

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2010
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Deb Farmer at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, 2010, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Zangrando.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer, Charles Henry, Shirley Roberts, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members present included Sam Baxter, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Chris Worland, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported 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 form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 13, 2010, meeting were corrected to reflect, in the fifth paragraph on page three, that the change was to the request for social services proposals, rather than to contracts.

The minutes of the July 6 and July 13, 2010, meetings were approved on a motion by Commissioner Henry, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **REPORT ON PARKS, RECREATION, SPECIAL EVENTS AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL PROJECT**

Chris Worland presented a short video about progress on the new West Hollywood Library, and on the park and parking improvements associated with the new facilities. He also reported on upcoming special events, including the West Hollywood Book Fair and Halloween *Carnaval*.

Commissioner Davis asked about Plummer Park improvements, and Sam Baxter said an environmental impact report has been completed, and the Commission will be updated at an upcoming meeting.

B. RAINBOW BRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

David Giugni said that Rainbow Bridge Community Services had been placed on administrative probation in March, for a period running to September, due to difficulties and inaccuracy in fiscal accounting. He said a financial consultant working with the city had helped set up a better accounting and data entry system, that new reports had been received, and supporting documentation appeared to be appropriately reported. He said a site visit had been conducted, and service to West Hollywood community members had been confirmed.

Brad Leathers, executive director, said events have occurred that affect the financial stability of Rainbow Bridge, and that they are meeting with other agencies to consider teaming up. A decrease in private-pay customers has reduced their receipts. He also discussed applying for grants and other fundraising plans.

Commissioners discussed with Mr. Leathers and Michael Ralke, board member, what happens if they are not acquired; how much is their debt and to whom it is owed; the division of debt between profit and nonprofit sectors of the service; the need for substance abuse recovery services, whether through this agency or another; and whether the person owed the debt would reduce or eliminate it. Mr. Ralke said he thought the agency would reach a decision on its future by the end of 2010. Commissioner Cislowski left the room during this discussion and returned during a subsequent item.

Commissioner Henry moved to extend the probation through Dec. 31, 2010, and to ask staff to work with Los Angeles County to protect the provision of services. This was seconded and approved.

C. TASK FORCE ON MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Based on earlier interest from the Commission in forming a task force on social services programs' marketing and outreach, Daphne Dennis suggested formation of a task force including two members from non-profit agencies, two from a city advisory board, two from Council offices, and some members of the Commission. Commissioner Davis suggested the Senior Advisory Board and Russian Advisory Board as sources for members. Commissioner Henry asked if staff could recommend members or give a short list to choose from.

On a motion by Commissioner Henry, seconded by Commissioner Davis, it was agreed to form this task force.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. AWARD OF SHELTER + CARE HOUSING VOUCHERS

Daphne Dennis met with L.A. County housing staff and learned about the rules for awarding Shelter + Care housing vouchers. The vouchers can probably be accessed by January. PATH has already identified some eligible people. Councilmember Land has spoken about ending chronic homelessness in the City within five years.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Farmer asked about the use of the Partners site, and Daphne Dennis said the City Attorney is reviewing a continuing obligation to provide services due to Federal funding.

Commissioner Davis said he was looking forward to the social meeting with agency executive directors.

Commissioner Sims attended the Plummer Park design review committee.

Commissioner Henry said the Nutrition Task Force will meet tomorrow at Project Angel Food regarding eligibility and use of food stamps.

Commissioner Zangrando asked about the congress of boards and commissions, which is planned for Monday, Nov. 29.

Commissioner Davis discussed the HIV/Mental Health providers roundtable, and the new "In the Moment" videos.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis provided an update on people who were affected by the Partners closure, and said 13 of 17 are in new programs or situations.

The gala with agency executive directors is being planned.

Applications for the city's bicycle task force are available.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC


There were no items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Signed:

Steven L. Davis



Attest:

