

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
December 3, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Anna Swett (Joel Ring has resigned)

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for December 3, 2008 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for October 22, 2008 were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Sidler would like the Board to agendize a refresher/review training for DAB members, City staff, and agencies that contract with the City about accommodations for people living with functional disabilities.

Lindsay Horvath, Chair of the Women's Advisory Board and new liaison to the DAB, introduced herself and offered the possibility of partnering on projects between the Boards.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISABILITY PROGRAM UPDATE

Inna Khariton, Disability Specialist, described the services offered through the Disability Program for residents 18-65 years old. The current caseload is 55 clients/month.

B. THE STEVE GRISSOM RELIEF FUND ACT

Alexander Ghaffari explained the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act for people like himself who contracted HIV through a blood transfusion. There is currently no sponsor for the bill in Congress. Mr. Ghaffari is looking for support from the City of West Hollywood to have Representative Henry Waxman introduce it. Link Schrader said he would be more likely to support the bill if Mr. Ghaffari's group replaced

“spouse” with “estate” in regard to benefits. The DAB asked Mr. Ghaffari to bring back a modified bill for their review and tabled further discussion until next year.

C. EVALUATION OF THE OCTOBER 2008 TELEVISED MEETING

The DAB felt that the meeting went very well. The consensus was that the Gay Men’s Chorus set a great tone for the meeting and having them perform only at the beginning of the meeting worked out fine. Since the Chorus has such a large number of community commitments, the Board decided to skip a year before asking the Chorus to perform again. There was discussion about shortening the meeting in order to have more of the audience members and award recipients attend the reception. There was also the question about whether to continue offering Russian translation; staff will find out from the Public Information office approximately how many people viewed the Russian translation of the meeting on the City’s website and report back to the Board at its January meeting. Decisions will be made next year about the 2009 televised meeting.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Craig Rhea made the following announcements about upcoming events:

- **Craft Riot (Craft Fair)** on Saturday, December 6th from 11am to 4pm at the Plummer Park Community Center
- **NCJW Clothing Giveaway** on Sunday, December 7th from 9am to 12noon at 543 N. Fairfax Ave.
- **The Big Read: Book Discussion Group** of “Bless me, Ultima” by Rudolfo Anaya on Wednesday, December 10th at 2pm; West Hollywood Library.
- **No Bag for a Day** on Thursday, December 18th; use only reusable bags today – help keep plastic out of the ocean.

There are currently 2 vacancies on the DAB. Those interested in applying should contact the City Clerk’s office.

Joyce Rooney will attend the DAB’s January 28, 2009 meeting to provide an update on the new CityLine vehicles to be purchased by the City.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shem Morales raised several issues:

- a) He is in favor of having the Metro line run to West Hollywood;
- b) He would like bus schedules posted at bus stops;
- c) He would like a self-cleaning public toilet installed in West Hollywood;
- d) He would like more information to be provided on public access;
- e) He asked for information about becoming a DAB member.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Link Schrader reported that he hasn’t been able to attend the Russian Advisory Board and the Business License Commission meetings, but he’s been in contact with them via email.

Link noted that there’s a self-cleaning public toilet at Santa Monica and Vermont. He’d like to have the issue of installing one in West Hollywood agendized for a future meeting.

Debra Chodash suggested that porta-potties for dogs be installed in the City. Tom Pavich indicated that would have to be agendaized for a future meeting as well.

Steven Sawyer asked for a current list of DAB liaison assignments to other Boards and Commissions. Craig Rhea will email the list to him.

Rick Watts was interested in the emergency preparedness conference in San Diego on December 9th & 10th, but was not given enough time to make arrangements to attend. Craig Rhea explained that the Mayor's office had forwarded the information to staff and the Board as soon as they had received it.

Suzanne Dietrich attended the Plummer Park Design Steering Committee meeting recently. She reported that everything being planned for the park will be up to ADA standards. Suzanne also attended the 14th Annual Awards Presentation for Access Paratransit Services. Their theme was "Driving Technology Forward" and Suzanne shared some advances in client services they've made recently.

The DAB will agendaize for its January 28, 2009 meeting whether to recommend to Council the reduction of DAB members from nine to seven.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 28, 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