

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – OCTOBER 8, 2013**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2013, in the City Council Chambers at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember John Duran.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Rob Bergstein, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Anne-Marie Williams.

Not Present: Andrew Oldershaw.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members present included: Daphne Dennis, Social Services Manager; David Giugni, Perri Sloane Goodman, Leslie Isenberg, Corri Planck, Corey Roskin, and Jeff Book. Councilmember John Duran and Council Deputy Michelle Rex were also present.

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.

**INSTALLATION OF NEW COMMISSIONER**

Barbara Meltzer was sworn in as member of the Commission by Councilmember John Duran, who spoke of her background and suitability for the work of the Human Services Commission. Councilmember Duran also spoke about challenges of assisting the homeless, particularly with regard to the area around the Recovery Center and Log Cabin on Robertson Boulevard.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 10, 2013, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, with Commissioner Meltzer abstaining.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UPDATE FROM PATH

Daphne Dennis introduced Anna Topolewski, director of interim housing at PATH (People Assisting the Homeless). She spoke about their three locations in Hollywood, West LA and at 340 N. Madison Ave., Los Angeles. There are about 270 beds, with the agency providing case management and links to services for substance abuse, benefits, employment and other areas. In the last year, about 90 West Hollywood residents have utilized the interim housing services.

Ms. Topolewski responded to questions about various aspects of PATH's programs, including, from Commissioner Palmieri, questions about maintenance issues, lunch service and equipment repairs. She reviewed a different approach to staffing food service, and management of air conditioning systems through improved control of thermostats.

She said she would return to upcoming Commission meetings to respond to further questions and continue to provide updates about PATH.

B. TLC DIAL-A-RIDE ASSISTED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Perri Sloane Goodman said the new door-to-door (rather than curb-to-curb) option will be operational in November, and should be helpful to residents who need assistance in reaching the Dial-a-Ride vehicle, or moving from the vehicle to a doctor's office, for instance. An attendant is being hired, who will be required to be bilingual in Russian and English. The program is considering a set schedule for trips to larger medical facilities.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. IN THE MOMENT

Dave O'Brien said the 28th and final webisode of the "In the Moment" series – an online (inthemoment.tv) effort to encourage choices that are safer -- was released in June. The series content has been viewed more than 500,000 times and will continue to be available. New goals include updating the branding and graphics for the program, providing a better video introduction, and creating a health educators' tool on how to benefit the most from it.

He gave a Prezi presentation on the program and its goals.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

C. RENTAL ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM

Leslie Isenberg said 116 people have been helped by the rental assistance loan program, which has twice been funded with \$25,000, and seen that entire amount allocated both times in only six weeks. Loans are limited to one month's rent, and repayment is invited but not required. More than \$2,900

has been repaid, enabling the agency to assist others. Commissioner Davis said the rapid allocation of the funds indicates the scale of the need in the community, and that City Council should discuss this further.

V. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Daphne Dennis and Corri Planck reported on the Core Values award the City received from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) for the recent Community Study. They also spoke about the State of Oregon's Citizen Jury program, which selected citizens who then wrote descriptions of ballot measures. Commissioners congratulated the City on this award.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bergstein said he and Commissioner Williams attended a HIV Law and Public Policy Project event, held at The Edison in downtown LA. Also, while volunteering with the Sheriff's office, he found a City services guide dating from the era of City Manager Paul Brotzman.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about safer sex kits for Plummer Park, the response to the mayor of Porterville's support for recognizing Pride Month, and the community visioning event being held with regard to the City's property on Laurel Avenue.

Commissioner Cislowski welcomed Commissioners Meltzer and Bergstein and said it was good to have a full Commission again. The full Commission will allow further consideration of who serves as liaisons to advisory boards. She spoke about a dearth of programming for younger children at the Book Fair, which she said was a recurring issue.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the Book Fair, and Gay & Lesbian Center senior programs, and noted that the Commission will elect new officers next month.

Commissioner Williams spoke about the HIV Law and Public Policy event, the Book Fair, and the TEDx conference held recently at Council chambers.

Commissioner Meltzer said she was pleased to be a member of the Commission. She is also an officer of Friends of the Library, and noted that while a used book sale did not occur in the Book Fair festival area, it was ongoing at the Friends of the Library bookstore, which is on the north side of the porte-cochère of the Library/Council Chambers building.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck said October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There will be an event on Oct. 24 featuring a leading physician in breast cancer research and treatment. She said the Disabilities Advisory Board will be presenting awards at its Oct. 23 televised meeting. She spoke about a grant for disabilities-related equipment at the Library.

Perri Sloane Goodman spoke about free shuttles for Halloween and for the Laurel visioning workshop.

Daphne Dennis spoke about the Laurel visioning workshop; the social services agency orientation meeting to be held Oct. 15; the congress of boards and commissions to be held Oct. 14; site visits for commissioners; scheduling agencies to make presentations at upcoming meetings; and about ongoing efforts to educate about the availability of insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

David Giugni's mother, Lennis Giugni, passed away this week, and all present extended their thoughts to David and his family in this regard.

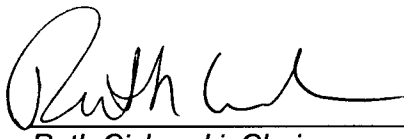
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm, in memory of Lennis Giugni, mother of David Giugni.

*Signed:*

  
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*Ruth Cislowski, Chair*

*May 9, 2015*  
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*Date*