

Cultural Heritage Commission
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Thursday, October 5, 2023
200 North Spring Street, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

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.

The Cultural Heritage Commission’s October 5, 2023 meeting was conducted in person in Room 1010 at Los Angeles City Hall and via telephone and Zoom webinar in a hybrid meeting format.

Commission President Barry Milofsky called the regular meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. with Commission Vice President Gail Kennard, Commissioner Richard Barron, Commissioner Pilar Buelna, and Commissioner Diane Kanner in attendance.

Also in attendance were Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, representing the Director of Planning; Melissa Jones, City Planner; Rafael Fontes, City Planning Associate; Kimberly Huangfu, Deputy City Attorney; Ari Briski, Commission Office Manager; Jose Perez Lara, Commission Executive Assistant, and Michael Cheatham, Administrative Clerk, and Don Jefferson, Senior Administrative Clerk.

ITEM NO. 1

DIRECTOR’S REPORT AND COMMISSION BUSINESS

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

- First, we wanted to let the Commission know that our office has been coordinating with the LA Department of Building and Safety and Council District 10 staff to follow up on interior modifications to the Cornelius Johnson Residence, the Historic-Cultural Monument home that also hosts the Cornelius Johnson Olympic Oak tree planted after the 1936 Olympics. It appears that work by a new owner of the property may have exceeded the scope of a plumbing permit that had been issued. LADBS has now issued a stop work order for the property and we will be following up with the new owner.
- For City Council and Committee actions. This Tuesday the Council’s Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee unanimously recommended approval of the Historic-Cultural Monument designation of the Cunningham Residence, the 1914 two-story American Foursquare home in Arlington Heights.
- The Committee also considered the nomination for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Birmingham Hospital Chapter 73, located on Corbin Avenue in Woodland Hills. At the request of Third District City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, who had also introduced the original motion to initiate designation of this site, an amending motion was approved limiting the scope of the designation to the clubhouse building.

- Finally, I wanted to note the recent loss of two important figures in the world of Los Angeles historic preservation and architecture. First, we learned of the passing earlier this week of Robert Harris, FAIA at the age of 88. Bob served for more than a decade as the Dean of the USC School of Architecture, where he also long led the Masters of Architecture program. He was a committed proponent of historic preservation and was an active civic leader, co-chairing the Downtown Strategic Plan for the former Community Redevelopment Agency.
- And we were also greatly saddened to learn of the passing last week of Wayne Ratkovich at the age of 82. Wayne was a giant in the annals of Los Angeles historic preservation; he really was the first of LA's preservation-minded developers, teaming with architect Brenda Levin to rehabilitate the Oviatt Building, the Wilvern Theatre, the Fine Arts Building, Chapman Market, and the Hercules Campus at Playa Vista. He was responsible for beginning to change the mindset of the development community locally, paving the way for later adaptive reuse developments. I worked with Wayne for over 30 years and will remember him as both a visionary and a truly decent person -- which is a rare combination in real estate development circles.
- Both Bob and Wayne will be greatly missed.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- There was no new business.

Commission Announcements/Requests

- There were no commission announcements/requests.

ITEM NO. 2

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

ITEM NO. 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ITEM NO. 4

PROPOSED MONUMENT: CORONET THEATRE BUILDING

CHC-2023-3136-HCM
CEQA: ENV-2023-3137-CE

Council District: 05 – Yaroslavsky
Last Day to Act: 10-14-2023

Plan Area: Wilshire

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 362-372-½ N. La Cienega Boulevard

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chloe Dunn, representing the applicant.

MOTION:

Commissioner Kanner moved to put forth the actions below in conjunction with approvals of the following Project, as stated for the record:

1. Determined 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. Determined that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171.7; and
3. Recommended that the City Council consider and declare the subject property a Historic-Cultural Monument.

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

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

Vote: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 5

PROPOSED MONUMENT: 119 N. LARCHMONT BOULEVARD

CHC-2023-6222-HCM

CEQA: ENV-2023-6223-CE

Plan Area: Hollywood

Council District: 13 – Soto-Martinez

Last Day to Act: 10-13-2023

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 117-119-½ N. Larchmont Boulevard

IN ATTENDANCE:

Patty Lombard, representing the applicant.

MOTION:

Commissioner Barron moved to take the proposed designation of 119 N. Larchmont Boulevard under consideration, and adopt the Findings of the staff report as the Findings of the Commission.

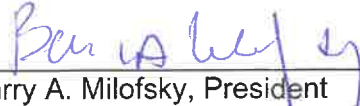
Commissioner Kanner seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

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

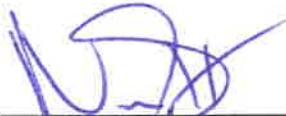
Vote: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

There being no further business before the Commission, President Milofsky adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.



Barry A. Milofsky, President
Cultural Heritage Commission

Jose Perez Lara, Commission Executive Assistant
Cultural Heritage Commission

ADOPTED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

MAY 16 2024

**CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION OFFICE**