

**Rent Stabilization Commission
City of West Hollywood
Thursday, February 27, 2014 @ 7:00 PM
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 North San Vicente Boulevard**

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Maggio called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Maggio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover took roll call.

PRESENT:

Chair Richard Maggio, Vice Chair Agassi Topchian, Commissioner Gail Sanes, Commissioner David Gregoire, and Commissioner Josh Kurpies.

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Services and Rent Stabilization Director Elizabeth Savage, Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager Peter Noonan, Legal Counsel to the Commission Alison Regan, and Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Commissioner Gregoire and seconded by Commissioner Sanes to approve the February 27, 2014 meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Gregoire and seconded by Commissioner Sanes to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2014 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rob Bergstein of West Hollywood spoke to the Commission regarding his role as the liaison between the Rent Stabilization Commission and the Human Services Commission.

DIRECTOR'S/MANAGER'S REPORT:

Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, Elizabeth Savage, reviewed the Director's/Managers Look Ahead calendar. She announced that the March 13th Rent Stabilization Commission meeting has been cancelled and that the next meeting will take place on March 27th. At the March 27th meeting staff will give a presentation entitled "Rent Stabilization: What You Need to Know". Ms. Savage also announced that the Courtyard at La Brea will be having a grand opening event on Saturday March 1st and she encouraged the public to attend.

APPEALS:

A. D-3830

**950 Larrabee St. #307
(MAR)**

Alison Regan, Legal Counsel to the Commission, provided a case summary and analysis of the appeal as provided in the staff report.

Landlord representative James L. Jacobson was in attendance and spoke to the Commission regarding the appeal.

Tenant Brian Palmer was in attendance and spoke to the Commission regarding the appeal.

After a public discussion among the Commission regarding the appeal, a motion was made by Chair Maggio to adopt Resolution 14-451 to affirm the hearing examiner's decision. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Topchian. The motion passed (5-0-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ms. Savage presented the Commission with the final report on the Valuation Guidelines. Ms. Savage addressed some key points of the final report including that the Valuation Guidelines will be updated annually in July and will be based on the Consumer Price Index. She noted that the updated Valuation Guidelines include housing services that had not previously been included and that the practice moving forward will be to add new technologies in building maintenance and housing services as deemed appropriate based on items that come forward in future hearings. Ms. Savage also announced that the Rent Stabilization and Housing Division will work at increasing public education regarding the Valuation Guidelines and the hearing process.

Commissioner Gregoire moved that the Commission receive and file the report. The motion was seconded by Commission Kurpies and approved by the Commission (5-0-0).

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Kurpies, Commissioner Gregoire, and Chair Maggio thanked staff and Commissioner Sanes and Vice Chair Topchian for their work on the Valuation Guidelines.

Commissioner Sanes also thanked staff for their work on updating the Valuation Guidelines.

Commissioner Kurpies announced that Metro is having a public meeting regarding an increase in fares on March 29th and encouraged the public to participate.

Chair Maggio gave a report on his recent visits to the Senior Advisory Board and the Disability Advisory Board to discuss the work of the Rent Stabilization Commission.

Vice Chair Topchian thanked Chair Maggio for his work on behalf of the Rent Stabilization Commission in informing and educating Boards, Commissions, and the public on the work of the Rent Stabilization Commission. He also thanked staff for their work on updating the Valuation Guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Maggio adjourned the Rent Stabilization Commission meeting at 7:46 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Rent Stabilization Commission will be held on March 27, 2014 in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers.

These minutes were taken and submitted by Laura Schoonover, Commission Secretary.

Adopted this 27th day of March, 2014.



Richard Maggio, Chair

ATTEST:



Secretary