

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2000
5:30 P.M.
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Pavich called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Boardmember Weltman led the Pledge.

2. **ROLL CALL:**
PRESENT: Board Members Aizenman, Arrigo, Dietrich, Pavich, and Weltman. Boardmember Weber arrived at 5:45 PM. Boardmembers Margolis and Semonco arrived at 5:55 P.M.
ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaison Jacobs, and Administrative Staff Assistant Bursztin.
ABSENT: None.

Mayor Prang gave the Oath of Office to new Disabilities Advisory Boardmember Joel Ring.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
Staff Liaison Jacobs requested to table Item 9.A. to the Agenda of the next meeting on July 12, 2000 and remove Items 8.C. and 9.B. from the June 14, 2000 Agenda.

Staff Liaison Jacobs requested to add Urgency Item under New Business as Item 9.B., Letter to Governor Davis Opposing His Attempts to Dismantle Portions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

ACTION: Add Urgency Item to the June 14, 2000 Agenda as Item 9.B. **Motion Boardmember Weltman, seconded by Boardmember Arrigo and unanimously carried.**

ACTION: Approve the amended Agenda of Wednesday, June 14, 2000 as amended. **Motion Boardmember Weltman, seconded by Boardmember Ring and unanimously carried.**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: Approve the Minutes of Wednesday, May 10, 2000. **Motion Boardmember Weltman, seconded by Boardmember Arrigo and unanimously carried.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

ALAN WEBER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about door handles, arthritis and ongoing problems with handicapped parking.

7. STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Staff Liaison Jacobs introduced Jewish Family Services Disability Specialist Bob Morrissey, who was filling in for Ellona Nomberg. He also distributed a list of web sites dedicated to disabilities available on the Internet and provided an update on the pilot project involving door handle replacement on the door leading into the Women's Restroom. He also stated that this handle was better than the one selected and was located at the restroom directly outside the meeting site and encouraged all members to try the handle. Staff Liaison Jacobs also announced that the West Hollywood Park Pool was open for use and noted the improved ramps for those with mobility issues.

A. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Sub-Committee – Sub-Committee Member Weltman provided an update on the prescription drug coverage through Medicare. He mentioned the maximum of \$5,000 per year and the monthly premium of \$26.00 and felt that this was inadequate but, a step in the right direction as a beginning.

Staff Liaison Jacobs mentioned that there is more than one proposal being considered.

Boardmember Weber spoke in support of the concept.

Boardmember Arrigo spoke about assistance with the financial costs of prescription drugs through the Medicare Program.

ACTION: The Disabilities Advisory Board to recommend to the City Council a resolution in support of prescription drug

coverage in the Medicare Program. **By Consensus of the Advisory Board.**

Sub-Committee Member Weltman discussed a Hotel owned by Clint Eastwood in Santa Barbara that is in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). He discussed a proposed ninety-(90) day period before someone could potentially sue a facility that violates ADA and that disability groups are opposed to this.

Boardmember Azizenman spoke in opposition of the ninety-(90) day period.

Boardmember Weber stated that there wasn't enough information presented on this issue for him to make a decision as to what action should be taken.

Boardmember Margolis provided additional background information about the ninety-(90) day grace period.

Sub-Committee Member Weltman stated that a resolution in opposition to the ninety-(90) day grace period should be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General – Janet Reno.

ACTION: The Disability Advisory Board to recommend that the City Council go on record with a Resolution in opposition of the waiting and cure period of ninety-(90) days before an individual could sue when there is a violation of ADA and that a copy of this Resolution should be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General – Janet Reno. **Motion Boardmember Weber, seconded by Boardmember Joel and carried noting the ABSENTION of Boardmember Arrigo.**

Chair Pavich read the draft letter to City Manager Paul Arevalo requesting leadership in raising awareness of the needs of people with disabilities. He also stated that the purpose of this letter was a broader issue and not specifically to address the Pacific Design Center (PDC). He stated that the intention of this letter was to start dialogue so when the City makes a decision on a facility to hold their events disability issues would

be considered. He stated that he saw this step as the beginning of an education process for the City. He stated that the City Manager mentioned to him that the PDC is about to begin major renovations and improvements and that those in charge of the facility would like to meet with the DAB to ensure compliance.

Boardmember Weltman spoke about the Pacific Design Center not being in compliance with ADA, which violates Federal Law. He also suggested a survey of the City and list what facilities are in violation of ADA.

Boardmember Margolis stated that he felt the letter was too extreme in tone. He also stated that he felt that an invitation should be extended to the new City Manager to attend the next DAB Meeting.

Staff Liaison Jacobs provided background information on the drafting of the letter and that it's intent was two fold; 1) awareness of those with mobility issues and, 2) to provided leadership on the needs of those with disabilities. He also reminded the Advisory Board that the Federal Government has jurisdiction to impose the ADA Laws and not the City. In addition, he stated that the public facilities are being checked to make sure that they are in compliance with ADA.

Boardmember Semonco spoke specifically about problems with signage at the Pacific Design Center and noted that restroom access is adequate. She spoke in support of the draft letter.

Boardmember Aizenman stated that this was originally a complaint/issue brought to light by late Boardmember Rev. John Von Doris.

Boardmember Weber inquired if signage is included in the ADA.

Boardmember Ring suggested deleting the line "the recent Mayor Installation" to "symbols did" thus eliminating any

reference to the PDC. It was also discussed to add a line inviting the City Manager to attend a future meeting of the DAB which was supported by Boardmembers Margolis, Semonco, Weber and Weltman.

Boardmember Dietrich stated that the staff of the PDC might like to receive a copy of the letter or at least hear about it.

ACTION: Send the draft letter with the amendment of deletions and the addition of a line inviting the City Manager to attend a DAB Meeting. **Motion Boardmember Ring, seconded by Boardmember Weltman and carried noting the ABSESION of Boardmember Dietrich.**

Chair Pavich provided an update on the production of the video addressing services available to the disabled residents of the City of West Hollywood. He read the printed brochure that listed the services, the name of the agency, the location and telephone numbers where these services are available. He stated that he asked Staff Liaison Springer to provide an update at the next DAB Meeting. He spoke of the video consisting of an individual actually going through the various steps needed to obtain a service with a voiceover explaining each step of the process. He stated that he sees the video as a visual of the printed brochure. He also mentioned that he wanted to contact the various agencies/organizations to appear in the video and not just the various DAB members. He addressed Boardmember Margolis inquiry if grant money was available to finance this project. Chair Pavich explained that he wanted to ask City Channel 10 for help with the production of the video.

Staff Liaison Jacobs recommended that the DAB ask the City Council to produce the video in order to obtain additional financing. He explained the procedures for placing a staff report on the Consent Calendar of a City Council Agenda at a future meeting requesting that the City Council direct staff to produce the video.

Boardmember Semonco requested that the information in the printed brochure be verified as accurate and updated information.

Boardmember Arrigo confirmed that most of the agencies listed are still providing the services listed in the printed brochure. Chair Pavich asked him to work with Staff Liaison Springer on preparing a staff report and he agreed.

Boardmember Weber noted that it might not meet the timeline of October and spoke in favor of the staff report.

ACTION: The Disabilities Advisory Board to recommend to the City Council to produce a video brochure for services to the disabled residents of the City of West Hollywood. **Motion Chair Pavich, seconded by Boardmember Margolis and carried unanimously.**

Boardmember Weber left the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Boardmember Margolis asked for Transportation Manager Terri Slimmer to attend the next DAB Meeting to provide an update on crosswalks and signals.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT ON CURRENT POLICY INITIATIVES:

Discussed in the Legislative Sub-Committee report in Item 7.A.

B. BREAST CANCER AWARENESS EVENT:

Staff Liaisons Jacobs stated that both Staff Liaison Springer and himself wanted to bring this to the DAB for possible sponsorship. Staff Liaison Jacobs wanted to remind the Advisory Board that their work was not only for the disabled but those with chronic health concerns.

Boardmember Aizenman spoke in opposition of this Item.

Boardmembers Arrigo, Margolis and Weltman spoke in support of this Item.

Boardmember Dietrich spoke in support of this Item and told her personal story of dealing with Breast Cancer, the treatment she received and how she perceived it as being disabling.

ACTION: Vote to sponsors Breast cancer Awareness Month and it's events scheduled for the month of October, 2000.
Motion Boardmember Margolis, seconded by Boardmember Weltman and unanimously carried.

- C. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD WORKPLAN:**
Removed from the Agenda.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE: Tabled to July 12, Agenda.

PROPOSAL FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH: Removed from the Agenda.

- A. DISABILITY RIGHTS GROUP SUES ROBINSONS-MAY DEPARTMENT STORE CHAIN:**
Staff Liaison Jacobs provided background information as well as did Boardmember Ring, who is one of the plaintiffs.

Boardmember Weltman felt it was too early to take action.

ACTION: The Disabilities Advisory Board recommend to the City Council a resolution supporting the Disabilities Rights Advocate in Oakland in their suit against Robinson's-May Company. **Motion Boardmember Margolis, seconded by Boardmember Semonco and passed noting the ABSENCE of Boardmember Ring.**

- B. URGENCY ITEM – LETTER TO GOVERNOR DAVIS OPPOSING HIS ATTEMPTS TO DISMANTLE PORTIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA).**

Staff Liaison Jacobs provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated June 14, 2000.

Boardmember Weltman asked for clarification and spoke in support of the letter.

Boardmember Margolis noted a couple of typos in the staff report.

Chair Pavich read the letter to the Advisory Board.

Boardmember Aizenman spoke in support of the letter.

ACTION: Send the letter from Mayor Prang to the Governor.
By Consensus of the Board.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11. DISABILITIES ADVISORY MEMBER COMMENTS:

A. SUMMARY OF COMMISSION/ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS' MEETING: Chair Pavich stated that it was cancelled and that another one would be scheduled.

B. GENERAL COMMENTS REGARDING DISABILITY ISSUES: Chair Pavich stated that three Boardmembers and one staff liaison rode in the car in the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade and that the response was very positive. He also stated that at tonight's Public Facilities Commission Meeting there was an item about the Santa Fe Bus Stop Garden Project and how it affects people with mobility issues.

Boardmember Semonco spoke about buses needing longer lifts.

Staff Liaison Jacobs stated that this could be addressed at the next DAB Meeting when Transportation Manager Terri Slimmer attends it. He also provided background information on the funding of social services agencies and encouraged the

Boardmembers to attend the July 17, 2000 City Council Meeting to support the Motions made at tonight's meeting.

Boardmember Arrigo spoke about a travel agency and POZ Living Magazine.

Boardmember Ring noted that CSW event was not entirely wheelchair accessible.

Staff Liaison Jacobs suggested passing the information in the form of a letter to the coordinators of CSW and place this on the next DAB Agenda of July 12, 2000.

Boardmember Aizenman stated she attended the Human Services Commission and provided a report of the door handles. She stated that the meetings on July 11th and 12th would be televised.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:13 PM. to their next regular meeting on **Wednesday, July 12, 2000.**

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
THIS 12TH DAY OF JULY, 2000.



Chair Pavich

ATTEST:



Michael Bursztin, Admin. Staff Asst.