

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
May 27, 2009**

**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  
and Anna Swett

ABSENT: Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for May 27, 2009 was approved.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for April 22, 2009 were approved.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Abbe Land, Mayor of West Hollywood, addressed the Board to let them know that she'd like the City Council to name a Disability Service Award after Lovedy Brydon, a local activist who referred to herself as "differently-abled". Lovedy passed away on April 21, 2009.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES**

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Kathryn Turk, Program Coordinator for Dispute Resolution Services, about services they provide to West Hollywood community members.

Kathryn explained that Dispute Resolution Services is an alternative to the Court system and provides third party mediation services to disputing parties so that they can reach resolution. For West Hollywood community members, including businesses, the first three (3) hours of mediation services are provided free of charge. Kathryn estimated that between 15-20% of their West Hollywood clients are people living with a disability or disabilities.

**B. 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL PROJECT – PHASE I**

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Chris Worland and Eva Wieland, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Project Community Liaisons, about Phase I of the City's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Project, the West Hollywood

Park Master Plan. Phase I(a) includes the construction of a 44,000 square foot library. Board members and the public were invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremonies to be held on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in front of the current library. The construction schedule is estimated at 27 months with an opening slated for the summer of 2011.

### **C. AMERICAN REINVESTMENT & RECOVERY ACT OF 2009**

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a report from Donn Uyeno, Senior Civil Engineer, about the use of funds from the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act of 2009 for the City's Sunset Strip Beautification Project.

Boulevard enhancements will include:

- At least 48" pedestrian passage clearance for all sidewalks (ADA compliant);
- ADA compliant sidewalk ramps painted in bright yellow to assist the visually impaired;
- High visibility crosswalks painted with bold lines;
- Sidewalk bulb outs which improve pedestrian visibility and reduce street-crossing distance;
- Relocation of electrical cabinets housing traffic controls;
- Whenever possible, implementation of mitigation measures during the construction phase to assist people living with disabilities.

### **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **A. CROSSWALK POLICY**

This item was tabled until the Board's meeting of June 24, 2009.

### **9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Craig Rhea shared the following information with the Board:

- A. Nomination Forms for the 2009 Disability Service Awards are posted on the City's website and available in the public info racks at City Hall.
- B. On 5/18/09, the City Council voted to reduce the number of DAB members from 9 to 7; a meeting quorum is now 4 members. The DAB currently has 1 vacancy which the City Clerk's office expects the Council to fill in June.
- C. Senior Health Fair – Wed, 5/13/09
  - Thanks to Suzanne, Anne & Rick for staffing the DAB booth.
- D. Follow-up from the previous DAB meeting about Public Safety Brochures; Public Safety has published 12 brochures including those on the following topics:
  - Street Robbery Prevention
  - Protecting Your Identity
  - Pedestrian Safety
  - Vehicle Burglary Prevention
  - Neighborhood Watch
  - Emergency Preparedness

Staff's feeling is that these brochures cover the information that was discussed with Sgt. Farrell at last month's Board meeting and preclude the need for an additional brochure covering specific safety issues for people living with disabilities.

- E. The City is sponsoring a free Document Shredding & Electronic Waste Collection Event – Saturday, 5/30, 10am-2pm in City Hall parking lot.
- F. CSW – Weekend of June 12-14<sup>th</sup>; if you're interested in riding on one of the City's floats on Sunday, 6/14, please let Craig know by June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- G. Upcoming DAB Meetings:
  - 6/24/09 – Begin discussions about the October 2009 televised meeting; Crosswalk Policy (tabled from the meeting of 5/27/09)
  - 7/22/09 – Election of Chair & Vice Chair; continue discussions about televised meeting
  - 8/26/09 – Craig on vacation; may want to cancel meeting
  - 9/23/09 – Select 2009 Disability Service Award Recipients
  - 10/28/09 – Televised Meeting at West Hollywood Park Auditorium
  - Wednesday, 12/02/09 – 6pm in the Community Conference Room at City Hall – Combined November/December meeting

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

#### **11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES**

Suzanne Dietrich requested that the Board adjourn in memory of Elliott Simmons, Michael Arrigo's partner, who passed away recently.

Anna Swett noted that she enjoyed working with Suzanne and Rick at the Senior Health Fair on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Steven Sawyer was impressed with the caliber of the 39 residents who applied for former Councilmember Sal Guarriello's position.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:15pm in memory of Elliott Simmons to their next meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 6:00pm in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Tom Pavich

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Chairperson – Tom Pavich