

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES - AUGUST 12, 1997
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 6:10 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 1997, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd Long, Director of Human Services; Curtis Brown, Jr., Recreation Services Administrator; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, Tamar Springer, Chris Worland, Bonnie Smith, Eugene Paulish, Jr., and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The Recording 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 indicate this on a speaker request form.

II. MINUTES

Commissioner Roberts noted that she is continuing as a liaison to the Senior Advisory Council, and being joined by Commissioner Nieto. With this amendment, the minutes of the meeting of July 8, 1997, were approved, on a motion by Commissioner Graney, seconded by Commissioner Rosenfeld.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RECREATION PROGRAM REVIEW

Curtis Brown, Jr., presented copies of the Recreation Division's mission statement, and invited Commissioners to attend a recreation staff appreciation barbecue next Thursday, August 21, from 4 to 6 p.m., at West Hollywood Park.

Eugene Paulish, Jr., speaking on behalf of special events coordinator Beth Sazama, discussed plans for the 1997 Halloween Carnival, which is being scheduled to run from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., with amplified sound ending at midnight. Christopher Street West is coordinating vendors, and there will be three entertainment stages. The projected budget is \$75,000, of which \$22,000 is City participation and \$53,000 is income. An estimated 110,000 people attended the festival last year.

Curtis Brown noted that the final Summer Sounds concert for 1997 is coming up on Sunday, August 24, featuring Tony-winner Linda Hopkins. This will conclude the six-concert season, which has had excellent public response.

Bonnie Smith reported on the aquatics program, which is engaged in plans for the repair and upgrade of the 1960-era pool at West Hollywood Park. The first of three phases of repair has been approved and budgeted for \$100,000, and staff hopes work will begin by December. The second and third phases must be resubmitted for approval by the Council in future years.

Chris Worland reported on the Farmers' Market and Community Garden. The market had its highest-grossing day recently, and will be holding more special events along the lines of the "Meet the Mayor" day. Improved parking safety has greatly enhanced the market. The third Community Garden is scheduled to open on September 20, bringing the City to a total of 101 gardening sites leased, with a waiting list. Commissioners will be invited to the dedication, from 10 a.m. to noon on September 20.

B. STUDY SESSION ON GLCSC COEP

Stephanie Farrington-Domingue, director of the Community Outreach & Education program at GLCSC, distributed handouts showing their scope of work and current accomplishment.

Commissioners discussed a need for improved communications from COEP, toward both the Commission and the community, with particular regard to the Lesbian Visibility Week (LVW) project; possible redesign and rescheduling of LVW: ways of addressing the issues of Russian-speaking gay and lesbian residents; and whether the services provided by COEP are meeting a community need.

Staff will return to the Commission in September with a proposal for an amended scope

of services. Staff will also research whether there are Lesbian Visibility programs elsewhere, and if so, whether they offer us any good ideas.

C. GLCSC YOUTH

Juan Ledesma, acting director of the Youth program at GLCSC, distributed handouts showing their current work and the City's role in providing approximately 2.5% of the budget, and in assisting the program in achieving other funding. *(At this point in the meeting, Commissioner Nieto had to leave due to another engagement.)*

Carla Cheek, case manager, and Chris Anderson, mental health clinician, discussed their work and how it influences the clients of the program. Juan Ledesma introduced other staff members, including Daryl Cummings, deputy executive director of the Center.

Commissioner Graney emphasized that the Commission strongly supports the goals of the Youth program, yet is concerned with continuing administrative deficiencies. Commissioner DeCrescenzo said that regardless of staff turnover, policies should be in place which would allow new staff to immediately begin complying with the administrative regulations of the City and other funding sources.

After discussion, Commissioner Roberts moved, seconded by Commissioner Graney, to recommend to the City Council that current funding be continued until January, with these conditions: (1) staff will make monthly site visits to review the program's documentation; (2) the program will provide monthly updates to the Commission on its progress toward resolving its administrative deficiencies; and (3) that the Youth contract will return to the Commission for action in January, at which time the program will either have corrected its administrative problems, or City funding will be concluded.

The vote in favor of this motion was unanimous.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was carried over to the agenda for the regular meeting in September. Commissioner Rosenfeld provided copies of the draft item from the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Council, which had been omitted from this meeting's packet.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. SOCIAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

The subcommittee did not meet this month.

B. LIAISONS

1. CHAIRS MEETING

Commissioner Davis reported, among other things, that a pedestrian safety day had been held, with a large number of drivers and pedestrians ticketed for unsafe behavior; the National Night Out was held August 5; East Side redevelopment continues; and an appreciation dinner for members of City boards and commissions is being planned for September. Invitations will be forthcoming.

2. HIV/AIDS & CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION (LIFE LOBBY)

Commissioner Graney presented copies of the current legislative agenda for Life Lobby, and reviewed how to read the various notations, including bill status, two-year bills, and other legislative procedures.

At Commissioner Davis's recommendation, the filling of further vacancies in the liaison chart was postponed until the seventh Commissioner is appointed.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. FOUNDATION HOUSE RELOCATION

Daphne Dennis noted that Foundation House (West Hollywood Homeless Organization) has tentatively located a site for relocation. An additional report will be provided to the Commission at the September meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

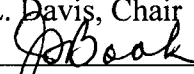
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

MINUTES APPROVED NOVEMBER 11, 1997



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date