

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 4, 2002
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 Peter Mackler at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, 2002, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Gratton.

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven Davis, Ponsella Gratton, Dr. Bill Griffin,
Peter Mackler

Excused: Teresa DeCrescenzo, John D'Amico

Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Nancy Beard, Recreation Services Administrator; 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. MINUTES

Minutes for April 9, 2002, were unanimously approved.

Minutes for April 23, 2002, were amended to reflect that Commissioner DeCrescenzo was not present at that meeting, and then unanimously approved, with Commissioner Cislowski abstaining due to her absence from that meeting.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION ON CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST 2002

In the absence of a representative from CSW, this item was postponed to a later meeting.

B. PRESENTATION FROM LA GAY & LESBIAN CENTER

Daphne Dennis said the Center had done some reorganization and layoffs in response to budget issues, and that commissioners were interested in knowing whether there would be any impact on programming, as well as the results of the AIDS LifeCycle ride, and what the Center's plans are.

Rebecca Isaacs, interim executive director, said this has been a tough year for the Center because of fundraising difficulties following September 11. Fifty-eight people were laid off in two waves. There has been no reduction in service levels for any of the Center's City contracts. One day per week has been reduced at the youth center, but overall service levels are expected to be the same. The Center reiterated its commitment to maintaining and improving the services it provides the City.

Commissioner Davis said the youth program was one of the most important things the City supports. Commissioner Cislowski said she stopped by the Center this week and noticed that a large-screen TV there was broken and in need of replacement. Commissioner Griffin asked about the search process for a new executive director, which Ms. Isaacs said is being conducted nationally, with the job description posted on their website, and in hopes of closing the pool of applicants by June 15.

With regard to LifeCycle, Ms. Isaacs said the closing ceremonies were outstanding, and thanked the City for its cooperation. She said in planning next year's ride there were various considerations about the route, and about beginning the ride on June 8, after school is out, which may be more convenient in terms of available campsites and stops.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRIORITIES FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMMING

Daphne Dennis asked the Commission to revisit its joint study session with the Council, and clarify some of the discussion, particularly with regard to homeless policy and expenditures.

Commissioner Griffin said he believes some on the Council feel the City does not need to support PATH because their facility is distant, that the real problem is mental illness of persons on the street, and that the city's enormous investment in homeless services has not returned value to the residents, because the problem is beyond the scope of a small city to resolve.

Commissioner Davis said he felt some on Council were saying that either the City should provide homeless services itself, or not participate in them at all.

Commissioner Gratton said she felt the Council was saying that not enough attention to the homeless was occurring, despite the amount being paid to PATH. Commissioner Cislowski said that after the city's homeless facility combined into the PATH facility, there has been a perceived increase in homeless persons visible in the city. She is concerned the agency is not providing the on-site services it once did.

With regard to what they would like to see the City request in an RFP for social services dealing with the homeless, Commissioner Mackler said that other agencies could be requested to provide a piece of the puzzle in responding to the problem of homelessness.

B. RFP REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION MEETING SCHEDULE

The Commission reviewed calendar options for RFP review and decisions, and decided to carry this discussion over to the June 11 meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Discussion of the summer meeting schedule, combined with the scheduling of meetings on RFP review, was carried over to the June 11 meeting.

Commissioner Mackler said that at this month's chairs meeting, Daphne Dennis and Lloyd Long presented the social services that the city provides, and educated the group about the RFP process.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Tom West reported that June is HIV Prevention Month, and that a new "HIV Stops With Me" campaign has been launched. There will be a press conference on June 8 kicking off the new effort, at the corner of Santa Monica and San Vicente boulevards, followed by a brunch for persons living with AIDS on June 15.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. in honor of the first birthday of Bailey Cislowski.

The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 11, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: _____
Steven L. Davis

Attest:
