

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
May 23, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Suzanne Dietrich called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Alan Bernstein, Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Joel Ring, Steven Sawyer, and Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda for May 23, 2007 was approved with the amendment to move items 9.A. and 8.A. before item 7.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for April 25, 2007 were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Terri Slimmer announced tomorrow's MTA hearing re the proposed fare increases, something that the City opposes. It will be held at the MTA Gateway Building Hearing Room at 9 a.m. Each person is given 60 seconds to speak.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Green Building Program

Rachel Heiligman, Associate Planner, made a presentation about the development of an environmentally-conscious building program for the City. The first phase, which involves public buildings, was approved in April 2006. A new section of the Zoning Ordinance was created to identify all of the City's green building standards. Phase 2, involving private buildings, will be presented to the City Council on June 18th. Rachel announced the establishment next month of a Green Building Resource Center on the 2nd Floor of City Hall.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Non-Signalized Crosswalks

Terri Slimmer, Transportation Manager, made a presentation about non-signalized crosswalks in the City. She began by saying that every crosswalk, marked or unmarked, is a legal place to cross the street. She added that crosswalks channel pedestrians, but don't ensure one's safety. She emphasized the need for pedestrians always to cross traffic lanes cautiously.

Public Comment:

Phillip Gilberite reported that he had been hit by a car two years ago while crossing Sunset Boulevard and that he has suffered a great deal as a result of his injuries. He suggested that the City work with the DMV to educate drivers about pedestrian safety.

Terri Slimmer noted that the DMV is a state office that provides information about pedestrian safety. The DMV also includes questions about pedestrian safety on its drivers' license tests. The Transportation Division is working on a crosswalk policy review and Terri offered to present this at a future DAB meeting.

A motion by Rick Watts to request the City to install more pedestrian-controlled signalized crosswalks was withdrawn and tabled for a future meeting.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Craig Rhea made a number of announcements:

A) Emergency plans for tenants in older buildings. A representative from the Fire Dept. will make a presentation at the June 27th DAB meeting about this issue.

B) There will be a Memorial Day Commemoration on Sat., May 26 from 11am to 3pm at West Hollywood Park.

C) The Senior Health Fair held last week was a huge success. Thanks to Suzanne Dietrich and Rick Watts for staffing the DAB booth.

D) Christopher Street West/Gay Pride Festival will be held at West Hollywood Park next month. If any DAB members are interested in riding on the City float in the parade on Sun., June 10th, they should contact Craig Rhea. DAB members are invited to view the parade at City Hall.

E) Daphne Dennis and Craig Rhea will meet with appropriate staff members after CSW to follow up on the motions that the DAB approved at its April meeting regarding (1) vegetation and sidewalk accessibility; and (2) creating incentives for landlords of older buildings to install amenities that will improve the quality of life for persons living with disabilities in their buildings. The DAB will be kept apprised of any developments.

F) Jeff Huffer of the Economic Development Division will update the DAB in the fall about the progress of the new library to which the DAB allocated the \$20,000 award from the National Organization on Disabilities.

G) Mr. Rhea distributed free coupons for the Abilities Expo (June 15-17) and a flyer about a Housing Rights Workshop on Thurs., May 31st at Plummer Park.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Terri Slimmer announced that the Transportation Division is working on an ordinance regarding bicycles and sidewalk accessibility. The Transportation Commission will hold a public hearing on this issue, probably in July or August. Terri will be sending the policy recommendation to the DAB for its comments.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Tom Pavich attended the Human Services Commission meeting where the criteria for Urgent Needs funding eligibility were finalized. There was also an announcement that the City will be offering scholarships to high school students who are residents. Thirdly, there is a new crystal meth/HIV prevention social marketing campaign that is being launched for CSW. For more information, people can check out www.weholife.org. Tom noted that the DAB will be revisiting the Disability Service Awards nomination form and procedures at its June meeting.

Alan Bernstein said that the Business License Commission continues not to meet, but has a meeting scheduled next week.

Suzanne Dietrich attended the Eastside PAC meeting last night where various development projects were discussed. Earlier in the day the Senior Advisory Board held its annual televised meeting and introduced the latest issue of Senior Moments, a magazine written by seniors. Suzanne reported that a depression screening was held yesterday at Jewish Family Services. Partners Adult Day Health Care has a new director, Summer Nudel; Suzanne would like staff to invite Summer to attend a future DAB meeting. The City's Historic Preservation celebration will be held on May 30th at 6pm at the Sunset Tower Hotel.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dietrich adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room of City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA.