project, the Kusama may be affected and it may be necessary to move it. New playground equipment at Roxbury will be installed after the summer. The commission is still considering a dog park; Roxbury is still a possible location.

Traffic and Parking Commission – Chair Andy Licht

The Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction project will be presented at the City Council meeting March 4. At the next meeting the commission will be dealing with tour bus parking at the Louis Vuitton building and have an education session about in-lieu parking.