

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2005
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2005, in Room 6 at the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

This meeting had been postponed from March 8, 2005, because the regular meeting date conflicted with the city election.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In the absence of a U.S. flag, the pledge of allegiance was deferred.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Augeri, Steven Davis, Ponsella Gratton,
Charles Henry, Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts.
Excused: Ruth Cislowski

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Mackler joined the meeting in progress, as indicated below. Staff present included Lloyd Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Nancy Beard, Recreation Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, 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

After correcting a name in the minutes of February 8, 2005, they were approved on a motion by Commissioner Henry, seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tripp Mills of the WeHo Life program reported on their current activities and condom distribution figures, and introduced Alton Carswell, who is working with the program.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. REPORT FROM LA SHANTI

Executive Director Sharon Collins expanded on the written report provided to the Commission, and reported on the agency's activities in West Hollywood. David Giugni said staff has been working closely with Shanti staff to improve performance, and that while numbers for new unduplicated participants are good, the program is still facing a challenge in terms of number of sessions.

B. RECREATION UPDATE

Nancy Beard provided an update on recreation activities, including programs at the parks, the pool, and the teen center. Due to rain at the planned celebration of the 20th anniversary of the city's founding, more along those lines will be included in the Book Fair later this year. A new recreation brochure is being prepared.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. "HIV MYTHS" CAMPAIGN EVALUATION

David Giugni reported on the recent social marketing campaign that used post-cards and banners carrying questions about common misconceptions about sexual health. The goal was to encourage people to log on to a website and learn more about the issues there.

Commissioner Mackler asked what was next, and David Giugni replied that they are continuing to plan for subsequent efforts, although the funding that carried this program is no longer available.

B. CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE

David Giugni reported on the ongoing crisis of crystal methamphetamine use in the city. A town hall was held recently, and a follow-up meeting is scheduled soon, with the cooperation of Mayor John Duran.

Regarding the scale of the problem, David Giugni said that Kathy Watt of Van Ness Recovery House reports that all of their current residents have a history of using crystal meth; at the Gay & Lesbian Center, crystal meth has had a major impact on their mental health programming; and at the West Hollywood Recovery Center, the most attended group is about the same subject.

C. HOMELESS CENSUS

Leslie Isenberg reported on the January 2005 census of homeless persons which was taken by city staff in cooperation with the sheriffs, PATH, and paid enumerators. A survey on a Thursday night showed 111 homeless persons in the city, and a daytime survey showed 150, a 35% increase over night.

There was only basic interaction with the homeless people during the survey, since the purpose was getting a basic overview of who is outdoors in the city at various times. There are ongoing programs seeking residences. The population was overwhelmingly male and almost entirely between the ages of 18 and 60, with very few youth and very few seniors over 60.

County data may be available in May or June for comparison. The West Hollywood survey could be repeated annually or seasonally, as necessary.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Augeri distributed two handouts, one on crystal meth, and one regarding the accidental distribution of confidential information about some HIV patients in Florida. Commissioner Henry noted that the incident involved accidental distribution within the health system, and not to the public.

Commissioner Mackler thanked Daphne Dennis, commissioners, and staff for their response to the recent loss of his mother.

On behalf of Nicole Curran, Commissioner Roberts invited commissioners to the 10th annual Women in Leadership Awards, sponsored by the Women's Advisory Board and the Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday, March 23, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at JANUS et Cie in the Pacific Design Center. Honorees include Khandi Alexander, Shirley Bushnell, former First Lady Sharon Davis, Mimi McCormick, Vera Rychikina, and Zina Aksutich.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

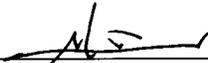
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, 2005, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest: