

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
AMENDED MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2004**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Joel Ring called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

**ABSENT:** Phyllis Coto

**ALSO PRESENT:** Staff Liaison Leslie Isenberg

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda of November 17, 2004 was approved.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the October 22, 2004 meeting were approved.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Andrew Rosen of the West Hollywood Chorale spoke about an upcoming concert for Seniors and people with disabilities. The concert will take place on Sunday, March 12, 2005 at Fiesta Hall.

Sarah Dodge, Women's Advisory Board member, spoke to the Board about V-Day, a coordinated effort to raise awareness about violence against women and men. Included in this year's campaign is another benefit performance of the "Vagina Monologues".

Michael Arrigo, former DAB member, addressed the Board about a new PBS show entitled "Disabilities Today". He left videotapes of the program for Board members to view.

**6. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**A.** Inna Khariton, Disability Specialist, provided the Board with program statistics and discussed upcoming events.

**B.** Leslie Isenberg informed the Board that the Access America Application was completed and sent to the National Organization on Disabilities (NOD) and has obtained confirmation that the application was received. The City should hear from NOD in the next few months as to their award selection.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **A. PRESENTATION BY SOVA FOOD PANTRY:**

Ken Washington, Operations Director for the SOVA Food Pantry, spoke about the services SOVA provides. In addition to providing bags of groceries at three pantry locations, SOVA now has a resource specialist who provides information and referrals to clients regarding additional social services. Ken also mentioned that SOVA needs pantry volunteers.

### **B. EVALUATION OF OCTOBER TELEVISED MEETING:**

Ms. Dietrich felt the meeting went well.

Mr. Chinich had positive comments about the meeting. He requested a walk-through rehearsal next year of the awards presentation.

Ms. Semonco suggested the Board review a videotape of the performers before deciding on the entertainment.

Dr. Kline-Aguado thought more attention should be paid to logistics. He suggested the visually impaired members of the Board sit closer to the podium and out of the direct light needed to televise the meeting.

Mr. Dahlgren had positive comments about the meeting and mentioned focusing on items that the Board has in common with other Boards and Commissions.

Ms. Chodash enjoyed the meeting. She felt she could have done better in presenting her comments. Other board members complimented her on the great job she did.

### **C. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND WALK/WAIT SIGNS:**

Mr. Dahlgren discussed issues of pedestrian safety and some difficulty he has experienced differentiating the walk/wait signs. He asked the Board if others have experienced this. It was suggested that Terri Slimmer, Transportation Manager for the City, speak to these issues at our next meeting.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. CHAIR SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

The Board discussed the issue of the Chair, or any Board member, speaking on behalf of the Board. The group clarified that when a Board member speaks at a public meeting on behalf of the Board, it should be on an issue the Board has discussed and agreed upon, therefore fairly representing the Board's position on the issue. If a Board member is speaking at a public meeting and is representing his or her own personal views, that distinction should be made as well so as not to mislead others that they are representing the opinions of the Board. To the extent that comments are in writing, the speaker should attempt to make those available to other Board members within a reasonable time of the comments being presented.

### **B. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS ON ISSUES THAT ARE OF COMMON CONCERN:**

The Board discussed the role of the staff liaisons with other City Boards and Commissions as a way of learning about issues that may impact the disabled community in West Hollywood.

Dr. Kline-Aguado agendized and led a discussion to update the Board liaisons with other Boards and Commissions, towards assessing issues and initiating proposals and recommendations based on mutual concerns.

In addition to issues of mobility and accessibility, Dr. Kline-Aguado also continued to urge the ongoing discussion and examination of "hidden disabilities" (including depression, learning disabilities, cancer and HIV) and their impact on our community.

### **C. DECEMBER MEETING DATE AND AGENDA:**

The Board voted to move the December meeting to Wednesday, December 15, 2004.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

**10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Ms. Dietrich would like the Board to address hidden disabilities. She suggested beginning with clinical depression.

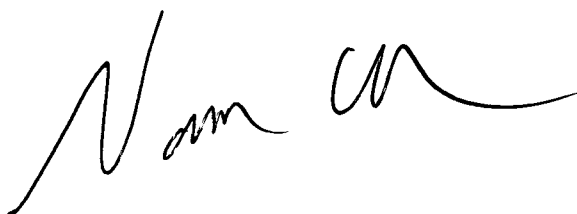
Mr. Dahlgren suggested that Hal Aikens be considered as a potential presenter/entertainer for our next televised DAB meeting.

Mr. Cherner reminded the Board that December 1, 2005 is World AIDS Day. Information will be sent to the Board about the City's commemoration of World AIDS Day.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:31 p.m. The December meeting will be held a week earlier than usual due to the Winter holidays. The December meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/Disabilities Advisory Board/minutes-111704

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman", is located at the bottom of the page.

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Norman Cherner,  
CHAIRPERSON