

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 1999
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chairperson Shirley Roberts at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 14, 1999, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, John D'Amico, Steven Davis, Teresa De Crescenzo, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts
Excused: none
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Diane Kahn-Epstein, Richard Ryan, and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The secretary reported that the agenda had inadvertently not been posted in the lobby of City Hall last week, although it had been distributed to other locations. The omission was discussed with the City Clerk, who recommended proceeding with receipt of informational items, but postponing votes to a subsequent meeting.

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 28, 1999, special meeting, and November 9, 1999, regular meeting were carried over to the next regular meeting.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RECOGNITION OF PAST CHAIR

Commissioner Roberts presented a plaque to Commissioner Davis, in appreciation for his service as Chair of the Commission from 1996 to 1999. The Commission and staff joined in congratulating Commissioner Davis.

B. LIGHT UP THE LIBRARY

Carol Henault of the National Council of Jewish Women discussed the Light Up the Library program, which has been working at Rosewood and Laurel elementary schools. She discussed why the program was initiated, and recent activities such as weeding the school libraries of outdated materials. She distributed informational packets to the Commissioners, and noted that they need the help of volunteers to work on literacy.

C. PATH

Joel Roberts of PATH updated the Commission on the merger of PATH and Foundation House (West Hollywood Homeless Organization). The agencies were technically merged in February 1999, and became operationally combined in August. The boards have combined. PATH now has a 57-member staff at five sites (West Hollywood, Hollywood, West Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and South Central). He discussed the Access Center and the outreach vans that contact 15 to 30 people per day in the West Hollywood, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills area.

The Gateway project in the vicinity of Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea Avenue prompted Foundation House to seek a new home, which is 340 N. Madison (near Beverly Blvd., at Vermont), a 40,000-sq.ft. facility spread over three stories. He reports that the USC School of Family Medicine is going to set up its first free clinic there, and that the Department of Mental Health will also have a clinic there. Other components will include a legal clinic, HIV/AIDS, family, job center, and 99 beds for transitional housing.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. RICHARD RYAN -- REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Richard Ryan reported on city actions against same-gender domestic violence, including formation of a subcommittee which will be doing a needs assessment on the topic. The surveys will include gay and lesbian households, survivors of

same-gender domestic violence, and business and organizations focusing on the community.

There will be a town hall meeting on the topic at 7:00 p.m. on January 25, one of the continuing town hall series sponsored by the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Council.

He also reported on the Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium (HRMAC), which he has been attending on behalf of the city. They are developing a phone tree for notification and assistance in the event of human relations problems.

B. PREPARATION FOR PRIORITY-SETTING MEETING WITH COUNCIL

The Commission is scheduled to meet in joint session with the City Council on Jan. 18, 2000, to discuss social services funding priorities. Preparation for the meeting will be on the agenda of the January 11 Commission meeting. Daphne Dennis asked if the Commission needed specific materials to help prepare.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. LIAISONS

1. CHAIRS MEETING

Was cancelled this month.

2. DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Cislowski said the recent meeting included updates on transportation, Santa Monica Boulevard renovation, and accessibility. DAB wants to make sure they are pre-informed of Human Services Commission items which may affect them.

3. LESBIAN & GAY ADVISORY BOARD

No report.

4. PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION

No report.

5. SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

No report.

6. PARTNERS

Did not meet.

7. AIDS EDUCATION

Daphne Dennis reported that the consortium had a good meeting and that agencies are working on a tentative proposal.

Commissioner Mackler said he attended the Pasadena Posada and display of the AIDS Quilt, at which he noted the display of the quilt square prepared by the city in memory of Mac McCoy, who served as recording secretary of the Commission.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo discussed the photo exhibit "Love Makes a Family," which is being shown nationally.

Daphne Dennis reported on a display of AIDS historical materials and posters which were shown in City Hall, and organized by Tom West.

Commissioner Roberts asked for commissioners to attend the January 3 Council meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Commissioners were invited to "The Bells of Notre Dame," the City's senior millennium event, which will be held Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Pacific Design Center.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 11, 2000, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: _____

Steven L. Davis

Attest:

J. B. Bouch