

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 9, 2001
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 Teresa DeCrescenzo at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 9, 2001, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner D'Amico.

Present: John D'Amico, Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo,
Dr. Bill Griffin
Excused: Ruth Cislowski, Ponsella Gratton, Peter Mackler
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; 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

Minutes of the August 14, 2001, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. The regular meeting of September 11, 2001, was not held.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE

The Commission welcomed Nancy Beard, the new Recreation Services Administrator.

Ms. Beard said staff members are preparing for the Halloween *Carnaval* on October 31, producing a special events brochure, and working with AIDS Walk L.A., which has been relocated from Paramount studios to West Hollywood. Plans for programming in the new Plummer Park Community Center are coming together, and a new relationship with elementary schools is expected to enhance the city's programs for children and families. A Zagat award has been received by the farmers' market.

Commissioner D'Amico discussed protecting Santa Monica Boulevard during and after the *Carnaval*, and Lloyd Long and Nancy Beard responded about the timing of city cleanup and restoration of traffic.

C. AVIVA CENTER

A representative of the Aviva Center, an after-school program operating under a social services contract with the city, thanked the Commission for its support and described their program of dance, drama, and poetry, which leads to a public performance. They discussed the Center's multicultural and bilingual approach, its affordable cost, and the use of rewards to encourage participation by students.

A. CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

Rodney Scott gave a packet of information to commissioners. He said grants from the proceeds of the CSW pride event were given in 1998 and 1999, but not in 2000. In 2001, he said, grants amounted to more than \$30,000.

Major accomplishments of CSW in 2001 included a children's garden area, an expanded substance-free area, a health expo, and a 53% increase in the number of floats in the parade, as well as improvements in the safety and décor of floats. The event was cablecast with four cameras by Adelphia. CSW has also elected a new board.

Commissioner Davis asked for commissioners to be notified of meetings of the CSW board, so that they can attend if they would like.

Mr. Scott then distributed a draft unaudited profit and loss statement for the 2001 event.

D. CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Dennis Malonas of CFS provided a brief overview of their program, and thanked the Commission for its support.

E. RUSSIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Helen Levin of RCC provided a brief overview of the program, which began in 1988 to help newly-arriving immigrants. She thanked the commission for its support.

Commissioner Griffin asked if immigrants from the former Soviet Union are still arriving in West Hollywood, and Helen Levin said they were, although the cost of living in West Hollywood has been rising. Commissioner Griffin asked if there has been a relative loss of younger Russian-speaking people from the community, and Helen Levin said there had been, also due apparently to the high cost of living in West Hollywood.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWALS

David Helie and Deborah Thomas of DRS, Fred Robbins of ALA, Abbe Land of LA Free Clinic, Christine Brent and Janet Witkin of ALA, Jeff Bailey and Trip Mills of the Gay & Lesbian Center, Gabriel Gutierrez of City Project, Rachel Bercovic of JFS, Johnny Baronian of JVS, Marc Hauptert of LA Shanti, David Lash of Bet Tzedek, Anne Factor of WHEST, Garrison Smith of the Gay & Lesbian Center, and Anne Kellogg of Maple Center addressed the Commission regarding social services contracts which were under consideration for renewal.

Daphne Dennis presented an overview of currently funded social services, which have served more than 10,000 residents in the last year. She noted demographic changes occurring in the community, which may influence the course of social services in the future.

She said staff was recommending no funding for the Alzheimer's respite program and for the computer training/job placement program of Project New Hope. Staff recommended holding savings from unexpended portions of contracts for budget review at mid-year.

Commissioner Davis moved to support the recommendation, and this was seconded by Commissioner Griffin.

Regarding unexpended funds, Commissioner Davis said that if City Council does not eliminate the money, the Commission should be prepared with ideas of what to do with it. This was added to the main motion.

The motion was approved on a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner D'Amico said that a spokesperson for Van Ness Recovery House was quoted in an article regarding crystal methamphetamine as saying that many of their clients were HIV positive. Commissioner D'Amico said it was inappropriate to disclose clients' HIV status this way, and asked that a letter be sent to Van Ness to express concern. This was also approved.

V. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

A. LIAISONS

1. CHAIRS MEETING

Commissioner Mackler had provided by fax a report on the last meeting of the chairs, which the secretary inadvertently neglected to bring to the meeting and said would be distributed to commissioners by mail.

There were no other reports.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS

On a motion by Commissioner Davis, this was carried over to the next meeting.

B. REVISED SCHEDULE OF AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

The revised schedule was received and filed.

Election of officers is scheduled for the November meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, in the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Signed: _____

Steven L. Davis

Attest: _____

