

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2014**  
**FIESTA HALL, PLUMMER PARK**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:04 p.m., Tuesday, November 18, 2014, in Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park. The meeting was held in this location, and one week later than usual, due to the Veterans Day holiday on November 11.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andrew Oldershaw.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Olivia Walker, Recreation Services Manager; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, Perri Sloane Goodman, Derek Murray, Rob Winrader, and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The secretary reported that 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 October 14, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Oldershaw.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about the inclusion of cell towers as part of 7530 Santa Monica Boulevard and 1060 N. Sierra Bonita, and presented a written statement and a copy of a petition with 203 signatures requesting reconsideration. Elizabeth Savage said that staff will review the subject with the City Attorney to determine if it falls within the jurisdiction of the Human Services Commission, and will provide the Commission with further information.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ON FOCUSED PRIORITIES

David Giugni asked the Commission to identify short-, mid-, and long-range priorities among the seven areas they identified as major interests in their recent study session (1. Substance Abuse; 2. Affordable Housing/Homeless Services; 3. Communications/Social Media Outreach; 4. Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence; 5. Age-Friendly City/Aging in Place; 6. Caregiver Support; 7. Psychological Services/Mental Health).

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the seven areas, with staff providing some information on steps that have already been taken on these subjects. Commissioners discussed several ways of identifying priorities, and the timeframe in which they would be addressed. They settled on appointing a committee that would be available to meet with staff during preparation of a report in which staff would address steps already taken, and issues arising in these areas of focus.

The formation of this committee was moved by Commissioner Cislowksi, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved 6 to 1, with Commissioner Bergstein dissenting. After discussion of who would like to serve on the committee, consensus was reached to name a committee of Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, and Ruth Cislowksi, with Andrew Oldershaw as an alternate if any of the committee members were unavailable at a particular time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO SUBSIDIZED TAXI PROGRAM

Perri Sloane Goodman presented proposed changes to the City's two subsidized taxi programs, one of which (Fare Subsidy Program) provides \$28 of taxi fare for \$8, with a cap of \$14 per trip, for persons who are disabled or over the age of 62, and the other of which ("Social Services Taxi Program") provides transportation to medical appointments for residents living with HIV/AIDS.

The proposed modifications would absorb the Social Services Taxi Program into the Fare Subsidy Program, with new cards that do not distinguish between the two; would increase the purchase increment from \$28 to \$50 per month; would raise the per-trip cap from \$14 to \$25; and promote ride quality with a Driver Recognition program.

Commissioner Cislowksi moved to support the staff's report to City Council. This was seconded by Commissioner Bergstein and unanimously approved.

Without objection, Item V-C was advanced on the agenda ahead of Item V-B.

C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE

Olivia Walker provided an overview of current Recreation activities and programs, including adult fitness water aerobics classes, WeStroll (and other We-programs), and youth basketball, including a video of children participating in the youth basketball program recently. She said Recreation is currently working to have programming ready for completion of new Recreation facilities in West Hollywood Park, as well as reviewing park rules and regulation for any updates or improvements. More than 8,000 have used ActiveNet, the City's online registration program, and there is a Facebook page.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about addressing the needs of multiple generations of seniors who do not necessarily share the same interests.

Commissioner Davis asked about providing help to those who can't pay fees for these services. Olivia Walker said Long Beach has a Partners for Parks program that helps with this, but West Hollywood has not adopted that so far.

B. SUPPORT FOR RELOCATION OF THE SPOT

David Giugni said The Spot, a sexual health and testing program of the LA LGBT Center, is moving from its San Vicente location to 8729 Santa Monica Boulevard, near Gym Bar. The new facilities provide four treatment rooms and increased capacity for services.

The LA LGBT Center requested \$65,000 in unallocated funds to assist with the move. Due to the time-sensitive nature, this item was taken directly to City Council. David Giugni said staff will be negotiating an increased scope of services due to the increased contract amount.

Commissioner Davis said he could think of several organizations that would have liked to be given \$65,000 to expand their services, some of which are struggling with current funding. He said he doesn't regard the LA LGBT Center as one of these.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair for 2014-2015.

Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Williams. This was seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. There were no other nominations. On a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, the Advisory Board closed nominations and declared Commissioner Williams elected.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair for 2014-2015.

Commissioner Meltzer nominated Commissioner Bergstein, who conditionally accepted, pending the outcome of Councilmember Jeffrey Prang's election as Assessor, which may necessitate changes in appointed boardmembers.

Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Oldershaw. This was

seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. Commissioner Oldershaw accepted.

The candidates were invited to speak but declined.

On a roll call vote, Commissioner Oldershaw was elected Vice Chair by a vote of 4 to 2, with 1 abstention. The votes were:

Bergstein: Bergstein, Meltzer  
Oldershaw: Cislowski, Davis, Palmieri, Williams  
Abstaining: Oldershaw

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bergstein welcomed the Commission to the East Side of the city. He spoke about site visits, including the Alliance for Housing (Aid for AIDS). With regard to the recent study session, he said it was not what he had hoped for, and he believes there are interpersonal issues among commissioners that should have been addressed at that time. He also noted the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of Howard Jacobs, former Council Deputy and Rent Stabilization Commissioner.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about her remarks to the Women's Advisory Board, and noted the difficulty in defining who is a senior, i.e., whether the definition begins at age 55, 62, 65, etc., with different interests and policies indicated based on definition.

Commissioner Palmieri said he liked the study session; thanked City Council for adding funding to the sober New Year's Eve event; congratulated Commissioner Williams on her election; and thanked Commissioner Davis for service as chair.

Commissioner Williams thanked members for electing her. She said she also attended the Women's Advisory Board, where Silvia Salguero, a former mentee of hers, is now chair. She spoke about a couple who spoke to that board about a safety awareness program, and wondered if this was appropriate for Human Services Commission. She spoke about Taproot Los Angeles, which connects nonprofits to design and technical services. She spoke about Commissioner Davis's service as chair and on the Commission.

Commissioner Cislowski thanked Commissioner Davis for his service as chair.

Commissioner Oldershaw also thanked Commissioner Davis and congratulated Commissioner Williams.

Commissioner Davis thanked Commissioner Bergstein for mentioning Howard Jacobs; he agreed with Commissioner Bergstein in some respects about the study session; and appreciated his fellow commissioners for the work they do on behalf of the City.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni said the HIV prevention providers consortium meets Nov. 20 in Kings Road Park. He discussed World AIDS Day on December 1, and presentation of the Warrior Award, with Commissioner Oldershaw as this year's honoree from APLA. He

noted there had been many changes during the year, including the retirement of Daphne Dennis, said it had been a pleasure to work with Commissioner Davis as chair, and that staff is looking forward to working with the new chair and vice chair.

Elizabeth Savage said she attended the Golden Age of Broadway event presented by the Friends of the Library, and the 'Project Nunway' event by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. She thanked Steven Davis for his service as chair. She said the installation of Councilmember Prang as Los Angeles County Assessor is expected at 4 pm on Monday, Dec. 1, at the Hall of Administration downtown.

Staff asked that in addition to Howard Jacobs, the meeting be adjourned in memory of John Spencer Letts, father of the City's iTennis operator, John Letts, and in recognition of the passing of Lilly, Jimmy Palmieri's friend and dog.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Heidi Shink, former Human Services Commissioner, recalled Commissioner Davis telling her that the Human Services Commission was the heart of what the City is about. She said it was good to see Commissioners Williams and Oldershaw in leadership positions.

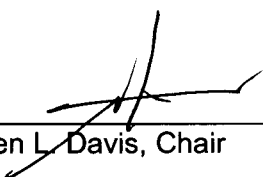
Robert Gamboa, liaison from Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, congratulated the new chair and vice chair and thanked Commissioner Davis. He said LGAB is in planning for the next year. He also spoke about the sober New Year's Eve event.

Larry Block congratulated Commissioners Williams and Oldershaw.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm in memory of Howard Jacobs and John Spencer Letts, and in recognition of the passing of Lilly.

Signed:

  
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Steven L. Davis, Chair

5-9-15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date