

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 28, 2004**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Cherner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Phyllis Coto, Bryan Dahlgren, Joel Ring, and Ann Semonco

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaisons Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda of July 28, 2004 was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the June 23, 2004 meeting were approved.

5. ELECTIONS:

Chair Cherner and Vice-Chair Ann Semonco were re-elected.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Inna Epshteyn, Disability Specialist, reported that the past month's activity at the Comprehensive Services Center was the highest ever, with 77 clients served. She announced that the FAME vouchers are available again. She said that the Social Club is doing well, with 5 attendees at the July meeting. Vice-Chair Semonco asked if it would be possible to have an evening social function once or twice a year, so that those with day jobs could attend. Ms. Epshteyn will discuss this with the Director.

Ms. Isenberg updated the DAB about the new Disability services brochure. Chair Cherner requested another brochure be made that highlights the work of the DAB.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. PAWS/LA

Steve Wayland, Director of Special Programs for PAWS/LA (Pets Are Wonderful Support/Los Angeles), made a presentation about the 15-year history of the agency which provides pet support for people with chronic illnesses and seniors. There is scientific documentation of the health benefits to pet owners due to the unconditional love from their pets. PAWS provides pet food, vet care, in-home support, and foster care during the owners' hospital stays.

B. Disabilities Awareness Month

The DAB agreed to close nominations for Disabilities Awareness Month awards two days before the September meeting. An invitation will be made to the "Positive Image" speaker who has cleared her calendar for the event.

C. Public Right of Way Resolution

There was unanimous approval of the resolution to enforce public right of way on sidewalks which are sometimes obstructed in front of businesses.

D. Outdoor Dining

This issue will go before the City Council and Chair Cherner urged the Board to attend the meeting to support enforcement of outdoor dining regulations concerning keeping sidewalks clear of tables and chairs.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Annual Congress for Commissions and Advisory Boards

Ms. Isenberg informed the DAB about the 1st Annual Congress on Oct. 16 and solicited suggestions for the questionnaire. The Board identified goals and strategic programs that the DAB most impacts:

- Maintain the City's unique urban balance
- Affordable housing
- Adaptability to future change
- Institutional integrity
- Transportation system improvement
- Support people through social services
- Value and encourage broad diversity of cultures
- Collaborative public safety
- Community education
- Enhance and expand disability access throughout the City
- Enhance technology and access for the City and its citizens

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

11. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Coto announced a peer counseling training program through the Mental Health Association that her husband, Robert Coto, is participating in. She also encouraged the DAB members to volunteer for the upcoming Book Fair.

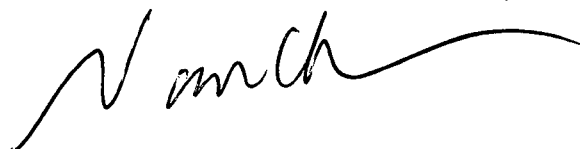
Mr. Chinich said that he is looking forward to the televised October DAB meeting.

Mr. Dahlgren reported on his work with MAPS, which has developed a specialty care program for people with disabilities.

Chair Cherner announced that at the next meeting there will be an update on the resolutions that the DAB has passed. He asked the DAB members to contact Ms. Isenberg two weeks prior to the next meeting with any information they would like included in the DAB packet.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:32 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Conference Room of City Hall.



Norman Cherner,
CHAIRPERSON