

**Rent Stabilization Commission
City of West Hollywood
Thursday, June 12, 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, Project Development Administrator Andi Lovano, and Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Vice Chair Topchian and seconded by Commissioner Sanes to approve the June 12, 2014 meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Chair Maggio and seconded by Commissioner Sanes to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Larry Block of West Hollywood spoke regarding the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and aging in place for West Hollywood residents.

DIRECTOR'S/MANAGER'S REPORT:

Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, Elizabeth Savage, reviewed the Director's/Managers Look Ahead calendar, including an upcoming report regarding aging in place and the annual review of the valuation guidelines.

Ms. Savage also announced, and invited the public to attend, the upcoming groundbreaking event for Movietown Square, on Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Chair Maggio thanked City staff for the LA Pride float and commented on the event.

Commissioner Gregoire thanked West Hollywood resident Larry Block for his comments regarding the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the issue of aging in place.

NEW BUSINESS:

Without objection, the Commission took up item B before item A.

B. Staff provided the Commission with an update on Section 8 as reported to the City Council. The floor was then opened to questions from the Commission and those questions were addressed by staff.

Commissioner Kurpies requested information on what incentives currently exist for landlords to encourage participation in the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program.

Commissioner Kurpies also asked for clarification regarding whether or not Section 8 units are exempt from the Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

Commissioner Kurpies requested that any revisions to the Rent Stabilization Ordinance be provided to the Commission for review.

Chair Maggio asked for clarification regarding supplemental programs to assist low income households.

Vice Chair Topchian requested that staff provide Section 8 program statistics in future reports and he asked about how other jurisdictions are handling the changes to the Section 8 program.

A. As part of the Rent Stabilization Commission's continuing "Things to know" series, Project Development Administrator Andi Lovano gave a presentation on Inclusionary Housing Units. The floor was then opened to questions from the Commission and those questions were addressed by staff.

Chair Maggio requested specific information regarding in-lieu fees.

Vice Chair Topchian asked for information regarding how often In-Lieu fees are reviewed.

Commissioner Gregoire asked for clarification regarding inclusionary housing units that are for rent and affordable housing that is for sale.

Vice Chair Topchian and Commissioner Kurpies made inquiries about “off-site” inclusionary units.

Commissioner Gregoire inquired about the City of Los Angeles’ Inclusionary Housing Program

Commissioner Kurpies inquired about the number of inclusionary housing units that exist within West Hollywood. He also requested additional information about how requests for modifications are reviewed.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:


Commissioner Kurpies expressed his appreciation for the informational reports that the Commission has received and for the educational opportunity that they offer to the residents of West Hollywood.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Maggio adjourned the Rent Stabilization Commission meeting at 7:52 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Rent Stabilization Commission will be held on June 26, 2014 in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers.

These minutes were taken and submitted by Laura Schoonover, Commission Secretary.
Adopted this 26th day of June, 2014.

ATTEST:



Richard Maggio, Chair



Laura Schoonover, Secretary