

MINUTES - CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Committee on Disability

Thursday, October 13, 1994 -- 4:30 p.m.

Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Michaeljohn Horne. Members present were Michaeljohn Horne, Tom Hamlett, Deanna Stevenson, and the Rev. John Von Douris. Brian Cole was absent; Louise Mebane was excused. Guests present were Charles Makinney, Janyce Kamahele, Jeanne Dobrin, Mike Radcliffe, Hon. Sal Guarriello, Rita Guarriello, Steve Kreizel, Scott Benson, Michael Sidler, Jim Sweeney, Jane Small and Hugh Hallenberg. Staff were Lloyd Long, Perri Sloane, Vivian Sauer, and Jeff Book, who reported that the agenda had been posted in compliance with the Brown Act.

Michaeljohn said that Z Zimmerman has resigned from the committee.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 8 meeting were approved. Notes from the September 22 meeting, which lacked a quorum, were also distributed.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. Shawn Casey O'Brien

Perri reported that Shawn Casey O'Brien was unable to attend this evening to discuss his Unique People's Voting Project, and that he is planning to attend the November meeting.

B. Other Items

1. Michael Sidler first discussed the City's ADA transition plan. She said that while the ADA requires programmatic access, the transition plan is focused exclusively on architecture and not on programs. She said she is preparing a summary of concerns regarding this. Second, she discussed the necessity of creating a phone system which will allow touch-tone access to a wide variety of information about local government.

2. Mike Radcliffe said the permanent Disability Subcommittee has 12 members and therefore 7 are required for a quorum, not the four-of-six used to declare a quorum at this meeting. With regard to the memorandum from City Manager Brotzman, he said that if the committee were structured as required by the memo, there would be no reason for public participation, due to control by staff and the Human Services Commission. Mike reiterated his willingness to do outreach with the business community.

3. Jeanne Dobrin said she did not understand Mike's objection to Mr. Brotzman's memo. She also commented on her disappointment with many years of City inaction regarding adequate hearing assistance at public meetings, including one or more meetings with no microphones and no speakers.

4. Jane Small, J.D., said that arrangements for accessibility, such as loudspeakers and microphones, are required by law, and therefore not a 'favor' by local government. She said she is personally committed to continue pushing the process in this city, including achieving greater range in the self-evaluation documents.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Composition

The Committee took up the issue of the Committee's composition. Michaeljohn asked for a clarification regarding the questions raised about Mr. Brotzman's memo, and Lloyd said that the memo essentially provided that a Commissioner must chair the committee; that a non-Commissioner could be co-chair; and that other options for the future of the Committee must be submitted to the Human Services Commission.

Tom Hamlett submitted a written proposal on Committee composition (attached). With that as a starting point, numerous ideas and viewpoints were discussed, including:

- whether staff members and agency representatives should be allowed to vote;
- the impact of the City's new conflict-of-interest ordinance;
- rotating the agency members more frequently;
- having professional agency representatives serve as resources, not members.

Deanna Stevenson moved, and John Von Douris seconded, to establish nine as the number of members, and provide that they be persons with a diversity of disabilities. This motion was unanimously approved.

The Committee then reviewed the application form and proposed changes. Comments from the public were invited, and Jane Small, Rita Guarriello, Mike Radcliffe, and Jeanne Dobrin spoke.

John Von Douris said that an ordinance creating a Disabilities Commission could be considered in the future, but that in the meantime he would like to see the Committee become an Advisory Council to the City Council and the Mayor.

Deanna moved to re-write the application form by setting first priority on Community members with personal experience of disability issues, followed by business representatives and agency professionals, and by deleting the final question about necessary accommodations. This was seconded by John, and unanimously approved. Lloyd said that recruiting for new members could begin immediately, and that the new form and recommendations could be taken to the Human Services Commission on November 15.

John asked whether the City could take over funding of the Disability Hotline that Z Zimmerman had operated for a month, since it was very useful in communicating with persons with disabilities. Deanna asked whether the list of persons developed through the Disability Hotline was available for invitation to apply for the Committee. Mike said the list was available, and that those calling already had been asked whether they were interested in serving on the Committee.

Election of a Committee chair was tabled until new members of the Committee are seated.

Setting attendance rules and a maximum number of absences was tabled to a subsequent meeting.

Lengthy discussion on outreach and recruitment strategies occurred. Any applications received prior to the November meeting will be reviewed at that meeting.

Perri reported that the newly hired Disability Specialist is Monica Stone, who will attend the next meeting. This position is located at City Hall by contract with Jewish Family Services.

2. ADA Compliance

Janyce Kamahale reported on the City's ADA compliance steps. The City falls under Title 2, the public sector, which prohibits employment discrimination based on disabilities, and

requires public entities to conduct and adopt a transition plan, including identifying barriers to access and means to remove them.

She said the City responded by forming a Staff Interdepartmental Task Force: hiring the engineering firm of Purkiss-Rose to prepare the facilities transition plan; and having all documents reviewed by the Disability Specialist and the Committee on Disability.

Due to the substantial amount of money necessary to make City facilities accessible, a 10-year implementation schedule was adopted, with a budget of \$50,000 per year for physical plant alterations -- in addition to funding for transportation and the Disability Specialist.

Janyce said the Committee had participated in a series of disability-specific meetings to gather information for the self-evaluation.

John said that accessible parking is direly needed at City Hall and throughout the distance of Sunset Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard. Janyce said she would refer this request to the City Engineer. John said he would like the City Engineer to contact CalTrans about making more reserved spaces on Sunset and Santa Monica.

Jane Small said the City's transition plan and self-evaluation are inadequate because they must be specific and set out costs for changes. The self-evaluation, she said, is intended to be an institution's critical look at itself in terms of programmatic barriers to persons with disabilities, as well as physical barriers. She said she was very disturbed to hear about the City's piecemeal approach to ADA compliance, and said that City staff and the City Council need a lot of training.

Janyce said that the complete Purkiss-Rose transition plan was not included in the packets, but was available from her office.

Michaeljohn said the Committee would benefit from a meeting which focused on this subject. Janyce said that Sam Baxter and Sharon Perlstein should present the matters relating to city properties at such a meeting.

3. Public TDD Proposal

Steve Kreizel and Scott Benson presented their plan to install public TDDs, and showed a brief video outlining the possibilities. The Committee discussed implementation of the public TDD concept, and inclusion of such resources in City facilities. Jane Small said that such phones must be included in City facilities as a mandatory, not a permissible, occurrence.

Tom Hamlett moved, and Deanna Stevenson seconded, to endorse Steve's plan and recommend it to the Human Services Commission and the City Council. The motion was approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, November 10, 1994, in Fiesta Hall. Items set for the agenda include review of applications, and further review of ADA implementation.

At 7 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.