

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2011
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Zangrando at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 11, 2011, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Jeff Book.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Bob Shepard,
Anne-Marie Williams, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: Heidi Shink.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Shepard joined the meeting in progress. City staff members present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Craig Rhea, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 13, 2011, and September 20, 2011, meetings were approved on a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT**

Daphne Dennis introduced the staff recommendation that the City issue a request for proposals for substance abuse treatment services. David Giugni discussed the source of the funds, and said the contract period would be January 2012 through September 30, 2012, and eligible to renewal.

Commissioner Cislowski said that in reviewing applications she would lean toward agencies that already provide these kinds of services, instead of an agency that currently provides a different service.

Cathy Reback of Friends Research Institute said substance abuse treatment has many modalities, including harm reduction, outpatient and inpatient treatment, and asked whether the City would be looking for a particular type David Giugni said any of these could apply.

On a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Shepard, the Commission approved the staff recommendation to proceed with a Request for Proposals.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RE-PROGRAMMING SAVINGS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Craig Rhea discussed re-programming savings from social services programs, including the Russian Community Center (RCC). Staff is recommending that \$108,462 in savings be re-programmed with \$32,152 to Jewish Family Service's SOVA Community Food and Resource Program; \$39,310 to Jewish Family Service home-delivered meals program; \$7,000 to the Recreation Division for ESL (English as a Second Language) and Citizenship classes; and \$30,000 for a part-time social worker at the Comprehensive Services Center.

Commissioner Davis asked what the real needs are following the closure of the RCC. Daphne Dennis said most of the Center's participants would likely go to the Comprehensive Services Center in Plummer Park for further services, due to language and cultural competency.

Daphne Dennis said a question had been asked at the last meeting about the preference of the Russian Advisory Board with regard to social services programming. She said their preference is for concrete services, such as helping to understand mail, naturalization and citizenship procedures, community group meetings, and benefits advocacy.

Marina Berkman of the Comprehensive Services Center said it would probably take a couple of months to see the impact on the volume of their clients, from the closure of the Russian Community Center.

Commissioner Shepard asked why the RCC had closed, and Daphne Dennis said it was a variety of reasons, including reasons personal to the executive director as well as consequences of redirection of some Center funding.

Public comment was received from Charles Dinkel, Diane Schneider, and Marina Berkman.

The recommendation for re-programming was approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Williams.

B. SCHEDULING MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

Daphne Dennis said staff is planning to invite agencies to attend upcoming Commission meetings, grouped by subject matter, to provide an overview of current programs and activities.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Williams said she is meeting with Jewish Family Service on Oct. 18. She requested the topic of approaches to homelessness by on an upcoming agenda, with consideration of how to empower residents.

Commissioner Cislowski attended the Book Fair and the opening of the new library, and said the location of the JVS WHEST office may need to have better directional signs.

Commissioner Davis commented on the steepness of the stairs in the new library, and confirmed that the November agenda regularly includes the election of a chair and vice chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Zangrando noted that a community meeting on Plummer Park was being held this evening, at the same time as this meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis said a chart of boards and commissions will be on the next agenda, so commissioners can consider whether to serve as liaisons to these groups.

Congress of Boards and Commissions is on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 8:30 a.m., at the new library.

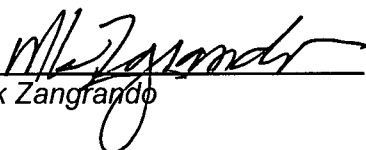
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Signed:



Mark Zangrando

11/13/12
