

**Rent Stabilization Commission
City of West Hollywood
Thursday, July 24, 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 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Sanes 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, Rent Stabilization Information Coordinators Chris Uszler and Anwar Zraikat, Administrative Specialist Jasmine White, and Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Maggio made a motion to approve an amended agenda, with items A and B being moved to the end of New Business. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Topchian.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kurpies and approved unanimously by the Commission to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Larry Block of West Hollywood spoke to the Commission about issues pertaining to aging in place. Mr. Block provided the Commission with written recommendations for allowing tenants to “swap” units when deemed necessary due to a disability or mobility issue.

DIRECTOR’S/MANAGER’S REPORT:

Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager Peter Noonan reviewed the Director’s/Manager’s Look Ahead Calendar. Mr. Noonan also announced the upcoming Annual Congress event

that will be occurring in October. Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization Elizabeth Savage updated the Commission regarding an emergency ordinance that was brought before the City Council on July 21st. The emergency ordinance limits the amount that rent can be increased on a Section 8 unit to the annual general adjustment. City Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Report on Aging in Place: Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager Peter Noonan provided the Commission with an update on planned actions to address the issues associated with aging in place.

Commissioner Gregoire requested clarification on how citizens can participate in this process.

Commissioner Kurpies asked if the City had expert resources that could be relied upon to provide assistance in guiding the City through this process.

B. Annual Review of Valuation Guidelines: Rent Stabilization and Information Coordinator Anwar Zraikat presented the Commission with the annual update to the Valuation Guidelines.

Vice Chair Topchian questioned there being an item with a minimum reduction amount of one dollar. Staff responded with a more detailed explanation.

Commissioner Kurpies asked for clarification regarding the cumulative aspect of the annual calculation.

Chair Gregoire moved that the Commission receive and file the report. Commissioner Kurpies seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Things to Know Education Series:
Administrative Specialist Jasmine White and Rent Stabilization Information Coordinator Chris Uszler made a presentation that provided the Commission with an overview of rules regarding re-registration requirements, leases and rental agreements, and maintenance.

Throughout the presentation the floor was open to questions from Commissioners, and those questions were addressed by staff.

D. Election of Chair:

Commissioner Gregoire nominated Vice Chair Topchian. The nomination was seconded and a roll call vote was taken. Vice Chair Topchian was unanimously named Commission Chair for the 2014 – 2015 session.

E. Election of Vice Chair:

Commissioner Maggio nominated Commissioner Sanes. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Gregoire and a roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Sanes was unanimously named Vice Chair for the 2014 – 2015 session.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Chair Maggio requested that more information be provided to the Commission about hoarding and he suggested that it be a topic for the Things to Know series. He also requested more information, including income limits, for the Inclusionary Housing Program.

Commissioner Gregoire thanked Commissioner Maggio for his service as Chair.

Commissioner Kurpies also thanked Commissioner Maggio for his service and for acting as Commission Liaison.

Vice Chair Sanes thanked staff for the presentations.

Chair Topchian thanked Commissioner Maggio for his service as Chair and asked him to continue acting as Commission Liaison. He also thanked staff for their work.

Commissioner Maggio thanked staff for their work.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Noonan stated that additional information on inclusionary housing, including income limits, could be obtained by visiting the City's website.

Ms. Savage thanked the Commission for their dedication and thoughtful deliberations and she thanked staff for their contributions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Maggio requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Steven Sawyer. There being no further business, Chair Topchian adjourned the Rent Stabilization Commission meeting at 8:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Rent Stabilization Commission will be held on August 14, 2014 in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers.

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

Adopted this 14th day of August, 2014.

ATTEST:



Agassi Topchian, Chair



Laura Schoonover, Secretary