

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2010
ART ROOM 2, PLUMMER PARK

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Deb Farmer at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 16, 2010, in Art Room 2 at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Cislowski.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer, Charles Henry, Shirley Roberts, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.
Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The secretary reported that the agenda had been posted as required.

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the Jan. 12, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cislowski.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PARTNERS ADHC

Daphne Dennis said that Jewish Family Service (JFS) has decided to close Partners Adult Day Health Care Center, which has been located in a city-owned building at 7362 Santa Monica Blvd. She recommended that the Commission recommend to Council that staff work with JFS to develop a budget for using some of the savings from the contract to assist West Hollywood community members with the transition; that savings from the Prop A transportation contract be kept in the city's Prop A reserves for use on other subsidized transit programs for seniors and people living with disabilities; and that staff work with JFS on recommendations for alternative services or uses for the site, and return to the Commission and Council on this subject.

Vivian Sauer of JFS said closing Partners was a very painful decision made necessary by economics, due to a decline in attendance that made it financially untenable to continue. She also said they face uncertainty about whether the state will continue to fund the program, and they have significant competition from for-profit centers that have lower pay scales.

Commissioners discussed the implications of the closure for residents and community members, and the future use of the building. Whether the building should be used exclusively for social services purposes or potentially for other city-related purposes was discussed.

The recommendation to City Council that staff work with JFS to develop a budget to use of some of the savings from the City's contract to assist community members with supportive services to ease their transition was approved on a motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Henry.

The recommendation to City Council that savings from the Prop A contract be retained in the City's Prop A reserves for use on other subsidized transit programs for seniors and persons living with disabilities was approved on a motion by Commissioner Henry, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Henry moved to direct staff to work with JFS and other West Hollywood-funded social services agencies on alternative human and social services or uses at this site, and return to the Commission and Council with further information. This was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Davis objected to restricting the motion to funded agencies. The motion was adopted, 6 to 1.

Commissioner Davis left the meeting at this point, due to a prior engagement.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS ON LETTER OF INTENT SUBMITTED FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING AUGMENTATION

Daphne Dennis reviewed the process leading to staff's recommendations at this meeting for \$107,035 in augmented funding, including \$25,000 to Friends Research Institute; \$25,000 to JVS WHEST; \$10,2000 to McIntyre House; \$38,378 to Women Helping Women; and \$8,457 to Rainbow Bridge.

Commissioner Henry noted the original staff recommendation included funding to GLC's WeHo Life program. Daphne Dennis said both Being Alive and WeHo Life were not recommended for the augmented funding because there were more compelling applications, and in WeHo Life's case, they had not proposed services in addition to those they would already be doing under their existing contract.

Commissioner Henry expressed interest in using a portion of the funds for Bet Tzedek, due to reductions in their funding from the county and state, and said he thought the application from Rainbow Bridge was poorly written. Daphne Dennis said staff had not recommended Bet Tzedek for augmented funding because their reductions were lower than those for other agencies, and they had not proposed new services.

Commissioner Henry moved to return to the staff recommendations presented at the February 9 meeting (which were \$25,000 to Friends Research Institute; \$20,000 to JVS WHEST; \$10,000 to McIntyre House; \$8,457 to Rainbow Bridge; \$28,578 to Women Helping Women; and \$15,000 held aside in anticipation of other changes to funding for seniors and other social services in the near future), and to allocate to Bet Tzedek the \$15,000 that had been recommended to be held aside. This was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Cislowski left the room.

Commissioner Henry rephrased the motion to provide that \$15,000 from the augmented funding be used for Bet Tzedek. This was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Cislowski returned to the room. The motion did not pass, with 2 in favor (Henry, Roberts), 3 opposed (Farmer, Sims, Zangrando), and 1 abstaining (Cislowski).

Commissioner Zangrando moved to support the staff recommendations on augmented funding, as presented this evening. Commissioner Cislowski left the room. The motion was approved, with 3 in favor (Farmer, Sims, Zangrando), and 2 opposed (Henry, Roberts).

C. SUPPORT FOR DASH LINES

David Giugni presented the request for action to urge Los Angeles to retain the West Hollywood/Hollywood and Fairfax DASH lines, which are being considered for elimination due to budget issues. Commissioner Henry moved to send a letter to the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Councilmember Paul Koretz, and Councilmember Tom LaBonge, urging that these lines be retained. This was seconded by Commissioner Cislowski and approved.

Commissioner Roberts said she spoke to Councilmember Koretz about this, and that he had urged interest people to show up at the relevant Council meeting. Commissioners recommended that members of the Senior Advisory Board and the Disabilities Advisory Board be urged to attend, as well as social services agencies.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

There were no items from the commission.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

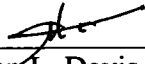
There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Rae Mitchell said she would share the request to have representation from Senior Advisory Board attend the Los Angeles meeting on the DASH lines.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Signed: 

Steven L. Davis

Attest: 
