

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
February 4, 2004**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Cherner called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

2. SWEARING OF NEW MEMBERS:

Mayor Jeffrey Prang conducted the swearing-in of new DAB members.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Phyllis Coto, Bryan Dahlgren, Yola Dore, and Ann Semonco

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich and Joel Ring

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaisons Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda of February 4, 2004 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 10, 2003 meeting were approved with corrections.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no staff announcements.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on previous resolutions passed by the DAB: The eight resolutions compiled by Ms. Isenberg were reviewed as background for the two-year workplan. Other items which were discussed extensively included:

- 1) Real-time Captioning – The City Council may consider real-time captioning on a monthly pilot program basis for six months, as it is cost-prohibitive for every meeting.
- 2) Joint Meeting with the Human Services Commission – The HSC has been very busy lately. They will discuss ways to improve communication with the DAB, including the possibility of a DAB liaison to the HSC.
- 3) Access America Award – The nomination of The City of West Hollywood for the Access America Award fell through the cracks due to staffing changes in the Mayor's office. Last year's deadline was missed, but Ms. Isenberg will stay on top of it for this year.
- 4) Rental Apartments – The DAB has discussed changes to the rental application forms so that more information can be included to detail the extent of accessibility available in rental units. Staff is working with Rent Stabilization and Housing Department on this issue.
- 5) Disability Awards – Clarification was made in regard to the award to Pavilions. Due to the strike, the manager was unable to attend the October DAB meeting to accept the award, so it was sent to them.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Two-Year Workplan

Beginning with the new DAB members, each person shared their ideas for the two-year workplan.

- Ms. Coto would like to open West Hollywood Park to persons with disabilities, including self-advocacy groups. She'd also like to hold a Disability Expo, set up a Friendship Line and Info Line, have a women's and men's rap group, and address issues of traffic and safety.
- Mr. Chinich placed a priority on safety, especially to investigate the current laws regarding bicyclists on sidewalks. He would also like to see all City services expanded, including vocational training.

- Mr. Dahlgren concurred with the safety issue around bicyclists and skateboarders on sidewalks. He would also like to investigate services for children with disabilities.
- Ms. Chodash advocated for Braille bus schedules on bus benches. She also would like to have beepers for traffic signals.
- Ms. Dore agreed with importance of dealing with bicycles on sidewalks. She also suggested providing visibility flags for people in motorized wheelchairs, perhaps sponsored by local stores. Her top priority is healthcare, followed by an interest in addressing issues of all disabilities, including hidden ones, to inform the public, and thirdly, to list the agenda topics with DAB meeting notices in the City calendar.
- Chairperson Cherner began by raising dissatisfaction with the response that's been received to the outdoor dining concerns. He also addressed the following: real-time captioning ultimately at all Board meetings, as well as Council meetings; wanting input on the RFP process; exploring the possibility of permanent DAB subcommittees; discussing the future of the DAB awards and the televised October meeting; designating liaisons to the Boards, Commissions and Council; overseeing Social Service agencies with presentations at DAB meetings; discussing transportation issues; discussing the Board's budget; receiving updates of DAB resolutions on a quarterly or semi-annual basis; taking an in-depth look at food service; running PSA's throughout the year on cable TV; having an open forum for the disabled to voice concerns; discussing housing issues; and following up on resolutions.
- Vice-Chair Semonco wants to make existing transportation options more palatable and wants to make existing housing more accessible.

Chairperson Cherner proposed that Ms. Isenberg make a list of the proposals from the DAB. She offered to categorize them into the workplan objectives.

Mr. Chinich suggested that the agendas and overlapping objectives be investigated for the liaisons. He also asked if the permanent subcommittees are a violation of the Brown Act. It was clarified that they are not a violation.

Chairperson Cherner made a motion that he be delegated as temporary liaison to the Human Services Commission for their next meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

11. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Dore suggested that in conjunction with the Book Fair, a voter registration campaign be implemented with the slogan "Disabled but Able to Vote Day". Chairperson Cherner suggested that voter registration forms be made available at every meeting.

Because the next meeting falls on Ash Wednesday, a vote was taken to decide if a new meeting date be scheduled. The vote passed with 5 Ayes and 2 Nays. Ms. Isenberg will investigate possible dates for the next meeting. It was suggested that at the next meeting, a staff representative from Public Safety speak about non-pedestrian use of sidewalks. Ms. Dore suggested that if a Sheriff attends, he or she could address more issues. Ms. Chodash would like to have women's safety issues addressed, i.e., purse-snatching, and Chairperson Cherner said that the DAB should bear in mind that the Board represents the community as a whole.

Ms. Semonco reported that she was recently appointed to the Westside Central Governance Council for the MTA which will plan public community meetings.

Ms. Dore reported that the Senior Advisory Board has been having many meetings with similar concerns of housing and health care and would like to work with the DAB on these issues. She announced that the Grove will host free live entertainment on Feb. 21 & 22. She also announced that the City is holding a Mardi Gras celebration at Rage on Feb. 24.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that he belongs to TOPS (Team of Elder Persons Services) and MAPS (Marketing and Admissions Professionals for Seniors) which deal with similar issues as those with disabilities.

Chairperson Cherner reminded the DAB that Tuesday, March 2 is election primary day.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:53 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Community Conference Room of City Hall. Date to be determined.

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/Disabilities Advisory Board/minutes-020404