

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL  
UNTIL APPROVED BY  
THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 31, 2016  
7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Mayor Clarke called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Jim B. Clarke, Mayor  
Jeffrey Cooper, Vice Mayor  
Göran Eriksson, Council Member  
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Council Member  
Thomas Small, Council Member

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rich Cherry.

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**Community Announcements by City Council Members/  
Information Items from Staff**

Council Member Small reported a phone call from Andrew Lachman, Legislative Director for Ted Lieu requesting support for proposed legislation to expand the conservancy and he proposed a City Council agenda item to discuss the request.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding whether the matter was part of the Legislative Agenda and whether the City has previously expressed official support for the matter.

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**Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda**

Mayor Clarke invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, announced their concert on June 18 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

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**Receipt and Filing of Correspondence**

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SAHLI-WELLS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ERIKSSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE BY 4:00 P.M., MAY 31, 2016.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**CC - Meeting Minutes**

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR COOPER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MAY 16, 2016 AND MAY 17, 2016 AS CORRECTED.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Item**

Item A-1

**CC - Interview of Applicants to Culver City's Commissions, Committees, and Boards**

Mayor Clarke introduced the item; provided a summary of the material of record; discussed procedures; and invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Civil Service Commission Applicants:

Albert Vera provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of the position he sought and his experience; and he reported attending Civil Service Commission meetings for the past year.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Applicants:

Will Rickards reported serving on the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission since February 2016; he provided background on himself; and he indicated that he hoped to continue working on the Community Conversations subcommittee of the Commission.

Rocio Alvarez provided background on herself and indicated that as someone who uses the parks regularly she hoped to bring her perspective to the Commission.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Alvarez indicated that she had attended the May Commission meeting and she indicated that she could bring her talents in organizing events and her eye for logistics to the Commission.

Cultural Affairs Commission Applicants:

Amanda Greene indicated that she had not attended a Commission meeting yet but had attended a City Council meeting; discussed the need to update Veterans Auditorium; corporate partnerships; updating the Heart of Screenland with technology; Public Art; and she provided background on herself.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Greene discussed the role of the Cultural Affairs Commission in the City.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin discussed what the position of Commissioner entails; what she hoped to accomplish as a Commissioner; she provided background on herself; discussed bridging the relationship between the Council, the Commission and the Cultural Affairs Foundation; integrating arts into the learning environment; she indicated that she is a grants writer; expressed concern with a shortage of performance spaces for theatre in the City; she wanted to continue working on the Veterans Memorial Building Stage Improvement project; and she wanted to see more communication between the Commissions and more interactive art in public spaces.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin indicated that the Foundation might be able to accomplish more if it became a separate entity not connected with the City but she expressed concern with the loss of critical staffing noting that perhaps there was a way to address that issue; she indicated that the biggest challenge facing the Commission is balancing art with recreation which she did not feel should be separate; she noted a lot of crossover between the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission and the Cultural Affairs Commission; discussed publicizing Culver City Art; beautification of everyday small things; and using art to compensate for the lack of green space in the City.

Andrew Leist discussed his understanding of the role of a Commissioner on the Cultural Affairs Commission and his experience as it relates to the Commission.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Leist indicated that he would like to see arts in the City made more accessible for everyone.

Jill Vesce provided background on herself and discussed how she could be helpful to the Commission.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Vesce indicated that she is familiar with ordinances of other cities; she discussed her degree from USC in Historical Preservation; her consulting business with architectural firms and cities; her ability to assess relevant, qualifying historic

monuments, buildings and neighborhoods; the importance of outreach; and her experience with writing, editing and social media.

Brenda G. Williams provided background on herself; discussed what she felt the duties of a Commissioner entailed; what she expected of the Commission; and what she could bring to the job.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Williams discussed the interaction of the Commission and the gallery scene in the City and potential coordination with the City.

Denice Renteria provided background on herself; discussed the goals of the Commission; and the Historic Preservation program.

Zoltan Pali discussed the role of Cultural Affairs Commissioners; his goals; and he provided background on himself.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Pali indicated that he is a member of the creative economy; he discussed the goal of continuing the discussion between the stakeholders about historic preservation and public art; strength of the creative economy in the City; and he indicated that he would be willing to bring his networks and relationships with his colleagues to assist the Commission in achieving their goals.

Sean Finn provided background on himself and asked to be considered for appointment to the Cultural Affairs Commission.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Finn indicated that he has a child at Linwood Howe noting that he had not previously volunteered a lot given his busy schedule as an architect.

Carolyn Strauss provided background on herself; discussed what the position of Cultural Affairs Commissioner entailed; and what she felt she could offer.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Strauss discussed her professional experience and she shared her ideas regarding encouraging people traveling on Expo to stop, stay, and play in the City.

Daniel Lee discussed the role of Cultural Affairs in the City; provided background on himself and discussed his volunteer experience.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Lee discussed integrating residents into local events; the Arts District Improvement; games; the L.A. Film Festival; the Business Improvement District; the Creative Economy; and film beyond Sony.

#### Planning Commission Applicants:

Kevin Lachoff discussed his experiences serving on the Planning Commission for the past four years and indicated his desire to serve for another four years.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Lachoff discussed challenges facing the Planning Commission and the City over the next four years; balancing cumulative impacts vs. individual projects; the small community surrounded by Los Angeles; and balancing things the City has no control over.

Schenae' Rourk discussed her understanding of the duties of a Planning Commissioner; provided background on herself; discussed what she would bring to the position; the importance of listening to all sides of an issue; making recommendations; impacts of the growth in the City and the area surrounding the City; and she felt it important to consider cumulative impacts.

Andrew Reilman discussed his previous application to the Commission; his understanding of the role of Planning Commissioners; he provided background on himself; and he indicated that he would bring his expertise and industry contacts to help balance development in the City.

Renee Bayley provided background on herself; indicated that she had not attended Commission meetings but had read agendas; she discussed Planning Commissioner duties; what she would hope to accomplish; and she felt it important that someone from Fox Hills be part of the Commission.

Michelle Playford wanted to see representation from all the neighborhoods; discussed objectivity; changes in zoning; Commissioner duties; redevelopment; and affordable housing.

Kristen Torres Pawling provided background on herself; discussed the General Plan and the Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) process; costs; visioning; the importance of an inclusive public process; mobility; understanding zoning for land use changes for the future; bus work and lane use planning; flexibility; adaptability; and the intersection between transportation, mobility, climate change; sustainability and affordability.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Pawling indicated that she was working with the Natural Resources Defense Council and previously worked at the Southern California Association of Governments; discussed improving the rating of Culver City on the Judgmental Map of Los Angeles; and connecting the City's core pieces in a tech savvy and innovative way.

Michelle Playford responded to inquiry regarding the need for additional representation of the Fox Hills neighborhood; she wanted to see good things happen with the strip mall; and she discussed the neighborhood association and the path of the neighborhood.

Peter Capone-Newton provided background on himself and he discussed what he could bring to the Commission.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Capone-Newton discussed the intersection between public health and City planning; food access; physical activity; the importance of housing in relation to health; commercial development in the City; forthcoming issues; residential use; transportation land use interactions; his priority among the three bodies he applied for; concern with the term "Mansionization"; the form of residential development; protecting long-term residents; welcoming newcomers; support for taking the time to reassess the situation; and the need for an informed, thoughtful process.

Jeremy Green, Deputy City Clerk, received clarification from Carolyn Strauss that she did not wish to speak and in fact was withdrawing her application to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Clarke discussed the benefits of hearing from the applicants; the talented pool of applicants; skills and expertise; and he encouraged anyone interested in speaking to fill out a speaker card.

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**Recess/Reconvene**

Mayor Clarke called a brief recess from 8:26 p.m. to 8:36 p.m.

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Item A-1  
(Continued)

**CC - Interview of Applicants to Culver City's Commissions, Committees and Boards**

Mayor Clarke discussed the ground rules and invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Landlord Tenant Mediation Board

Tenant Representative Applicants:

Taria Lewis reported that she currently serves on the Board and does mediation for the Los Angeles City Attorney's office; she asserted that she is a big advocate for mediation; discussed her experience on the Board; and she provided background on herself.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Lewis indicated that she is open to the expansion of the Board; discussed the need for change as the City changes; caution with going beyond what is legal; mediation; and limitations.

Vice Mayor Cooper thanked Ms. Lewis for the work that she does indicating that he is proud of the Board.

Matthew Baker discussed the mission of the Landlord Tenant Mediation Board and what he hoped to accomplish if he were to be appointed; and he provided background on himself.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Baker indicated that he had previous experience with mediation; discussed his pro bono work; and potential conflicts of interest.



Member-at-Large Applicants:

Rhonda Wolf Koss provided background on herself; reported that she had previously served on the Disability Advisory Committee; discussed the role and function of the Board and of Board Members; her reasons for wanting to serve; and talents that she would bring to the Board.

Annette Morasch provided background on herself; discussed the role of Board Members; and goals if she were to be appointed.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Morasch discussed her ability to be fair; preconceived notions; California laws regarding noticing requirements for rent increases; the Culver City Municipal Code; strength of the Board; the Rent Stabilization Board in Los Angeles; neutrality; requirements to raise rents in Los Angeles vs. in Culver City; conflict checks; she indicated that she actively seeks not to represent Culver City residents; and she explained that, rather than give legal advice, she clarifies what the law is.

Matthew Brown provided background on himself, and he discussed the role of Board Members and his goals.

Keith George provided background on himself and he discussed his goals if he were to be appointed.

Landlord Position:

Justin Lescoulie indicated that he was seeking reappointment to the Board; he discussed the role of Board Members; broadening the role of Board Members; and dispute resolution.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Lescoulie felt that the Board Members should be called Members rather than Representatives.

Fiesta La Ballona Committee:

Ronnie Jayne indicated that she was reapplying for the Fiesta La Ballona Committee; provided background on herself; discussed the transition from a volunteer group to an official Committee; and other changes over the years.

West Los Angeles Vector Control Board:

Jay Garacochea discussed his accomplishments serving on the Board and his goals if reappointed.

Discussion ensued between staff, Council Members and Mr. Garacochea regarding the drainage ditch near Kenneth Hahn Park with standing water; exposed ficus tree roots; coordination between the City and West Coast Arborists; and the need for residents to alert City staff to any issues.

LAX Advisory Committee:

Frank Dolce provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of the role of Committee Members; controversy over noise issues; and the importance of basing decisions on facts and data.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Dolce discussed balancing his professional life with his representation of the City; he indicated that he would provide regular reports back to the City Council; he discussed the company that he works with and his duties; the biggest issues faced by Culver City and the impending expansion of the airport; whether flight patterns have changed; and he indicated willingness to interact with all stakeholders including the Quiet Skies Group.

Jeremy Green, Deputy City Clerk, reported that Sandar Win had applied to both the Bicycle Advisory Committee and LAX Advisory Committee but had to leave, and she read his written comments into the record.

Jeremy Green, Deputy City Clerk, reported that Schenae' Rourk had also applied to the LAX Advisory Committee but had already left the building.

Disability Advisory Committee:

Barbara Effros-Schwartz reported serving on the Disability Advisory Committee for the last 12 years; discussed highlights from the past few years; and the opiate epidemic.

Council Member Small thanked Ms. Effros-Schwartz for the work she is doing on the Committee.

Bob Montgomery discussed his service on the Disability Advisory Committee and the continuing education of Committee Members.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Montgomery felt that the Committee is isolated at the Senior Center; he reported that the Committee had been consulted when the play areas at the park were being re-done; he noted that there is a continuing problem with sidewalks in Culver City; and he reported that a Committee Member had recently submitted a report on non-compliant sidewalks and curb cuts in the City.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding existing building codes that cover issues related to people with disabilities; the recently approved consultant that will be preparing a draft of the ADA Transition Plan; sidewalks on National leading up to the Transit Oriented Development at Washington; and confirmation that Public Works had received the report on non-compliant sidewalks and curb cuts in the City.

Dr. Janet Hoult discussed Committee efforts to re-prioritize sidewalk issues; concern with litigation; she wanted to continue her service on the Commission; and she discussed improving the quality of life for individuals with various disabilities in the City.

Khin Khin Gyi provided background on herself and discussed the job description.

Ko Ko Naing provided background on himself and discussed his goals for serving on the Committee.

Committee on Homelessness:

Ira Diamond discussed his current service on the Committee as Chair; he reported on accomplishments of the Committee; discussed things to focus on going forward; and he reported that he had founded Shoes for the Homeless.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Diamond discussed the number of homeless individuals in the City; the number reported in

the Homelessness Count; and the transitory nature of the number of homeless individuals in the City.

Deborah Wallace discussed her experience serving on the Committee and she asked to be able to continue her work on the Committee.

Deborah Weinrauch provided background on herself and asked to be appointed to the Committee on Homelessness.

Jennifer Chen provided background on herself and she discussed what she thought she could bring to the Committee.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Chen clarified that she works for Harbor UCLA in Torrance.

Karlo Silbiger provided background on himself; discussed the mission and creation of the Committee; gave reasons for applying to serve on the Committee; discussed the actions of Los Angeles County; the policy plan; and the multi-faceted approach to addressing homelessness.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Silbiger discussed his efforts on the School Board; his connections with elected officials and with non-profits; creating partnerships; and taking advantage of the way the County is dealing with homelessness.

Peter Capone-Newton indicated that he was available for questions.

Finance Advisory Committee:

Alejandro Lara indicated that he was seeking reappointment to the Committee; he discussed the accomplishments of the FAC; and future challenges for the City.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Lara provided background on himself; discussed the benchmarking study; further analysis; and urban runoff issues.

Vivek Tauh reported that this was his second application to the Finance Advisory Committee; he provided background on himself; and he discussed what the position entailed and his goals for the position.

Responding to inquiry, Mr. Tauh discussed major issues facing the City and what the FAC could advise the City Council on; efficiency; and using the best tools.

Jose Casarez provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of what the position entails; provided recommendations on ways to increase revenue to the City; and he thanked various Council Members for taking the time to speak with him.

Michael Hamill discussed his understanding of the position and what it entails; what he would like to accomplish as a member of the Committee; and he provided background on himself.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee:

Michelle Weiner provided background on herself; discussed the purpose of the Committee as it was described; her vision for the Committee; and what she would bring to the Committee.

Alice Bisno provided background on herself; discussed her understanding of the Committee and her goals for the Committee; and she noted that she would like to be considered for the Senior position as well as for a Resident at Large position.

William Winter provided information on his background and experience, and discussed his role on the Committee and the work of the Committee.

Joel Falter provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of the position; what he hoped to achieve as a member of the Committee; and goals of the Committee.

Sharon Eisenberg indicated that as a skater, she had a different perspective and she wanted to see a downtown Culver City Skate, Bike, and Walk.

Robert McNamara provided background on himself and discussed his reasons for applying to the Committee and his goals as a member.

Allen Lulu provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of what the Committee would be like; and goals for the City.

Patricia Bijvoet discussed the Master Plan; progress of the City toward being a more bikeable City; three tasks for the Committee; and what she felt she could bring to the Committee.

Mayor Clarke indicated that he was impressed with the PowerPoint file attached with Ms. Bijvoet's application.

Renee Tan provided background on herself; discussed her understanding of the goals of the Committee; and what she would like to do on the Committee.

Responding to inquiry, Ms. Tan discussed her profession.

David Bergman provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of the Committee; and his goals for the Committee.

Connie Seidman discussed what she thought the Committee should work on; the Ballona Creek Bike Path; overlap with other City bodies; communication; good planning in Amsterdam; bicycle racks; and her business.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding requirements to be considered a business representative on the Committee; composition of the Committee; the ability of the City Council to waive requirements and make adjustments; the brick and mortar requirement for businesses; and the intent of the requirement.

David Coles provided background on himself; discussed improvements and changes he would like to see in the City; and the revised Master Plan.

Kristen Torres Pawling discussed her day job at the National Resources Defense Council; what can be done with the Committee; the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan; local return money; grant opportunities; her relationship with the Strategic Growth Council; and the state budget.

Andrew Leist discussed bike riding and alternate transit, and creating options for residents.

Daniel Lee indicated that he applied for the Committee due to his concerns with connectivity; discussed seniors and

school aged children; safety concerns; inadequate planning in Los Angeles; redevelopment going on in the LA River; consideration of Ballona Creek in the same way; and interface with the Planning Commission and other City committees.

Jeremy Green, Deputy City Clerk, read written comments submitted by:

Brent Jacobsen

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**Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda**

Mayor Clarke invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Items from Council Members**

Council Member Eriksson requested that clarification be added regarding classifications of open seats on the Finance Advisory Committee.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 10:56 p.m., the City Council adjourned its meeting to June 13, 2016.

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Martin R. Cole  
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK of the City Council  
Culver City, California

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JIM B. CLARKE  
MAYOR of Culver City