

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 9, 1997**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** There was no pledge.
3. **ROLL CALL:**
 - PRESENT: Advisory Councilmembers Gradinger, Harrison, Kelley, Siegel, Von Douris, Vice-Chair Komac, and Chair Enokian.
 - ALSO PRESENT: Co-Liaison Reynolds, Disabilities Specialist Stone and Deputy Clerk Lucero.
 - ABSENT: Advisory Councilmember Aizenman.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - RECOMMENDATION: Approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 12, 1997. Motion Von Douris, seconded by Komac.
5. **CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None.
6. **STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

A. CITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL RELATIVE TO CURB CUTS:

(Rich Ryan, Deputy to Councilmember Steve Martin)

Deputy Ryan explained why the curb cuts item was tabled by the City Council at the March 17, 1997 Council meeting.

He elaborated that it was inappropriate to have the item appear on the Council's consent calendar due to the large potential fiscal impact (approximately \$400,000). Also, he explained that the item came before the Council at an inopportune time, during the City's budget process.

Ryan explained that the issue will be discussed during the upcoming budget study sessions. He also stated that the City is in the process of negotiating for control of Santa Monica Boulevard within the next

year. If the City gains control over the Boulevard, the curb cuts may be more easily implemented.

Harrison asked if there is a study in existence which determined the total number of necessary curb cuts.

Komac stated the approximate number of curb cuts currently on Santa Monica Boulevard.

B. CENTURY CABLE TELEVISION
(Helen Goss, Public Information Officer/CATV Manager)

Helen Goss explained that the City is in the process of potentially renewing Century's franchise agreement for another fifteen years. She also outlined the City's history with Century Cable, recent legislation and court rulings regarding the relationship between local governments and the cable industry, and the process by which franchise agreement renewal takes place.

Ms. Goss also explained that the City has hired a national consultant, KFA Services, to analyze the cable issue.

Komac feels that the rates paid by seniors and the disabled are not fair. She also asked if engaging a competing cable company is a possibility.

Ms. Goss explained that Pacific Bell is entering the market but has no intention of granting a discount to seniors or low income residents.

Siegel inquired if the City can lobby Congress to alter cable regulations.

Ms. Goss suggested calling the cable complaint line which appears on each cable bill.

Siegel and Komac expressed an interest in being appointed to the Cable Task Force.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. AUDIBLE CROSSWALK - SANTA MONICA & LA CIENEGA
(Peter Wolff, Associate Transportation Engineer)

This item was tabled due to the absence of Advisory Councilmember Aizenman

Enokian mentioned that there is an experimental crosswalk device operating on Sunset Boulevard.

**B. ADA COMPLIANCE - WRITTEN CONCERNS FROM
DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCILMEMBERS:**

Harrison mentioned that much new construction throughout West Hollywood lacks accessibility for the disabled.

Von Douris mentioned that 24 Hour Health & Fitness is undergoing extensive renovations and he is concerned that there will not be adequate access for the disabled because there is no elevator.

Harrison expressed that accessibility is generally hampered throughout the City because many buildings have one or two steps at the entryway.

Kelley inquired on the process by which the City may deny these projects building permits.

C. HOUSING ISSUES - SENSITIVITIES TO THE DISABLED
(Rev. John Von Douris, DAC Member)

Von Douris is suggesting a specialist in the Rent Stabilization Department to specifically address housing issues for the disabled.

Enokian stated that these housing issues do not constitute discrimination specifically to the disabled.

Siegel feels that it is unrealistic to hire a staff member to just address this particular issue.

Von Douris stated that an existing staff member in Rent Stabilization can take on this issue.

Motion Siegel to modify the second recommendation that the Rent Stabilization Department (or other appropriate City department) appoint staff to focus on housing issues for the disabled or that a focal point be established to have the issue addressed by an existing staff person and table this item until these modifications have been made, seconded by Komac.

8. NEW BUSINESS: None.

**9. DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCILMEMBER
COMMENTS/STAFF COMMENTS:**

Monica Stone stated that ADA information will be compiled in a brochure to be distributed throughout the City.

Kathryn Reynolds announced that the Public Forum on Disabilities will be held on July 20, 1997 at West Hollywood Park Auditorium from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. The speaker will be Mark Bernard from Fire Station No. 8 on disaster preparedness.

Ms. Reynolds presented a draft of a flyer advertising the forum which will be distributed throughout the City. Also, Helen Goss and the Human Services Department will be asked to help further publicize the event.

Kelley suggested a speaker from Access Services to address the forum.

Von Douris announced a Sheriff's Station Open House & Earthquake Preparedness Fair on April 19th.

Monica Stone announced that she has free tickets to the Disabilities Expo to be held in Anaheim on May 30th.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT AGENDA:

By consensus, the following items will appear on the agenda of the May DAC meeting:

AUDIBLE CROSSWALK - SANTA MONICA & LA CIENEGA

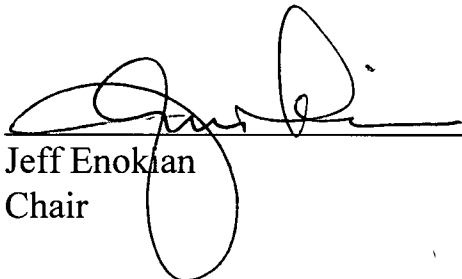
(Peter Wolff, Associate Transportation Engineer)

**ACCESS TO THE DISABLED - NIGHTCLUBS & NEW
CONSTRUCTION**

(Brent Mullins, Code Compliance Manager)


**COMMENDATION FOR FORMER COUNCILMEMBER ABBE LAND
AND FORMER DEPUTY DEANNA STEVENSON.**

- 11. ADJOURNMENT:** The Disabilities Advisory Council adjourned at 7:20 P.M. to their next regular meeting to be held on **Wednesday, May 14, 1997** at 6:00 P.M. in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.



Jeff Enokian
Chair

ATTEST:



John Lucero
Recording Secretary