

Cultural Heritage Commission
Official Minutes
Thursday, February 16, 2023
(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 February 16, 2023 meeting was conducted via telephone and/or videoconferencing.

Commission President Barry Milofsky called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 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; Shannon Ryan, Senior City Planner; Lambert Giessinger, Senior Architect; Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate; Lucy Atwood, Deputy City Attorney; Linda Lou, Interim Commission Office Manager; and Diego Vazquez and Michael Cheatham, 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.

Commission Vice President Kennard 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.

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

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

Vote: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 2

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commission President Milofsky announced that item No. 6 and item no. 7 would be taken out of order; item no. 7 would be taken before item no. 6 as Commissioner Barron had to recuse himself from item no. 6.

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

- The City Council has approved the Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) nomination for 15526 Plummer Street, the historic 1914 home in the North Hills community. It also approved a motion introduced by Councilmember Bob Blumenfield to initiate an HCM nomination for the Disabled American Veterans building at 6543 Corbin Avenue in Woodland Hills. Office of Historic Resources (OHR) staff was directed by the motion to prepare the nomination, which will be coming before the Commission in the coming months.
- The City Council also approved a \$44,000 grant to the Office of Historic Resources from the State Office of Historic Preservation to create a framework and pursue public engagement toward the preparation of our City's first Indigenous Peoples Historic Context Statement.
- A quick update on our Mills Act Historical Property Contract Program and the ongoing program assessment. We had indicated at a Commission meeting in December that we hoped to bring back recommendations on proposed policy changes and ordinance amendments for additional Commission discussion at the CHC's March 2nd meeting. We will be deferring that update, as we continue to brief City Council offices on the key issues since the ordinance amendments will ultimately require City Council action.
- Governor Newsom will end California's declared COVID-19 State of Emergency as of February 28, 2023. The provisions of AB 361 that the Commission invoked at the start of this meeting to continue holding teleconference meetings are directly tied to the continuance of California's State of Emergency. Senator Anthony Portantino has introduced new State legislation that would allow City of Los Angeles appointed boards and commissions to continue meeting via teleconference under the State's Open Meetings law, the Ralph M. Brown Act. But because it will likely take some time for this legislation to be considered, it appears that all boards and commissions subject to the Brown Act will be required to meet in person as of March 1, 2023. So, this is our final CHC meeting that will be conducted exclusively via Zoom.
- At the same time, we hope to build upon all the gains we have seen over the past two and a half years in public participation and the added convenience to the public of enabling virtual participation in our meetings. The Department has therefore been working hard to implement the necessary technology and protocols to hold hybrid meetings, to give members of the public the continued opportunity to participate remotely, even as a quorum of commissioners or board members will again be meeting together in person. This is a particular challenge for our department because we have not only our two citywide Commissions, this Commission and the City Planning Commission, but also our 21 HPOZ Boards and 13 Design Review Boards (DRBs) that meet at disparate facilities such as libraries or community rooms in neighborhoods across the city.
- March 2nd Cultural Heritage Commission meeting will be held in a historic space within City Hall, the Board of Public Works room on the 3rd Floor. While all the commissioners and staff will be present in person, we will have camera equipment set up to make possible continued

public participation via Zoom. We want to thank our IT staff and especially Linda Lou and her team at the Commission office for all the hard work they are doing to set us up for the hybrid meeting format.

- We urge commissioners and the public to be flexible and patient with us as we navigate this transition and address any initial technology glitches – just as it took some adjustment back in the spring of 2020 as we initially pivoted to this Zoom format. We are looking forward to being back together in-person as we reconvene at City Hall at our next meeting.

Old Business

- Commissioner Barron reported that there were a couple of meetings with the OHR staff regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides. The letter was being drafted and he expected that a draft letter would be available at the next Commission meeting.
- Commission President Milofsky said there was a meeting with the OHR staff regarding the Earl Carroll Theatre, and there are still ongoing discussions to resolve a couple of issues that he hopes to report back on at the beginning of March.

New Business

- There was no new business.
- Advance Calendar: Commission President Milofsky announced there would be a special meeting on March 30, 2023, and both scheduled meetings in April will be canceled.
- Commissioner Buelna noted a planned absence for the March 2, 2023 Commission meeting.
- Commission Announcements/Requests – Commissioner Kanner announced that Hollywood Heritage put out a call for volunteer docents at the DeMille Barn.

ITEM NO. 3

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

ITEM NO. 4

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Several speakers addressed the Commission during the general public comment period.

ITEM NO. 5

PROPOSED MONUMENT: JAY RISK STANDARD OIL CO. SERVICE STATION

[CHC-2022-6496-HCM](#)

CEQA: ENV-2022-6497-CE
Plan Area: Northeast Los Angeles

Council District: 14 – de León
**Last Day to Act: 02-18-23
Continued from 12-01-22

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1659 West Colorado Boulevard

IN ATTENDANCE:

Frank Parrello, Eagle Rock Historical Society, Applicants; Steven Luftman, Preparer; Kenneth Hsiang, Owner; James Santa Maria, Santa Maria Group, Owner's Representative; and Gerald Gubatan, Council District 14.

Commissioner Kanner put forth the actions below and moved to include the Jay Risk Standard Oil Co. Service Station 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 an 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: Kanner
Seconded: Barron
Ayes: Buelna, Kennard, Milofsky

Vote: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 7

PROPOSED MONUMENT: TECHNICOLOR MOTION PICTURE CORPORATION

[CHC-2023-420-HCM](#)

CEQA: ENV-2023-421-CE
Plan Area: Hollywood

Council District: 13 – Soto-Martinez
*Last Day to Act: 02-22-23

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6400-6410 West Santa Monica Boulevard; 1015-1045 North Cahuenga Boulevard; 6311 West Romaine Street; 1006-1024 North Cole Avenue

IN ATTENDANCE:

John LoCascio and Christine Lazzaretto, Historic Resources Group, Preparers; David Simon, Romaine Street Owner, LLC, Owner

Commissioner Kanner moved to take the proposed designation of the Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation under consideration, and adopt the Findings of the staff report as the Findings of the Commission with a request that the preparers amend the nomination to include the indigenous history of Hollywood .

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

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

Vote: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

At approximately 11:31 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 – Park
**Last Day to Act: 03-04-23

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sue Kaplan and David Ewing, Preparers

Commission Vice President Kennard put forth the actions below and moved to include the Arthur and Gertrude Sercy Reese Home 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.

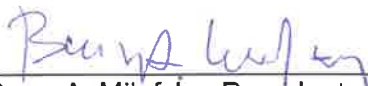
Commissioner Buelna seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

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

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

There being no further business to come before the Cultural Heritage Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.


Barry A. Milofsky, President
Cultural Heritage Commission


Bryan Sanchez, Commission Executive Assistant
Cultural Heritage Commission

ADOPTED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
JAN 04 2024
CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION OFFICE