

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2005**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Cherner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Debra Chodash led the Pledge.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Phyllis Coto, Bryan Dahlgren, Suzanne Dietrich, Joel Ring, Anne Semonco

ABSENT: Dr. Harrison Kline-Aguado

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaisons Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda of January 26, 2005 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 15, 2004 meeting were approved with amendments.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steven Weltman, a former Chair of the DAB, greeted the DAB and Andrew Rosen of the West Hollywood Chorale invited the DAB to a special concert on Saturday, March 12 at 4 p.m. at Plummer Park in Room 6. It will be free-of-charge to the disabled and senior communities.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Inna Khariton, Disability Specialist, provided the Board with program statistics and announced the upcoming Valentine's Day event for the disabled on February 13th from noon to 2 p.m.

B. Leslie Isenberg reported that West Hollywood was a finalist for the National Organization on Disability Access award, with Pasadena being the winning city. Chairperson Cherner added that the NOD website (www.NOD.org) has a wealth of information on disabilities issues.

Ms. Isenberg also gave the DAB an updated list of liaison assignments and announced that she has notified the staff of the boards and commissions that our liaisons will attend when possible and need the agendas sent to them.

She has forwarded DAB responses about public right of way to Tom Benedetti, but didn't receive any to forward to Terri Slimmer.

The Human Services Commission meeting at which Chairperson Cherner will make a presentation on public right of way has been postponed to February 8th. Any suggestions for the presentation need to be submitted to the Chair by February 1st.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. HIDDEN DISABILITIES:

Susan Mendlowitz, Disabilities Coordinator for Jewish Family Services, addressed the DAB about a range of mental health diagnoses including depression, bi-polar disorder, dementia, learning disabilities, diabetes and epilepsy. Ms. Coto suggested that the City start a peer support program and a Wellness Center.

B. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Vivian Love, Director of Administrative Services and ADA Compliance Officer for the City of West Hollywood, discussed the process for filing community requests, complaints and/or grievances with respect to the ADA. This is a priority of the City and she was pleased to report that there were no complaints filed with the City in the past year. In 2003 there were several complaints about private businesses, so the City helped facilitate these issues. There have been no complaints about City programs in the past five years. She reported that the streets are part of a transitional plan, and as the City can afford it, curb cuts and other changes are continuing to be made. Mr. Ring mentioned that he had a complaint about a Historic Preservation

Commission meeting that was held in an inaccessible venue. Chairperson Cherner suggested that the ADA compliance phone number be publicized more broadly and made more visible on the City's website.

C. BUS FURNITURE:

Ms. Isenberg reported that there will be a three-month test period of bus furniture at three locations, and after an evaluation of that trial run, the rest of the furniture will be installed. The three sites are the Pacific Design Center, Sunset & Doheny, and Santa Monica & La Brea. At the next meeting she will present a time line for installation.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joseph diPadua, resident of West Hollywood, said that he felt that there is not enough housing for the disabled and feels immigrants are favored in the lottery. Chair Cherner suggested that if Mr. diPadua would like to make a proposal to the DAB, he could submit it to Ms. Isenberg to be considered as a agenda item at a future meeting.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice-Chair Semonco reported that at the Transportation Commission Meeting the parking design standards were tabled, but discussed the number of u-turns in West Hollywood and their effect on the public, as well as the number of accidents regarding elderly pedestrians. She said that the MTA Governance Council will hold a public hearing on February 9th to review bus line changes and a workshop on February 3rd at 3 p.m. at the La Cienega Tennis Center.

Ms. Dietrich reported on the PAC meeting where redevelopment of the eastside was discussed.

Ms. Coto also attended the Transportation Commission meeting, but will select another liaison position.

Ms. Chodash said that she'd like to have a bus shelter in addition to the bus furniture.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that next month he will be proposing some general liaison guidelines.

Chairperson Cherner attended the Russian Advisory Board meeting and will attend the Human Services Commission next month. He requested that Leslie obtain the outdoor dining packet so he could pick it up later in the week.

Mr. Chinich recommended that someone volunteer to be the liaison to the Business License Commission, and volunteered to be the liaison for the Historic Preservation Commission. Chairperson Cherner suggested that his name be forwarded to the Business License Commission as the temporary liaison, until he can talk to Dr. Harrison Kline-Aguado about being the liaison.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/Disabilities Advisory Board/minutes/012605

Norm Ann

Norman Cherner,
CHAIRPERSON