

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
April 22, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Tom Pavich, Steven Sawyer, Anna Swett and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for April 22, 2009 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for February 25, 2009 were approved.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR:

Anna Swett was elected vice-chair.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Phyllis Coto announced the International Festival of Recovery (from mental illness and dependency) on Saturday, April 25 at the Henry Fonda Theater. She also brought Dept. of Mental Health brochures for volunteers.

Don Norte, West Hollywood employee, asked the DAB to help advocate for a fair share from the Federal Economic Stimulus funds for West Hollywood's residents living with disabilities and for continued ADA compliance.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. COPPS TEAM REPORT

Sgt. Jim Farrell of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department provided crime prevention tips, including entering an emergency contact number in your cell phone under the name "ICE" (In Case of Emergency), telling someone where you're going, giving up your purse if mugged, and getting to know your neighbors. He and staff will look into printing a brochure with pertinent safety information for people living with disabilities.

B. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN/LA

Hillary Selvin, Executive Director of NCJW/LA, reported on some of the many services that her 100-year old agency provides to women and children, including a warm line for counseling and referrals, scholarships, programs on domestic violence, human trafficking, etc., thrift shops for revenue for services, and a court watch program. She suggested that everyone complete a Durable Power of Attorney, and distribute to a dozen friends and family.

C. WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

Robin Conerly and Rose Olsen of the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation reported on their new project proposed for 1234 N. Hayworth Avenue which will provide housing for seniors. The Board voted to support the proposal which will be presented to Council on May 4, 2009. Robin also reported that the Sierra Bonita apartments for people living with disabilities are about 50% complete.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

- A. The list of DAB Liaisons to Other Boards & Commission was reviewed; no changes were made.
- B. Upcoming DAB Meeting:
 - 5/27/09 – Kathryn Turk, Dispute Resolution Services, will return.
- C. Senior Health Fair – Wed, 5/13/09
 - Anna Swett volunteered to staff the DAB booth. Rick Watts may be available as well and will let staff know.
- D. Follow-up from previous DAB meeting about Automated Public Toilets (APT's):

The City has considered APT's in the past and is not going to install them for the following reasons:

 - They're too expensive: approximately \$400,000 to manufacture & install (plus ongoing maintenance costs). L.A. offsets their costs through advertising, but West Hollywood has an ordinance prohibiting advertising in the public right-of-way. (Bus shelters were grandfathered in.)
 - There are public safety concerns (illicit drug use, for example).
 - They would have to be placed in the parks; West Hollywood already has public restrooms in the parks.
- E. SOVA Food Drive – April 2009 – Donation bins are located at City Hall & City facilities, local schools & several local businesses (including Gelson's, Whole Foods, the West Hollywood Gateway & 2 Citibank locations).

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Rick Watts requested that the crosswalk safety issue be agendaized. It was agreed that Transportation Manager Terri Slimmer would not need to return to the DAB for the discussion.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. in memory of Sal Guarriello and Angie Zapata, a young transgender woman who was murdered in Colorado (the killer was convicted today). The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 6:00pm in the first floor Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Tom Pavich

Chairperson – Tom Pavich