

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
June 11, 2003**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Ann Semonco called the Meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Michael Arrigo.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Michael Arrigo, Norman Cherner, Suzanne Dietrich, Yola Dore, Ann Semonco, and Joel Ring.

EXCUSED: Ed Ahern

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff Liaisons Daphne Dennis and Kim Patterson
Fran Solomon, Deputy to Councilmember John Heilman and
Nancy Beard, Recreation Manager

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda of June 11 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the May 14, 2003 meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debra Chodash expressed her interest in serving on the DAB.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Disability Awareness Month: The Disability Advisory Board discussed plans for the observance of Disability Awareness Month, October, 2003. Fran Solomon and Nancy Beard provided information and suggestions. The following issues and ideas were discussed.

- (1) The Board agreed that the DAB Awards should continue and requested that the date of the meeting be changed to Wednesday, October 22 so that it is later in the month. (Staff has confirmed that date is available for an event in West Hollywood Park Auditorium to be televised). Members indicated a preference for integrating the City Council's recognition of the awardees into the DAB presentations so that they do not happen twice. An interest was expressed to be able to recognize City employees in some way since they are not eligible to receive the DAB awards. Staff indicated that the DAB could present its own commendations, if desired.
- (2) The content of the proposed meeting and Awards event was discussed. Members expressed an interest in including entertainment and public information about disability issues and services. Ms. Dore suggested that a "name" entertainer who is a person with a disability would increase the visibility of the event. The DAB. Members discussed whether such an entertainer could be secured and the pros and cons of relying on that as the focus of the event.
- (3) Mr. Cherner expressed interest in growing the "awareness" part of Disability Awareness month activities. He suggested that DAB members be scheduled into schools, community meetings, Boards and Commissions in the month of October. The group discussed the possibility of making PSA's which could air on the City's TV channel. (Staff has inquired if this would be possible to do, and Public Information has agreed) Mr. Arrigo expressed his interest in working with the DAB to assist in this project.
- (4) Interest was expressed in continuing to participate in National Disability Mentoring Day, though not discussed in any specific way.
- (5) Members suggested that discussion of plans for October be on the agenda for each DAB meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Liaison to the Sister City Committee: Norman Cherner and Suzanne Dietrich will serve as liaison to the Sister City committee.

B. Mid-year Report on Social Services Programs: Daphne Dennis reported that the mid-year report on Social Services contract agencies which is presented to the Human Services Commission and the City Council is included on the DAB agenda so that members can begin to get a sense of which agencies it would like to invite to make presentations to the Board. Members pointed out that part of the report was missing from their packets, so this agenda item was tabled.

9. DISABILITY RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Semonco reported that she attended the annual “Abilities Expo” which was again disappointing because it is overly commercial. The Board suggested preparing a letter to send to the sponsors expressing dissatisfaction with the offerings.

Ms. Dore suggested that organizations outside of West Hollywood be invited to the DAB events in October and requested that the Awards event be simultaneous captioned.

Mr. Arrigo announced that he is very interested in continuing to participate in the various activities of the DAB—especially those in October—despite the fact that he will not be a member of the Board.

10. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Dennis encouraged the DAB to read the new Vision 2020 publication that highlights the City’s plans for the future, and thanked the DAB for their participation in its development. She also announced the upcoming Christopher Street West Gay Pride Festival on June 21-22.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debra Chodash suggested the names of several entertainers who might be appropriate for the Awards event.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Semonco adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting to the next meeting on **Wednesday, July 9, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center at Plummer Park.**

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/dab/minutes-0603

Ann D Semonco