

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2004
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:06 p.m., Tuesday, November 9, 2004, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Henry.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Augeri, Ruth Cislowski, Charles Henry,
Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts.
Excused: Steven Davis, Ponsella Gratton.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Roberts joined the meeting in progress. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Nancy Beard, Recreation Services Manager; David Giugni, 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

The minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2004, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Augeri.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LA SHANTI UPDATE

David Giugni reported that at its Oct. 18 meeting, City Council approved a three-month contract for LA Shanti, at an annualized rate of \$75,000, renewable at the end of that period if the program is performing at no less than 80% of goal. Staff will return to the Commission with a recommendation at the January meeting.

Cleve Jones, executive director of LA Shanti, described their current operations, including the success of a recent forum on crystal methamphetamine and three new emotional support groups. They are expanding the number of West Hollywood people in their programs, and working with their youth advisory board on a number of projects, including a Models of Pride conference at Occidental College.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE

Nancy Beard provided a handout and report on recreation activities in the city's three major venues (West Hollywood Park, Plummer Park, and the aquatics facility at West Hollywood Park), as well as the Tiny Tot program, day camp, pet adoption, sports tournaments, Teen Center, after-school drop-in, swimming lessons, youth swim team, and summer movies in the park..

Recent special events included a kids carnival attended by 1,500; "drag races" attended by about 200; the Book Fair, with 15,000 present; AIDS Walk ceremonies, with 25,000; and the Halloween *Carnaval*, with an estimated 400,000.

On Monday, Nov. 29, there will be an open house at City Hall to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the city's founding. There will be a reception at 10 a.m., remarks by veteran staff at 2 p.m., and a cake at 3 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Santa Monica Boulevard will be closed from La Cienega to Crescent Heights, for a street fair celebrating the 20th anniversary. There will be guest speakers and entertainment.

The Commission sent thanks to Bonnie Smith for her leadership of this year's Halloween *Carnaval*.

Without objection, the Commission took up Item VIII next.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Mackler nominated Ruth Cislowski for chair. There were no additional nominations. On a motion by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Henry, the Commission closed nominations, and declared Commissioner Cislowski elected.

Commissioner Mackler nominated Steven L. Davis for vice chair. There were no additional nominations. On a motion by Commissioner Henry, seconded by Commissioner Mackler, the Commission closed nominations, and declared Commissioner Davis elected.

V. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. PARK MASTER PLAN / LIBRARY

Jim Favaro of MDA Johnson Favaro, the city's park planning consultants, presented an update on the new West Hollywood Park master plan, the revision of the Plummer Park master plan, and the status of the proposed new library.

The West Hollywood Park plan calls for construction of a new library in the southeast corner of the park, an aquatics center in the south central part of the park, and an athletics facility in the southwest corner of the park. It also calls for greatly expanding the green area of the park.

The Plummer Park plan calls for a great lawn adjoined by a convertible water feature, parking underneath new tennis courts on the north side of the park, and expansion of green space in the park.

The plans have been unanimously approved by Council, and the City is moving forward with the construction of a new library, as the first phase of the West Hollywood Park plan. It was estimated that design will take a year and construction another year.

Total cost of the projects is \$65 million for West Hollywood Park and \$35 million for Plummer Park.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

The Commission tabled to the next meeting consideration of commissioners attending advisory board meetings. Commissioner Cislowski would like commissioners to be notified of the agendas of the advisory boards each month, so they can know whether issues relevant to the commission will be discussed.

Commissioner Roberts noted that Commissioner Henry has been honored this month by the Gay and Lesbian Center, and also by the Serra Project, which provides residential housing for homeless persons with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County.


Commissioner Henry asked for an agenda in the near future to include presentation of, and consideration of endorsement of, the Disability Advisory Board's recommendations about handicap access and open movement in public areas, particularly with regard to cafés and vendors. He asked for DAB members to be invited to that meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14, 2004, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: 
Ruth Cislowski

Attest: