



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Municipal Gallery
Sunshine Task Force Committee

SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, November 13, 2017
5:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order

Date / Time: November 13, 2017 / 5:00 pm

In Attendance: Mayor Lili Bosse, Councilmember John A. Mirisch, Chuck Aronberg, Ed Brown, Linda Brown, Mark Elliot, Fred Fenster, Judie Fenton, Murray D. Fischer, Thomas White, Steve Mayer, Ann Ostroff, Ronald Richards, Stella Sarraf, Thomas White, Debbie Weiss, Allyson Wittner, Assistant City Manager George Chavez, City Attorney Larry Wiener, Community Outreach Manager Huma Ahmed, Assistant City Clerk Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez

1) Oral Communications

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item not listed on the agenda.

Mr. Ronald Richards asked that some criteria on the type of application the lobbyist is filing be included on the lobbyist form to help establish the identity of the filer.

Mr. Thomas White spoke about the lobbyist forms filed online that have blank fields.

Ms. Debbie Weiss suggested that a new type of R-1 hearings be brought before the Planning Commission.

2) Discussion of the Ordinance related to lobbyists serving on Commissions

City Attorney Laurence Wiener distributed a handout showing the changes that have been made to the lobbyist form. He discussed the changes that have been made in response to requests from Ms. Weiss (ministerial definition), Mr. Fred Fenster (previous ownership in a sanctioned company), and Councilmember Mirisch (shall instead of may). Councilmember Mirisch read a letter from Ms. Marcia Hobbs from the Beverly Hills Courier regarding lobbyists serving on commissions. Mr. Wiener stated that he will be presenting the ordinance at the December 5, 2017 City Council Study Session.

3) Discussion of proposal to achieve a more fair and balanced opportunity for the public to comment, respond or address issues before the City Council and Commissions at Public Hearings

Mr. Thomas White explained the reason why he requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Richards agreed with Mr. White that the public should be given an opportunity for a rebuttal during City Council meetings and Planning Commission hearings to address misrepresentations by speakers. Mr. Wiener explained that “due process” is followed in public meetings and hearings wherein the applicants are given the ability to provide their information to Council and Commissioners. Mayor Bosse commented that she does not usually rely on staff reports and her decisions are not influenced by what others tell her, but is based on her own research.

Mr. Mark Elliot commented that residents would like to be able to send City Council feedback or information after the Council meeting agenda and staff reports have been posted online. Ms. Weiss said that she was denied the opportunity to speak at a recent Planning Commission hearing and suggested that residents should be given an opportunity to rebut and ask questions for up to five minutes. Ms. Allyson Wittner agreed with Ms. Weiss that residents who are most impacted by development projects should be given the chance to rebut what developers or proponents are saying. Ms. Anne Ostroff commented that once staff has determined that the project is by right, residents are usually not able to stop the project because there is no procedure to challenge by right projects. Mr. Wiener suggested that residents submit their comments to staff so that they can be incorporated in the reports. Councilmember Mirisch said that the most effective way is to bring the matter personally to the attention of Councilmembers.

Mr. Steve Mayer asked whether it is possible to review by right projects. Murray Fischer expressed concern that these projects are not being properly noticed and thus residents are not aware of what is going on in their neighborhood.

4) Adjournment

Date / Time: November 13, 2017 / 6:10 pm