

Cultural Heritage Commission
Official Minutes
Thursday, October 20, 2022
(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION HEREIN ARE REPORTED IN ACTION FORMAT. THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION RELATED TO EACH ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE IN AUDIO FORMAT ONLINE AT planning.lacity.org. TO LISTEN TO THE AUDIO FILE: SELECT “**ABOUT**”, “**COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & HEARINGS**”, FILTER BY “**CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION**”, LOCATE THE COMMISSION MEETING DATE AND SELECT THE “**AUDIO**” BUTTON.

In accordance with Government Code Section 54953, subsections (e)(1) and (e)(3), and in light of the State of Emergency proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020 relating to COVID-19 and ongoing concerns that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees and/or that the State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person, the Cultural Heritage Commission’s October 20, 2022 meeting was conducted via telephone and/or videoconferencing.

Commission President Barry Milofsky called the regular meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with Commission Vice President Gail Kennard and Commissioners Richard Barron, Pilar Buelna, and Diane Kanner in attendance.

Also in attendance were Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, representing the Director of Planning; Lambert Giessinger, Preservation Architect; Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate; Kimberly Huangfu, Deputy City Attorney; Alice Inawat, Commission Executive Assistant; and Diego Vazquez, Commission Office Staff.

ITEM NO. 1

DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE HOLDING MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCE

Motion Required. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(B)-(C), and (e)(3)(A) and (e)(3)(B)(i), a determination that the COVID-19 State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person and possible Commission action.

Commissioner Kanner moved to adopt the resolution under which the Commission finds that holding meetings in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commission Vice President Kennard seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Kanner
Seconded: Kennard
Ayes: Barron, Buelna, Milofsky

Vote: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 2

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSION BUSINESS

Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, had several items of interest:

- We want to acknowledge that this meeting is occurring during a difficult day and time in the history of Los Angeles as related to the events that have taken place in City government over these past two weeks. Los Angeles City Planning, as a department, stands against all forms of hate speech, race, ethnic, and gender-related harassment. Our department is committed to racial justice, equity, and inclusivity in all of our work. Our department established the Office of Racial Justice, Equity, and Transformative Planning about two years ago, in part to ensure safe working spaces. The department is committed to making all of its public meetings a safe place for all of our participants.

These events underscored how important it is for this Commission to carry on the business of the City of Los Angeles, to engage meaningfully and authentically with all Los Angeles communities, and to recognize and help preserve those places that help define the true essence of what Los Angeles is.

- City Council resumed meetings this week:
 - o The Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee recommended approval of two Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) nominations on Tuesday, October 18, 2022: (1) Fire Station No. 14 and the (2) Chinatown Bank of America building. These will advance to the full City Council.
 - o PLUM recommended approval of a motion by Councilmember Mike Bonin, initiating an HCM nomination for the New Bethel Baptist Church, in the Oakwood neighborhood of Venice. Once the full Council approves the initiation, the nomination will come to the Office of Historic Resources and then will be heard by this Commission in the coming months.
- At 10:20 a.m. this morning, City government will be participating in the Great California Shakeout to help make sure we are all prepared for a severe earthquake. When that moment arises, we do ask everyone participating in this meeting to drop, cover, and hold for one minute.
- Governor Newsom announced California's COVID-19 State of Emergency will end February 28, 2023. This will impact the Commission due to the findings made to allow continued teleconference meetings under AB 361, which are dependent on the continuance of the State of Emergency declared by the Governor. Unless the Governor's order is extended due to a resurgence of the pandemic, Commission meetings under the Ralph M. Brown Act Open Meetings Law will need to be held in person, with a quorum of Commissioners physically present together in a room that is accessible to the public.
 - o There has been an increase in public participation in these meetings held via Zoom. Since this virtual format makes it more convenient for members of the public to give their input without taking time off of work and commuting downtown, we have been exploring options to hold hybrid meetings – under which Commissioners would be present together at City Hall but members of the public could give their testimony remotely. There are some technological challenges to holding hybrid meetings that need to be addressed at Los Angeles City Hall, but we will continue to work through these issues and continue to report back on our progress.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- There was no new business.
- Advance Calendar – There were no changes to the Advance Calendar.
- Commission Announcements/Requests – There was one announcement from the Commissioners:
 - Commission President Milofsky requested that Commissioner Buelna form a subcommittee with himself regarding an upcoming agenda item, the Boyle Heights Community Plan. The subcommittee will review the plan before it comes to the Commission to give expedited feedback to staff before the plan is heard before the City Planning Commission.

ITEM NO. 3

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

There were no speakers who addressed the Commission during Neighborhood Council presentations.

Commissioner Milofsky recessed the meeting at 10:21 a.m. for the Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill. During the drill, participants were asked to duck, hold, and cover in place. He reconvened the meeting at 10:22 a.m. with the full Commission in attendance.

ITEM NO. 4

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were several speakers who addressed the Commission during the general public comment period.

At approximately 10:31 a.m. Commission President Milofsky recessed the meeting. The meeting re-convened at 10:35 a.m. with Commission Vice President Kennard and Commissioners Barron, Buelna, and Kanner in attendance.

ITEM NO. 5

PROPOSED MONUMENT: VERBIN RESIDENCE

[CHC-2022-6899-HCM](#)

CEQA: ENV-2022-6900-CE
Plan Area: Bel Air – Beverly Crest

Council District: 5 – Koretz

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1335 North Shadybrook Drive

IN ATTENDANCE:

Adrian Scott Fine, Los Angeles Conservancy, Applicant; Steven Luftman, Preparer; and Andrea McInnes, representing the Owner.

Commissioner Barron moved to take the proposed designation of the Verbin Residence under consideration, and adopt the Findings of the staff report as the Findings of the Commission.

Commissioner Kanner seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Barron
Second: Kanner
Ayes: Buelna, Kennard, Milofsky

Vote: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

At approximately 10:51 a.m. Commissioner Barron left the zoom webinar/teleconference meeting.

ITEM NO. 6

PROPOSED MONUMENT: ARTHUR AND GERTRUDE SERCY REESE HOME

[CHC-2022-6876-HCM](#)

CEQA: ENV-2022-6877-CE
Plan Area: Venice

Council District: 11 – Bonin

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 541 East Santa Clara Avenue; 1221 South 6th Avenue

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sonya R. Greenland, Applicant/Owner; and Sue Kaplan and David Ewing, Preparers.

Commission Vice President Kennard moved to take the proposed designation of the Arthur and Gertrude Sercy Reese Home under consideration, and adopt the Findings of the staff report as the Findings of the Commission.

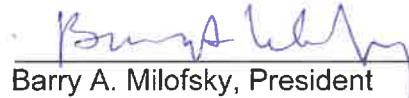
Commissioner Buelna seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Kennard
Second: Buelna
Ayes: Kanner, Milofsky

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

There being no further business to come before the Cultural Heritage Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.


Barry A. Milofsky, President
Cultural Heritage Commission


Alice Inawat, Commission Executive Assistant
Cultural Heritage Commission

ADOPTED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

AUG 17 2023

**CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION OFFICE**