

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2002
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Peter Mackler at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2002, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. **ROLL CALL**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: John D'Amico, Steven Davis, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler.
Excused: Ruth Cislowski, Teresa DeCrescenzo, Ponsella Gratton.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; 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. **MINUTES**

On a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, the minutes for the meeting of October 8, 2002, were approved 3 to 0, with Commissioner Mackler, who was not present at that meeting, abstaining. On a motion by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner D'Amico, the minutes for the meeting of October 10, 2002, were approved 4 to 0.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RFP REVIEW PROCESS

Daphne Dennis reported on the City Council's adoption of social services funding recommendations, and the Commission talked about whether there were any changes in process they would like to see in future social services funding cycles.

Commissioners said the sequence of meetings worked well this year, and that the consent calendar format developed at the final meeting was effective.

Commissioner Davis said that if the budget permits it, the Commission should look to the Council for additional funding in the next cycle.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. HOMELESS ASSESSMENT

The Commission discussed the City Council's direction regarding an assessment of homelessness in the city. Daphne Dennis proposed a group that would hold six to eight meetings, with meetings about three weeks apart, to address these issues: (1) an informal census of homeless persons in the city; (2) consideration of pros and cons of providing more services to the homeless in the city, including a drop-in center or shelter; and (3) ways to make sure all current services are identified and available, with a review of how information on such services is distributed.

Commissioner Davis suggested the group include a recreation/parks staff person and a member of the Public Facilities Commission.

After discussion, Commissioner Griffin volunteered to serve on the group and to chair it.

Commissioner D'Amico suggested adding a task of defining homelessness, with the possibility of a photo illustration of the definition

Lauren Meister, a West Hollywood resident, said her experience with homeless persons in the Clark St. area was that many were mentally ill. She said that on-site interviews were more effective in collecting information from the homeless than focus groups that mix homeless and non-homeless persons.

B. YEAR-END SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

The Commission discussed questions for the year-end social services report.

Commissioner Davis said he was interested in how agencies handle referrals, and in whether any follow-up is done to determine whether the referrals were effective or useful.

Commissioner Mackler asked that in addition to agencies that had performance below 80%, agencies that had performance above 120% also be asked what they attributed their results to.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis asked for the Recreation Services Administrator to provide a report on the Halloween Carnival at the next meeting. Commissioners also asked to have the topic of election of officers on the next agenda, so that the time for such elections could be established, or conducted at that meeting if commissioners chose to do so.

Commissioner D'Amico asked for more discussion of food costs, perhaps in cooperation with the Senior Advisory Board, as well as consideration of improved transportation to and from food stores.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis discussed the new campaign on breast cancer awareness, and said a new senior guide is being prepared. Staff anticipates making shorter runs of such guides, so that they can be updated more frequently.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

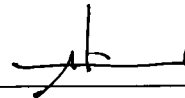
IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. in memory of United States Senator Paul Wellstone and Harry Hay.

The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 10, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: _____

Steven L. Davis



Attest:

