

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2011
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Hywel Sims at 6:02 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Art Room 2 at the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Cislowski.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer,
Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members present included Sam Baxter, Director of Human Services; David Giugni, Craig Rhea, Perri Sloane Goodman, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 8, 2011, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Zangrando, with Commissioner Davis abstaining due to absence.

On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner Sims thanked former Human Services Commissioner and current Rent Stabilization Commissioner Chuck Henry for his service and presented him with a plaque, a photograph of the Commission, and his nameplate.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

David Mason Eichman, chair of the Transportation Commission, spoke about pedestrian safety, including new triangles that mark a 10-ft. stopping area before crosswalks. He noted the Transportation Commission meets on third Wednesdays, and invited people to bring examples of intersections that can be improved.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. EVALUATION OF CITY-SUBSIDIZED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS
PHASE ONE RECOMMENDATIONS

Perri Sloane Goodman said the various transit programs, including the bus, taxi, Dial-a-Ride, and CityLine, are being evaluated. There are some immediate suggestions, and there will be more after a broader review of the services. Suggestions include: standardizing the age of eligibility for the programs, probably at 62, which is the number used by Metro; simplifying the eligibility rules for taxi programs; getting better maps for CityLine; and expanding the travel area for Dial-a-Ride.

Commissioner Cislowski said to always check to make sure changes do not endanger funding sources, and that talks with users are held before any changes. Commissioner Zangrando spoke about fewer turns in routes, and possibilities for increased funding. Commissioner Davis said a user survey should find which service riders are using, and whether they use only one, or more. Commissioner Sims spoke about doing the user survey as early as possible in the process, and about the approaching need for an overall community needs assessment.

B. RE-PROGRAMMING SAVINGS FROM 2009-2010 SOCIAL SERVICES
CONTRACTS

Staff reported there is \$49,067 in savings from 09-10 social services contracts and spoke about the rental assistance program at NCJW, the urgent needs fund at the Comprehensive Services Center, and about reserving the balance to respond to impacts from state budget shortfalls.

Livia Sandoval of NCJW Women Helping Women spoke on behalf of Hilary Selvin regarding their program to assist people in obtaining or maintaining housing.

Marian Berkman of Jewish Family Service spoke in support of reserving funds until the impact of state and county funding is clarified.

Chuck Henry spoke about making urgent funds a regular category for social services funding, the need to consider the use of funds in hoarding cases, and the need to be proactive instead of reactive to budget cuts, since there is high likelihood they will be targeted toward seniors and persons with disabilities.

Commissioner Davis moved, seconded by Commissioner Farmer, to withhold the entire amount of savings at this time, for future use. After discussion of a need for further information, that motion was withdrawn and a new motion to table the item until the next meeting was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Farmer, and approved.

C. RE-PROGRAMMING SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY FUNDS

David Giugni spoke about re-programming \$51,450 in savings by augmenting the contract with McIntyre House by \$30,000, and conducting a brief RFP process for current agencies, regarding substance abuse recovery services, in the amount of \$21,450.

Chuck Henry said he had requested an analysis of how many bed days are available from McIntyre House, and how many we use; also, that the RFP wording does not specify residential recovery services.

Commissioners discussed opening the RFP to any agency, rather than only current agencies, and determined by consensus to accept the staff recommendation regarding the use of these funds, with the provision that the RFP would be open to any agency wishing to apply.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. WESTSIDE CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOMELESS ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE

This item was postponed.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis expressed thanks for support and concern during his recent absence due to a death in the family, and health issues. He expressed sadness that Commissioner Henry has left to join a different commission.

Commissioner Zangrando spoke about the new SOVA facility's grand opening.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni reported for Daphne Dennis that Tripp Mills, formerly with WeHo Life, has been hired by West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation. The Kids Fair will be held Sat., Apr. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Craig Rhea spoke about the SOVA community food drive.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC


Chuck Henry spoke about the need for case management, and that he thought urgent needs funds only went to agencies that did case management. He spoke about follow-up on cases by JFS, and said he the funding for McIntyre House will result in a net gain of services, instead of simply replacing other funding.

He thanked the Commission for their joint service over the last 7 years, and said he had learned a lot from and enjoyed working with staff and his fellow commissioners.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Signed:



Steven L. Davis