

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
MAY 26, 2004**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Norman Cherner called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Bryan Dahlgren, Suzanne Dietrich, and Ann Semonco

ABSENT: Phyllis Coto and Joel Ring

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaisons Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda of May 26, 2004 was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The amended minutes of the April 28, 2004 meeting were approved. Vice-Chair Semonco amended the minutes to read that "Additional information on the Laurel Avenue housing project will be agendized at a future meeting."

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elizabeth Bakulski from Save Tara spoke on behalf of people who oppose the City's plans for the Laurel Avenue housing project.

Yola Dore, formerly of the DAB, thanked the Social Services Division and the DAB for their work. Chairperson Cherner thanked Ms. Dore for her years of service on the DAB and wished her well as a new Commissioner with the Public Facilities Commission.

6. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Inna Epshteyn, Disability Specialist, was unable to attend due to the holiday at the Comprehensive Services Center.

Ms. Isenberg asked for a show of hands of those interested in riding the Commissioners' tram at Christopher Street West. She also

reported that Ann Ehrenthal and Jeff Skorneck will speak at the next DAB meeting about the Laurel Avenue housing project and housing in general.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Outdoor Dining

Tom Benedetti, Code Compliance Manager, outlined the procedures that are required to obtain outdoor dining permits. He also responded to concerns of DAB members about difficult sidewalk access in front of some businesses. He informed the DAB that there is currently a moratorium on the ban on banners, sandwich boards and outdoor displays unless they create access problems. He assured the DAB that he will follow up on these issues.

B. Disabilities Awareness Month

The DAB brainstormed about possible activities during October for Disabilities Awareness Month. Ms. Dietrich said that during that month Breast Cancer Awareness Month will be her focus, but she volunteered to contact a "Positive Image" speaker. Mr. Chinich is interested in finding new recruits for Mentoring Day. He would also like to encourage participation among businesses, and suggested giving awards and razzberries to businesses for their support of the disabilities or lack thereof. Vice-Chair Semonco suggested that at the October DAB meeting, the DAB limit their comments to allow more time for the public. She also suggested that there be an assurance that specific work is ready for mentees, as one year she was relegated to photocopying. Chairperson Cherner would like the DAB to consider hosting a Disabilities Fair, about health and other issues. He'd also like to introduce a new DAB brochure during that month.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Allegra Allison from Save Tara invited the DAB to visit the Laurel Ave. property.

9. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren spoke about his support of the Laurel Ave. housing project and said that there is a possible \$1 million federal grant that

would be available with proven use for persons with disabilities. He attended the Geriatric Senior Managers Annual Conference.

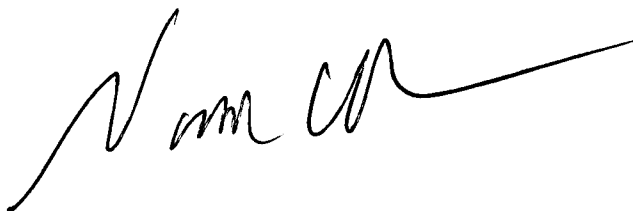
Vice-Chair Semonco will speak at the June 16 MTC Governance Council meeting as the West Hollywood representative.

Chairperson Cherner reported that the Social Services RFP process has begun and impacts monies that will be spent on programs for the disabled. He also reported on the Self-Help for the Hard of Hearing publication which included mention of real-time captioning at West Hollywood City Council meetings and credited the DAB for its support. He noted that our real-time captioner, Sandy Eisenberg, is considered one of the best in the business, if not the best.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 7:59 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Conference Room of City Hall.

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/Disabilities Advisory Board/minutes-052604

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman", is written at the bottom of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Norman Cherner,
CHAIRPERSON