

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 1999**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:52 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Advisory Member Vice-Chair Von Douris led the Pledge.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Advisory Members Stredicke, Cislowski, Pavich, Vice-Chair Von Douris and Chair Hallenberg.

ALSO PRESENT: Co-liaisons Reynolds, Springer, Jacobs, Deputy Clerk Gillig and Acting Deputy Clerk Moreno.

ABSENT: Advisory Members Weltman, Aizenman.

Advisory Member Semonco arrived after roll call at 6:07 P.M.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
ACTION: Approve the Minutes of Wednesday, October 14, 1998, Minutes of Wednesday, November 11, 1998 and the Minutes of Wednesday, December 9, 1998. Motion by Advisory Vice-Chair Von Douris, seconded by Advisory Member Cislowski and unanimously carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Chair Hallenberg pulled Item 8.B out of order and placed it as the first item of business after approval of minutes. Chair Hallenberg asked for a motion to place the item on the floor for discussion, as Vice-Chair Von Douris would be departing the meeting early.

ANGIE BECKETT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, OPPOSES Resolution No. DAB 99-002. She presented alternative solutions for uprooting the ficus trees as adopted by the City of Pasadena.

GRACIELLA IPARRAGUIRRE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, OPPOSES Resolution No. DAB 99-002.

NORMAN CHRAMOFF, WEST HOLLYWOOD, SUPPORTS Resolution No. DAB 99-002 for uprooting if disabled persons would have better access.

THOMAS JONES, WEST HOLLYWOOD, Santa Monica Boulevard Steering Committee Member, makes point that another issue of the ficus trees is the size to which the trunks grow, which makes access more difficult for the disabled.

EFFIE REUVENI, WEST HOLLYWOOD, OPPOSES Resolution No. DAB 99-002.

CHRIS PATROUCH, WEST HOLLYWOOD, Project Area Committee Member, OPPOSES Resolution No. DAB 99-002.

STEVE ROSE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, Project Area Committee Member, SUPPORTS of Resolution No. DAB 99-002.

6. STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Co-liaison Reynolds announced that John Lucero left City Hall to go back to law school and that Deputy Clerk Gillig and Acting Deputy Clerk Moreno will be representing staff on the Disabilities Advisory Board until a permanent replacement is in place.

Co-liaison Springer announced that the Board received an honorable mention from the National Organization on Disabilities. The certificate will be presented at an upcoming City Council Meeting. She stated that Co-liaison Jacobs will be receiving a Commendation at the January 19, 1999 City Council Meeting for his service on the Disabilities Advisory Board. Consultants will be attending the February meeting to discuss the City's efforts with regard to ADA issues. Also Bet Tzedek would like to make a presentation on legal services available to West Hollywood residents.

Co-liaison Jacobs announced tennis instruction is now available at Plummer Park for persons in wheelchairs. Also, the West Hollywood Park Pool has been reserved at specific dates and times for disabled persons. This will be reviewed by staff in the spring to see if persons with disabilities have taken advantage of the pool availability. Jacobs also stated that Councilmember Prang wrote an article to West

Hollywood Independent regarding the ficus trees, and finally that President Clinton made new recommendations to improve economic conditions of the ADA.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. RECENT CHANGES IN RENT STABILIZATION.

This item was tabled to the February 10, 1999 meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. KINGS ROAD PARK / SENIOR / TEEN CENTER.

Sam Baxter, Landscape and Building Manager for the City of West Hollywood, gave an overview of the Kings Road Park Project and answered questions.

B. FICUS TREES & DISABILITY ACCESS ISSUES WITH REGARDS TO THE REFURBISHMENT OF SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD.

Member Cislowski inquired as to whether the Pasadena Plan for dealing with the ficus trees had been reviewed. Hassan Haghani, Associate Planner for the City of West Hollywood, stated he had just received the plan and that it was being sent out to the City's consultants for a recommendation to be submitted with public comment.

Member Stredicke voiced concern that the Board is not in the business of deciding which tree is better, but to advocate for people with disabilities. Staff should be able to review the City of Pasadena's information and make a recommendation.

Member Semonco voiced concern on what would be done with the trees after removal. Would they be recycled or transplanted? David Gardner, Landscape and Maintenance Supervisor for the City of West Hollywood, stated that nothing has been decided at this point, but different options are being reviewed.

Member Pavich stated that after briefly reviewing the information submitted by Ms. Beckett, there is, in addition the issue of accessibility for disabled persons, also the consideration of the cost to maintain the ficus trees.

Member Von Douris voiced concern that with the removal of the trees, there would be the loss of photosynthesis, air quality and ecology. With the grant received by the City and Ms. Beckett, and the availability of federal funds, the city should be able to be box up the trees and send them to the forests. Then there could be fundraisers, as there are for AIDS and pets. He also stated that there should have been a sub-committee set up to look at this issue more closely.

Member Hallenberg clarified Rev. Von Douris' position that it is acceptable to remove the trees, so long as the trees are replanted elsewhere. He then stated the trees are a hazard, since he himself has tripped several times on the sidewalk due to the roots of the ficus.

ACTION: 1) Adopted Resolution No. DAB 99-002, " A RESOLUTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD SUPPORTING THE REMOVAL OF FICUS TREES ON SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD;" 2) Forwarded copies of this Resolution to the City Council of the City of West Hollywood.

Move to adopt Resolution No. DAB 99-002. Motioned by Member Pavich and seconded by Member Cislowski.

Approved on a Roll Call vote:

AYES: Members: Cislowski, Pavich, Stredicke and Chair Hallenberg.

NOES: Members: Von Douris.

ABSTAIN: Members: Semonco.

ABSENT: Members: Weltman, Aizenman.

Vice-Chair Von Douris excused himself from the meeting at this time, due to a prior engagement.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

10. DISABILITIES ADVISORY MEMBER COMMENTS:

A. SUMMARY OF COMMISSION/ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS' MEETING.

No reportable actions were taken, since the Chairs Meeting did not take place for the month of December, 1998.

B. GENERAL COMMENTS REGARDING DISABILITY ISSUES.

Co-liaison Jacobs stated Councilmember Prang has nominated John D'Amico to the Disabilities Advisory Board, which will be voted on at the January 19, 1999 Council Meeting.

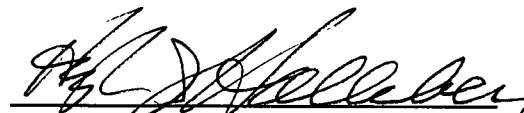
Chair Hallenberg voiced concern over the inaccessibility for disabled persons at the December 1998 annual Commissioners and Board Members recognition event held at the Formosa Café.

Ruth Cislowski suggested getting in contact with "Radio Reading" which is used at the Rose Parade which provides audio details of the event for people with impaired vision. Being as West Hollywood has parades and events, it would be beneficial for our City to use.

Chair Hallenberg announced that he will be resigning from the Disabilities Advisory Board at this year's May meeting.

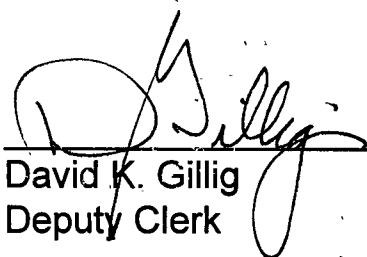
11. ADJOURNMENT: The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:17 P.M. to their next regular meeting to be held on **Wednesday, February 10, 1999.**

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
THIS 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1999.



Hugh Hallenberg
Chair

ATTEST:



David K. Gillig
Deputy Clerk