

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 1999
CONFERENCE ROOM, PLUMMER PARK

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, Sept. 14, 1999, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, John D'Amico, Steven Davis, Teresa De Crescenzo, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts
Excused: none
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Diane Kahn-Epstein, and Jeff Book. Councilmember Sal Guarriello and Council Deputy Howard Jacobs were also present. Mayor Pro Tempore Jeffrey Prang joined the meeting in progress.

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. INSTALLATIONS

Councilmember Guarriello administered the oath of office to two recently-appointed Commissioners (Dr. Bill Griffin and Peter Mackler), who signed their oaths of office, and were welcomed by all present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 10, 1999, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Mackler abstained.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED AQUATIC CENTER

Alan Weber of West Hollywood discussed his proposal for an aquatic center in the city, and distributed supporting materials. This would be a facility suitable for Olympic training, and could attract regional and national events, as well as providing residents with increased opportunities for physical fitness. Mr. Weber sought encouragement for the concept of such a facility, with cost feasibility, location, and other details to be considered in the future.

Commissioner Griffin moved to endorse the concept, and this was seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved 5 to 1, with Commissioner Cislowski dissenting, and Commissioner DeCrescenzo abstaining.

B. TOYS FOR GUNS

Council Deputy Jacobs presented a Council item proposing an exchange of violent toys, such as toy guns, for non-violent toys. Rich Ryan and Diane Kahn-Epstein are working with him on this project. Commissioners supported the idea of the City sponsoring such an opportunity, and Commissioners DeCrescenzo and Cislowski volunteered to participate, with Commissioner Davis as an alternate.

The Commission unanimously endorsed the proposal, on a motion by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Griffin.

Mayor Pro Tempore Prang discussed the reasoning behind the proposal, and added his welcome and congratulations to the newly appointed Commissioners.

C. HEALTHY WEST HOLLYWOOD

Diane Kahn-Epstein reviewed the extensive work of the Healthy West Hollywood program, which, among many other things, has included a field trip to the Farmers Market for 140 youth; planning with consultant Cathy Berger Kaye; teaching yoga; involving youth in gardening; providing an authentic Russian meal; publishing a "Healthy West Hollywood" cookbook; and preparation of a public service announcement by a third-grade class.

D. GAY & LESBIAN CENTER YOUTH PROGRAM

Daphne Dennis reported that Council had approved the 2.5% increase for social services programs, while holding over the GLC youth program for further review. She said staff has held several meetings with GLC to review their documentation and the scope of services. A new scope of services was proposed, along with

instituting several probationary procedures, including monthly reports to the Commission.

Dylan Gailey and Roger Daughy of the Center spoke on behalf of the revised program, saying they hoped the City would be a partner in both day services and provision of shelter. Commissioner Cislowski asked whether procedures have been amended so that vital data is not lost when there is turnover on the staff, and Daughy said they had.

Commissioners discussed whether to recommend funding for both portions of the program, or to withdraw funding for shelter. Commissioner DeCrescenzo moved to approve the staff recommendation with the exception of funding for shelter, and this was seconded by Commissioner Davis. This was not adopted, by a vote of 2 to 5.

Commissioner Mackler then moved to approve the staff recommendation, including funding for shelter. This was seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Davis asked for the Commission to be informed about the details of the contract that will be worked out between staff and the GLC Youth program if the recommendation is approved by the City Council.

E. GLC MENTAL HEALTH & STD PROGRAM

Roger Daughy gave a brief update on the GLC mental health and STD programs, which are on probation at this time. He said GLC is working on the accessibility issues raised by the Commission, and is targeting specific outreach to West Hollywood, to try to meet the programs' contracted goals.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIDS PREVENTION/EDUCATION UPDATE

Daphne Dennis presented an update on AIDS prevention and education. A handout from LA Shanti discussed their current project, and requested the Commission's endorsement. The Commission unanimously supported the Shanti project, on a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner DeCrescenzo.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. APPOINTMENT OF LIAISONS

1. CHAIRS MEETING

Commissioner Davis will represent the Commission at the Chairs Meeting, with Commissioner Roberts as backup. In the event neither can attend, any member of the Commission can attend in their stead. The Chairs Meeting is usually from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on last Tuesdays.

2. DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Commission's two liaisons to DAB will be Commissioners Cislowski and D'Amico.

3. LESBIAN & GAY ADVISORY BOARD

The liaison will be Commissioner Griffin.

4. PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION

The liaison will be Commissioner Davis.

5. SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

The liaison will be Commissioner Roberts.

6. PARTNERS ADHC

The liaison will be Commissioner Roberts.

7. AIDS EDUCATION

The liaisons will be Commissioners Mackler, Roberts, and Davis.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULING

Daphne Dennis said the Commission needs to schedule one or two additional meetings in upcoming weeks, preferably between Oct. 4 and Nov. 15, in connection with the social services funding process. Commissioners will share their availability with staff, and these additional meetings will be scheduled to accommodate the maximum participation.

B. RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Commissioner Davis will represent the Commission on the panel reviewing proposals to conduct a Recreation Needs Assessment.

He requested that recreation be placed on the October agenda.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

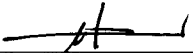
Greg Cardona of West Hollywood Cares provided an update on that agency, on behalf of Thomas Dyer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

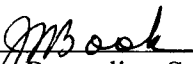
The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 12, 1999, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

MINUTES APPROVED OCTOBER 12, 1999



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date