

**Rent Stabilization Commission  
City of West Hollywood  
Thursday, May 26, 2016 @ 7:00 PM  
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers  
625 North San Vicente Boulevard**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Sanes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Kurpies led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover took roll call.

**PRESENT:**

Chair Gail Sanes, Vice Chair Richard Maggio, Commissioner Stephanie Harker, Commissioner Rob Bergstein, Commissioner David Gregoire, Commissioner Alexander Gurfinkel, and Commissioner Josh Kurpies.

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager Peter Noonan, Legal Counsel to the Commissioner Alison Regan, Urban Designer Stephanie Reich, and Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Maggio to approve the agenda for the May 26, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gregoire. The motion was approved (7-0-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gregoire to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Maggio. The motion was approved (7-0-0).

A motion was made by Vice Chair Maggio to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gregoire. The motion was approved (7-0-0).

**DIRECTOR'S/MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager Peter Noonan reviewed the items on the Look Ahead calendar.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Bergstein registered his objection to cancelling meetings when there are no scheduled appeals.

Commissioner Gregoire recommended that meetings may be cancelled when there are no scheduled appeals.

**APPEALS:**

A. D-4074

8255 Norton Ave. #3  
(MAR)

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

Landlord Carolyn David was in attendance and spoke to the Commission regarding the appeal.

Tenant Spencer Seymour was in attendance and spoke to the Commission regarding the appeal.

After the Commission deliberated, a motion was made by Vice Chair Maggio to affirm the hearing examiner's decision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gurfinkel. The motion passed (7-0-0).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Incentives for Multi-Family Historic Buildings: Urban Designer Stephanie Reich and consultants from Page and Turnbull, John Lesak and Flora Chou, provided an overview of proposed incentives for multi-family historic resources and asked the Commission to review and comment on the proposed incentives which are intended to encourage maintenance and rehabilitation of designated cultural resources subject to the Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Cynthia Blatt of West Hollywood spoke about the difference between gifts of public funds and grants. She spoke in more detail about how the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) funds could be utilized for historic preservation.

Victor Omelczenko of West Hollywood spoke on behalf of the West Hollywood Preservation Alliance and encouraged the Commission to include a recommendation to establish a historic apartment preservation program.

Michael Wojtkielewicz of West Hollywood spoke regarding the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) and how these funds could be utilized in preservation and how they have been used in the past, in particular with West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. The Commission is being asked to approve resolution 16-485 for case

D-4078 which was heard by the Commission on April 14, 2016. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Gregoire and seconded by Commissioner Harker. The motion passed (7-0-0).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Victor Omelczenko of West Hollywood spoke regarding median rents in the City of West Hollywood and expressed his concern about the increase in rental amounts over the past year. He also spoke about SB 1818 and AB 2222.

Cynthia Blatt of West Hollywood spoke in more detail about the process for obtaining grants.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Kurpies congratulated Victor Omelczenko on receiving the Senior Award for his many years of service to the community. He also announced that on June 24<sup>th</sup> a Senior Scam Stopper seminar will be held at Plummer Park from 10am to 12pm.

Commissioner Harker announced that she will be absent from the June 9 Rent Stabilization Commission meeting. She also encouraged the public to attend the June 14 RSO Building Blocks seminar entitled “Save Money Avoid Fines: Code Compliance”.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Frank Shanks at 9:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Rent Stabilization Commission will be held on June 9, 2016 in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers.

These minutes were submitted by Laura Schoonover, Commission Secretary and approved by a motion of the Rent Stabilization Commission on this 9th day of June, 2016.

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk’s office upon request. You may also view a video of this meeting at <http://www.weho.org/weho-tv/other-city-meetings>  
*(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the audio recordings are not of commercial quality.)*

ATTEST:

  
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Gail Sanes, Chair

  
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Commission Secretary