

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2012
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Zangrando at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jimmy Palmieri.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Jimmy Palmieri, Heidi Shink, Mark Zangrando

Not Present: Bob Shepard, Anne-Marie Williams.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Manager; David Giugni, and Jeff Book. Mayor Jeffrey Prang was present for part of the meeting.

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 Oct. 9, 2012, meeting were amended to reflect that Bob Shepard was present, and approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Shink.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Brian Hardin, who has been executive director of McIntyre House since August 2012, spoke about ADA improvements at the agency, including a new access ramp. They are also considering updating the plumbing. He said they hope to be able to make improvements without displacing residents.

Robert Gamboa, member of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke as liaison from the Board and said there was a golden opportunity to help agencies update their facilities.

Owen Ward spoke on behalf of Sunset Walk-In Health Care, a new facility in town. He introduced Dr. John Foster, who spoke about moving his practice to West Hollywood from a clinic near LAX.

Aaron Ross spoke on behalf of McIntyre House, of which he is a former resident. He now assists with fundraising and programs.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. AGENCY PRESENTATIONS BY BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES, LA GAY AND LESBIAN CENTER LEGAL SERVICES, AND CENTER FOR CIVIC MEDIATION

The Commission welcomed Velinda Mackey and Alla Chasnik from Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Roger Coggan from the LA Gay & Lesbian Center Legal Services, and Octavio Olivas from the Center for Civic Mediation, to discuss social services of a legal nature.

Velinda Mackey said Bet Tzedek has moved – they are now located at 3250 Wilshire Blvd., 13th Floor and parts of 14th Floor. She reviewed the history of the agency, founded in 1974, and their mission of elder rights, community-based lawyering, housing and tenants' rights, and Holocaust survivor services. They provide general outreach and education to more than 30 senior centers, with many of their services provided on a pro bono basis.

Alla Chasnik noted all of their services are available to West Hollywood community members, with no income requirement. The agency does not do family law or personal injury cases.

Roger Coggan said the mission of the Gay and Lesbian Center's legal services division is to help those who need services; they have an evening clinic, a hate-crime component, and a domestic violence project. He said they work with transgender clients; criminal law; bankruptcy referrals; and other topics. He said they are not receiving as much cooperation from the Sheriff's Department as they are from LAPD, and spoke about an ongoing problem with negative treatment from Sheriff's officers, particularly of Latinos in the city.

Octavio Olivas said his agency seeks to resolve conflicts in a consultative and practical way, through voluntary mediation. It is less costly than going to court, and can help repair relationships. They deal frequently with landlord/tenant, neighbor, employer/employee, and business/customer issues. A new aspect they are seeing is mediation in eldercare services.

Commissioner Cislowski commented on Roger Coggan's remarks about disparate treatment of Latinos. Mayor Prang asked for further information to be provided, and said that city officials would be responding promptly to the issues raised.

Commissioner Cislowski asked Octavio Olivas about whether mediation cases

can go on forever, and he said that although there are some lengthy ones, they do close cases when no progress can be made in resolving the issues.

B. CITY COUNCIL ACTION ON PROPOSED CITYLINE IMPROVEMENTS

David Giugni reported that Perri Sloane Goodman has been working on evaluating and updating transportation services, and the new CityLine route was approved by Council on Nov. 5. There will be one route eastbound/westbound; some current stops are being removed; and buses should be happening every 30 minutes, instead of every hour.

Council had a number of ideas with regard to a six-month pilot program for Farmer's Market, and this will be discussed further.

Council also approved discontinuing the 25-cent fare on CityLine, so the service will be at no cost to riders. This should increase ridership.

Commissioner Cislowski said the City should consider having space on the signs marking bus stops for City events to be announced and publicized. She also said parking permit renewal mailings were an opportunity to contact people with information about the bus system.

Commissioner Davis thanked Perri Sloane Goodman for working on this.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. CITY SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Daphne Dennis said Commissioner Palmieri had asked how the City has supported capital improvements at social services agencies. She provided the Commission with a list of these, noting that the larger ones were generally grants or funds that were paid back, while the smaller ones were typically from the General Fund.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about a recent matching grant to Van Ness Recovery House, and said he believes Council may support a similar approach with regard to McIntyre House and other agencies. David Giugni noted Van Ness Recovery House will be providing \$10,000 worth of services to West Hollywood community members; an agreement on scope of services is being developed.

Commissioner Davis asked for assistance for capital improvements to remain on the screen for Commission action.

B. COMMISSION TOURS AT KLEAN AND YOUTH CENTER ON HIGHLAND

Commissioner discussed dates and times for touring the Klean center, and the new Youth Center on Highland, taking care that less than a quorum of the Commission would be present at any particular tour, due to the Brown Act.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for chair. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Cislowski. This was seconded by Commissioner Shink. There were no other nominations. On a motion by Commissioner Shink, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the floor was closed to nominations and Commissioner Cislowski was declared elected.

The floor was opened for nominations for vice chair. Commissioner Cislowski nominated Commissioner Davis. This was seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. There were no other nominations. On a motion by Commissioner Shink, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the floor was closed to nominations and Commissioner Davis was declared elected.

Commissioner Davis expressed the appreciation of the Commission to Commissioner Zangrando, for his service as chair, especially during a period in which there were four new commissioners.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about six homeless youth who have been sleeping in Kings Road Park, and asked for PATH's outreach team to set Kings Road Park as a destination. He said NBC is covering the Tweakers Project, and Wet Lube has increased the number of items they are providing.

Commissioner Cislowski thanked the Commission for electing her as chair.

Commissioner Shink added appreciation to Commissioner Zangrando for his service as chair. The She discussion group is tomorrow, on the topic of lesbian culture.

Commissioner Davis asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former Commissioner Peter Mackler's brother, Richard, who passed away – and in honor of the continuing vitality of democracy, due to the reelection of President Obama on November 6, 2012.

Commissioner Zangrando spoke about the Disability Advisory Board's awards program, the recent orientation meeting of social services agencies, and the meeting of Tribe discussion group last week.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni spoke about the schedule for World AIDS Day (December 1).

Providing information requested by Commissioner Palmieri, David Giugni gave the September list of condom distributions, and noted an increase in testing at The Spot.

Daphne Dennis said there will be a panel discussion on HIV Game Change on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 pm. She also said the WHEST program has added a staff member with the help of a grant from Wells Fargo.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm in memory of Richard Mackler, and in honor of the continuing vitality of democracy, due to the reelection of President Obama.

Signed:


