

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
July 23, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Joel Ring, Steven Sawyer, Link Schrader, Anna Swett and Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for July 23, 2008 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for May 28, 2008 were approved.

6. ELECTION

Tom Pavich was elected Chairperson. Link Schrader was elected Vice-Chairperson.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Phyllis Coto, former DAB member, asked for advice in regard to a ticket that her husband received because he didn't cross the intersection at Wilshire and Vermont (in Los Angeles) in time, due to a severe back problem. Others were ticketed as well that day. It was suggested that she might ask Inna Khariton, Disability Specialist at the Comprehensive Services Center, for advice.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. EL TOVAR PARKING LOT

Parking Manager Jackie Rocco addressed the Board about parking for persons living with disabilities. She explained that all 2,100 of the City's parking meters are free with permits for the disabled and spoke to the necessity of balancing the parking needs of different constituencies. She added that once the construction at West Hollywood Park is completed, there will be just over 400 new spaces. Currently 75% of the spaces at El Tovar are for monthly permit holders, so that presents a challenge to providing parking for everyone.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. 7th ANNUAL WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

Roz Helfand gave an overview of the exciting book fair on Sunday, Sept. 28 which will feature over 400 authors, 8 stages of panels, 3 performance stages, and 125 exhibitors. Parking for persons living with disabilities will be available in West

Hollywood Park, with a ramp for access to the fair. She welcomed suggestions to accommodate visually and hearing-impaired people.

B. ADA REGULATIONS

The Board reviewed the summary that Link Schrader compiled about the U.S. Department of Justice's proposed rulemaking changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations dealing with state and local government services. Although the Board decided not to make any recommendations about the proposed changes, it did pass a motion recommending that City Council look into providing video monitors to display safety and emergency information during large public events held in the City (such as the Halloween Carnaval and Gay Pride Parade).

C. OCTOBER TELEVISED MEETING

Craig Rhea reported that the Gay Men's Chorus has accepted the Board's invitation to perform at the October 22nd meeting. A task force comprised of Suzanne Dietrich, Link Schrader, and Anna Swett was formed to make program recommendations for the televised meeting. The task force will share its recommendations at the Board's August 27th meeting.

10. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craig Rhea announced the Aug. 5th National Night Out events and the Sept. 13th Annual Congress from 8:30AM – 1:30PM at Plummer Park. He also said that Public Safety will make a presentation at the Board's August 27th meeting about Emergency Preparedness Month. Due to the late hour, the discussion of liaisons was tabled until the next meeting.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Anna Swett reported that she attended the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission meeting. For clarification, Chair Pavich explained that liaisons are observers who don't participate as a member of the board or commission they are visiting; however, liaisons are encouraged to introduce themselves as members of the Disabilities Advisory Board and to make relevant comments under Public Comments.

Suzanne Dietrich made an announcement on behalf of Michael Arrigo about the Disability Resource Center. She reported on the cutbacks of Medicare and MediCal that were discussed at the Senior Advisory Board.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008 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