

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 1998
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 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 1998, in the Rent Stabilization Hearings Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood. The meeting was transferred from the Community Conference Room.

B. ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Beth Sazama, Tom West, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 11 meeting of the Commission were approved on a motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Graney.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Without objection, the agenda was amended to redesignate Item III-A as Item III-D, and to include Item III-A, Update on Halloween *Carnaval*; Item III-B, Being Alive; and Item III-C, West Hollywood Cares.

A. UPDATE ON HALLOWEEN CARNAVAL

Beth Sazama distributed an update on the *Carnaval* to be held October 31 on Santa Monica Boulevard. Commissioners will be issued two passes to the VIP suite, which will probably be located at 24-Hour Fitness, across the boulevard from the Ramada.

Bruce Vilanch, the Emmy-winning writer, actor, cabaret performer, and community activist, will be Honorary Mayor for the night. Vilanch has co-written the last nine Academy Awards shows, as well as special material for a cornucopia of Hollywood personalities (e.g., Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg, Lily Tomlin, Robin Williams).

Street closures on Oct. 31: Santa Monica Boulevard will close at 3 p.m. between La Cienega and San Vicente -- and at 5 p.m. between San Vicente and Doheny. San Vicente and Robertson will also close at 5 p.m.

Beth also distributed letters inviting nominations for this year's Angels Amidst program, which need to be returned to Trudy Goodwin at City Hall by 5 p.m., October 30.

B. BEING ALIVE

Robert Dalporto, Being Alive's new board president, provided an update on their activities. He said they are particularly interested in serving people who otherwise may not go out of their homes that much, due to the nature of the community. He described the program's activities over the last year, and distributed invitations to Being Alive's Spirit of Hope Activities. He said that anyone desiring to volunteer their services to this program could contact him at Being Alive's office, (310) 289-2551.

C. GLC WEST HOLLYWOOD CARES

Thomas Dyer reported on a Sept. 24 special event which had more than 150 persons in attendance. The program is planning their appeals to businesses for the new year, and planning ways to increase the usefulness of evaluations provided by participants.

D. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TASK FORCE

Tom West said this proposal will be presented to Council in November, with the task force intended to establish crystal methamphetamine as its initial priority, but to look at other substance abuse problems as well. A timeframe of six months is anticipated for information gathering and development of a report and recommendations.

The proposal was endorsed by the Commission on a motion by Commissioner DeCrescenzo, seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Commissioners DeCrescenzo and Graney were designated to represent the Commission on the Task Force, with Commissioner Davis as alternate. Commissioner DeCrescenzo noted that funding for substance abuse (and hate crime) programs may be available from the US Department of Justice.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING

In response to concerns expressed at the last meeting regarding process and its impact on content in the social services funding cycle, Daphne Dennis presented some changes for consideration by the Commission, including adding a joint study session by Council and the Commission, to help establish funding priorities; adding a study session of the Commission after RFP's are received but before staff recommendations are prepared; and reviewing recommendations with commissioners individually.

Commissioner Graney asked for a timeline setting out the month-by-month process anticipated for the issuance of new RFP's and contracts in the next two-year cycle, as well as the month-by-month process anticipated for review of existing contracts after the first year. The Commission discussed the possibility of altering priorities after the first year, and of changing the fiscal year for contracts (currently beginning Sept. 1) to match the City's fiscal year (which begins July 1).

The process amendments were adopted by the Commission on a motion by Commissioner Graney, seconded by Commissioner DeCrescenzo.

B. YEAR-END SOCIAL SERVICES REVIEW

Daphne Dennis asked for input on what questions should be asked on the upcoming year-end review for social services programs. Commissioners are invited to contact her with questions they would like included.

C. SITE VISITS / AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

Daphne Dennis distributed a list of currently funded agencies and programs and asked Commissioners to consider scheduling personal visits to the agencies, as well as agency presentations to meetings of the Commission.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Social Services Subcommittee: The subcommittee did not meet this month.

Chairs Meeting: No further report.

HIV/AIDS & Civil Rights Legislation: Commissioner Graney reported that the California Alliance for Pride & Equity (CAPE) has been formed and incorporated, and that there is a meeting this weekend in San Luis Obispo to adopt a mission statement and elect the first board of directors. One goal is to have a lobbyist and an executive director on board by December, and Commissioner Graney anticipates that regular legislative updates will commence shortly thereafter.

Disabilities Advisory Board: Commissioner Komac noted that Hugh Hallenberg of the DAB wants to know about progress on the new Kings Road Park regarding persons with disabilities. Lloyd Long said that he or Sam Baxter would talk with Hugh about this, and schedule a walk-through of recreation facilities to evaluate for this purpose.

Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board: Commissioner Davis attended a meeting in August.

Senior Advisory Board: No additional report.

Commissioner Graney noted that he will probably be away during the December meeting, currently scheduled for December 8.

Commissioner Davis noted that the by-laws provide that officers for the Commission be elected at the next meeting in November.

Commissioner Komac invited attendance at a Celebrate Life party at 10 a.m., Nov. 4, at 800 N. Kings Rd., where residents who are more than 100 years old will be honored.

V. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Lloyd Long noted that Lorri Jean has announced her departure from the Gay & Lesbian Center as of January, and that Frank Paradise is planning to leave Foundation House once a successor has been selected and trained.

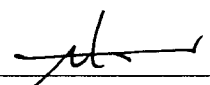
VI. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m., with Commissioner Graney speaking in memory of Matthew Shepard, the Wyoming student who was killed this week. A march was held on Santa Monica Boulevard last evening. There will be a protest at the Federal Building downtown at 11 a.m. tomorrow, and a vigil will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church on Santa Monica Boulevard tomorrow evening.

MINUTES APPROVED NOVEMBER 10, 1998



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date