

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
January 23, 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: Alan Bernstein, Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich,
Steven Sawyer and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Joel Ring and Anna Swett

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for January 23, 2008 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for November 28, 2007 were approved as amended with a correction under Board member comments by Suzanne Dietrich that trees will be planted at Detroit and Fountain.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CROSSWALK POLICY

Terri Slimmer, Transportation Manager, reported that a new crosswalk policy has been drafted that simplifies the evaluation process, taking into account the concerns of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It will probably be taken to the City Council in March for approval.

Terri noted that adding the audible component to traffic signals is very expensive, but will probably be included in the capital improvement plan. *(Note: If Board members have suggestions about which traffic signals in West Hollywood should have the audible component added first, please advise staff.)*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. WEST HOLLYWOOD SPECIAL OLYMPICS SWIM TEAM

Marisela Labrado, Aquatics Coordinator, described the athletic opportunities and social activities offered by the West Hollywood Sea Otters, the Special Olympics Swim Team in the City.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS OF CONSTITUENTS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Ruth Cislowski of the Human Services Commission facilitated a brainstorming session to identify the needs of people living with disabilities in preparation for the Social Services Division's 2008-2010 Request for Proposal process. Tom Pavich will share the Board's list with the Human Services Commission at its meeting on February 12, 2008.

C. RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Board made no changes to the Rules and Procedures Governing the Disability Service Awards.

D. PROMOTING WEST HOLLYWOOD TO VISITORS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

The Board asked staff to invite a speaker from the West Hollywood Marketing and Visitors Bureau to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

9. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

- After noting that the Board's regularly scheduled meetings in November and December conflict with Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Board decided to meet on December 3, 2008, instead of the regularly scheduled meetings of November 26, 2008 and December 24, 2008. Future agenda items include hearing from Capt. Penn of the Fire Dept. and Sam Baxter, the Facilities and Landscape Manager, in February; and Jeff Huffer about the progress of the library and the \$20,000 NOD grant in March.
- On West Hollywood's Homeless Connect Day in December, 88 homeless people were counted in the city; 33 went to SOVA for services and 13 were placed at PATH. Board members suggested that next year's count include people living with disabilities and veterans.
- The Social Club for People Living with Disabilities meets monthly at the Comprehensive Services Center for activities which include movies, bingo, and discussion of current events. In December, the Disabilities Program at the Center served 39 clients, 6 of whom were new to the program.
- In response to Anna Swett's concern expressed at the last DAB meeting about exiting from the rear of MTA buses, Terri Slimmer reported that this is the MTA policy, but that drivers should use common sense. Problems with MTA bus drivers may be reported to Terri Slimmer or her staff.
- The National Council of Jewish Women will hold a thrift sale at their Westside locations on Jan. 26 & 27 and Feb. 2 & 3.

- “Snow Day” for families with children will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 from 10 AM – 1 PM at West Hollywood Park.
- There will be a General Plan community-wide meeting on Saturday, Feb. 23 at West Hollywood Park from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- The City’s Public Safety Awards will be held on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm at West Hollywood Park. Nominations are due by Mon., Jan. 28.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Ms. Chodash reported on a West Hollywood couple who are both mentally challenged. They need assistance but have resisted going to the Comprehensive Services Center. Staff suggested that she encourage them to go to the Center as it would be difficult for them to receive assistance without making the initial request.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 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