

Cultural Heritage Commission
Official Minutes
Thursday, December 15, 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 December 15, 2022 meeting was conducted via telephone and/or videoconferencing.

Commission President Barry Milofsky called the regular meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with Commission Vice President Gail Kennard and Commissioners Richard Barron and Diane Kanner in attendance.

Commissioner Pilar Buelna was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, representing the Director of Planning; Shannon Ryan, Senior City Planner; Lambert Giessinger, Senior 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, Milofsky
Absent: Buelna

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 2

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSION BUSINESS

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

- This week was the inauguration of Mayor Karen Bass, the first woman, and the first woman of color as well, to be elected as our City's chief executive. Mayor Bass has hit the ground running with a declaration of a state of emergency to address the homelessness crisis. Additionally, we have five new City Councilmembers, a new City Attorney, and a new City Controller. We look forward to working with our new elected officials to discuss how the work of City Planning, the Office of Historic Resources, and this Commission, may best support their agendas and ideas moving forward.
- This will be Alice Inawat's, our CHC Commission Executive Assistant, final week with the Planning Department. She will be joining the Department of Water and Power as a Management Assistant, working in a role with responsibilities for that department's budget and personnel matters. Congratulations to Alice on her new role at DWP.
- The full City Council has approved a motion co-introduced by outgoing City Councilmember Mike Bonin and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson to initiate an Historic-Cultural Monument application for New Bethel Baptist Church. It is one of only two active Black churches remaining in the Oakwood community of Venice. With the initiation, it requests that the Office of Historic Resources prepare the nomination, and we will be bringing this before the Commission in the upcoming months.
- As this is the last meeting of 2022, thank you to everyone for your continued commitment to this Commission, to our historic preservation program in Los Angeles, and to bringing positive changes to the historic preservation field, and the ways that we approach our work. It's been a very productive year – and thanks to all of your tremendous efforts – it was a year in which we were able to highlight the 60th anniversary of this Commission and the Cultural Heritage Ordinance, with all of the accomplishments of our preservation program over the past six decades.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- There was no new business.
- Advance Calendar – Commission Vice President Kennard stated that she will not be in attendance on January 5, 2023, which she had previously stated in a past meeting.
- Commission Announcements/Requests – Commissioner Barron discussed a concern:
 - Pony rides are a benefit to families and children at Griffith Park but it is being discontinued by the City of Los Angeles's Department of Recreation and Parks. It is unclear why the pony rides are being decommissioned since there wasn't any poor maintenance associated with the ponies. The closure is happening really quickly. Rec and Parks will hold a meeting today for public comment about the pony rides. Since Griffith Park is a Monument, and the pony rides are a use described in the nomination and the rides have been in existence since 1948, the Commission should have something to say about the closure. This is a legacy use of a park owned by the City. President Milofsky requested this item be agendaized on the January 5, 2023 agenda for further discussion.

ITEM NO. 3

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

ITEM NO. 4

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one speaker who addressed the Commission during the general public comment period.

ITEM NO. 5

PROPOSED MONUMENT: MORRIS CHERNUS APARTMENTS

[CHC-2022-7318-HCM](#)

CEQA: ENV-2022-7319-CE

Council District: 10

Plan Area: West Adams – Baldwin Hills - Leimert

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 4344 – 4346 South Garthwaite Avenue;
3207 – 3221 West 43rd Place

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate, Los Angeles City Planning, Preparer.

Commission Vice President Kennard put forth the actions below and moved to include the Morris Chernus Apartments in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

1. Determine that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Determine whether the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAAC Section 22.171.7;
3. Recommend that the City Council consider and declare the subject property a Historic-Cultural Monument; and
4. 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: Kennard
Seconded: Kanner
Ayes: Barron, Milofsky
Absent: Buelna

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 6

PROPOSED MONUMENT: VERBIN RESIDENCE

CHC-2022-6899-HCM

CEQA: ENV-2022-6900-CE

Plan Area: Bel Air – Beverly Crest

Council District: 5 – Yaroslavsky

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1335 North Shadybrook Drive

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Commission Vice President Kennard put forth the actions below and moved to include the Verbin Residence in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

1. Determine that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Determine whether the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAAC Section 22.171.7;
3. Recommend that the City Council consider and declare the subject property a Historic-Cultural Monument; and
4. Adopt the Findings of the staff report as the Findings of the Commission.

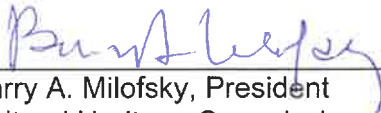
Commissioner Barron seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

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

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

There being no further business to come before the Cultural Heritage Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 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