

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES - NOVEMBER 11, 1997
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 Steven Davis at 6:10 p.m., Tuesday, November 11, 1997, in the Training Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood. The meeting site had been changed due to the activation of the City's Emergency Operations Center in the Community Conference Room.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo, Bob Graney, Pamela Komac, John Nieto, Shirley Roberts, Renée Rosenfeld
Excused: none
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Roberts joined the meeting in progress and was recorded present. Staff present included Curtis Brown, Jr., Recreation Services Administrator; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, Social Services Program Specialist; and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The Secretary reported that 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 request form.

II. INSTALLATION

Mayor Pro Tempore Steve Martin administered the oath of office to Commissioner Pamela Marie Komac, who signed the oath of office and was presented with the Certificate of Appointment which had been prepared by the City Clerk. Commissioner Komac was welcomed by the other Commissioners and staff.

III. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of August 12, September 9, and October 14, 1997, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Rosenfeld, seconded by Commissioner Graney.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. HALLOWEEN CARNAVAL RECAP

Curtis Brown, Jr., reported on the Halloween Carnival, which was held October 31 on Santa Monica Boulevard. An estimated 250,000 people were in attendance -- more than double the size of last year's event, which had an estimated attendance of 110,000. The event received national and international publicity as the largest Halloween event in the world. Kathy Kinney, who plays the role of Mimi Bobeck on "The Drew Carey Show," was a popular favorite as Honorary Mayor for the evening.

Despite the tremendous number of visitors, police reported only five incidents, including one stolen car, one substance-abuse incident, and two drunk-driving incidents.

Curtis Brown thanked Recreation Division staff for their outstanding work. The Commission directed the Chair to send a letter on their behalf congratulating Beth Sazama, the special events coordinator, for her work on this year's event, and requested that this letter be made part of her personnel file.

Invitations were extended for Commissioners to attend the Angels Amidst ceremony, which will be held Tuesday, December 2, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park. Printed invitations will also be mailed. Some Commissioners noted that they had not received forms to make nominations for this year's awards, and staff will make sure that Commissioners are included on this distribution list in the future.

By unanimous consent, the Commission moved to Item IV. C.

C. UPDATE FROM GLCSC COEP

Stephanie Farrington-Domingue, director of the Community Outreach & Education program at GLCSC, reviewed data on the most recent monthly report to the Social Services Division, and discussed how changes in the contract's scope of services are being implemented.

Commissioner Davis said it would be helpful for COEP to provide printed updates as part of the Commission packets, and for the agency to arrange a presentation by some West Hollywood community members who actually use the COEP program. Commissioners Rosenfeld and DeCrescenzo wondered whether the program is actually reaching the people who need its services, and Ms. Farrington-Domingue concurred in the need for this to be reviewed through a new assessment of needs.

Commissioner Komac requested a copy of the contract goals of the Social Services agencies. Staff will provide this and notify the agencies to include Commissioner Komac on the mailing lists for information updates.

Commissioner Rosenfeld suggested it would be beneficial to have a meeting to discuss the scope of services with this agency, as well as its participation in access to the Russian community. A subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Rosenfeld, DeCrescenzo, and Komac was formed for this purpose.

By unanimous consent, the Commission returned to Item IV. B.

B. UPDATE FROM GLCSC WEST HOLLYWOOD CARES

Thomas Dyer introduced Ethan Stone, the new health education specialist for West Hollywood Cares, and provided an update on program activities. He distributed posters for the agency's upcoming advertising campaign, and provided copies of the year-end agency self-assessment.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo explored the agency's posture regarding the current "sex panic" debate, in which disagreement has arisen about the ideological implications, or lack thereof, in the distribution of "safer sex" information. Thomas Dyer said their agency has focused on risk-reduction information. It was noted that Gabriel Rotello, one participant in this debate, is speaking this week at the WeHo Lounge. Commissioner Graney asked for Commissioners to receive timely information about articles and news items in this regard.

D. UPDATE FROM GLCSC YOUTH PROGRAM

Karen Blakeney, director of the GLCSC Youth program, reported that the agency is once again fully staffed, and has commenced new health education and outreach projects. Because of concern that the agency's programs were focused exclusively on reaching homeless and street youth, GLCSC Youth is expanding its mission to deal additionally with youth who are still in school and living at home.

To encourage continuity in participation, the program is developing a discount-card program which will reward youth whose attendance is recorded at six agency events. The director said she would invite some program participants to attend a future Commission meeting and provide their point of view on how things are going.

Tom West noted that over the last six months, the agency's reports have had a high degree of reliability, in contrast to some of the reporting problems that previously had been occurring.

By unanimous consent, the Commission moved to Item V. -A.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Daphne Dennis presented staff's proposal for a new Community Needs Assessment, updating and expanding the report made in 1993-94. Potential providers have been reviewed, including the agency (Economic Roundtable) which oversaw the 1993-94 report. Staff is recommending separating the [A] data collection, census analysis, and preparation of statistical charts and graphs from the [B] conduct of focus groups and stakeholder interviews, development of recommendations, and writing of the final report -- and therefore staff is recommending two separate contractors for these functions: Crawford, Multari & Clark Associates, for part [A], in the amount of \$20,600, and Abby Haight Arnold, for part [B], in the amount of \$19,000.

Abby Arnold spoke about her background in this type of project, and discussed the combination of interviews and data which should provide City decision-makers with excellent insight into the community's perceptions of its social-services needs.

Commissioner Graney moved to recommend that the City Council approve these contracts. This was seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved 6 to 0, with Commissioner Komac abstaining.

The anticipated timeframe for the Needs Assessment is immediate, with surveys mailed to a random group of community members as early as next month. Commissioners indicated that they will individually review the text of the 1993-94 survey, which staff anticipates will be used, with minor improvements, as the text of the 1997-98 survey. They also requested that the December agenda include a review of the recommendations from the 1993-94 survey.

By unanimous consent, the Commission moved to Item VIII.

VIII. COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Chair. Commissioners Roberts and Nieto nominated Commissioner Davis. In the absence of further nominations, a motion to close nominations was made by Commissioner DeCrescenzo, seconded by Commissioner Graney, and unanimously approved. Commissioner Davis was declared elected.

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Commissioners DeCrescenzo and Nieto nominated Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Komac nominated Commissioner Rosenfeld, who declined. In the absence of further nominations, a motion to close nominations was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Graney, and unanimously approved. Commissioner Roberts was

declared elected.

By unanimous consent, the Commission moved to Item IV-E.

IV. E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT

Commissioner Rosenfeld recommended a slate of projects aimed at improving relations between gay and Russian members of the West Hollywood community, to be overseen by the Human Services Commission with the cooperation of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Council.

Commissioner Roberts moved to request staff to review the proposal and projected costs, identify sources of funding, and prepare an item, for the December agenda, suitable for the Commission to recommend this group of projects to the City Council. This motion was seconded by Commissioner DeCrescenzo, and unanimously approved.

V. B. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE KINGS ROAD PARK

Commissioner Komac was appointed as representative to the Design Review Committee of the Kings Road Park. Commissioner Davis also expressed interest in participating.

C. APPOINTMENT OF LIAISONS TO THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Commissioner Komac was appointed as liaison to the Disability Advisory Council.

D. APPOINTMENT OF LIAISON TO THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

This item was tabled for further consideration.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. SOCIAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

The subcommittee did not meet this month.

B. LIAISONS

1. CHAIRS MEETING

Commissioner Davis reported that the Chairs did not meet this month.

2. HIV/AIDS & CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION (LIFE LOBBY)

Commissioner Graney presented copies of Life Lobby's final legislative update for the previous session of the Legislature, including the fates of various bills sponsored, supported, monitored, or opposed by Life Lobby. Commissioner Graney has been named the Delegate to the Life Lobby on behalf of the City of West Hollywood.

The quarterly meeting of the Life Lobby's House of Delegates will be held November 21-23 in Sacramento, and a Youth Lobby Day is being organized for January 21, 1998.

8. LESBIAN & GAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Staff will notify the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Council that Commissioner Davis, not Commissioner Graney, is the liaison from the Human Services Commission, and apologize for any misunderstanding that may have occurred.

Commissioner Roberts reported that she has been appointed to the Elections Task Force, which is reviewing ways of increasing voter participation in West Hollywood elections, and to a special Housing Task Force, which will, among other things, review rules for development of "bed & breakfast" establishments.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

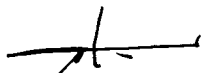
VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, December 9, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

MINUTES APPROVED DECEMBER 9, 1997



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date