

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 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 6:04 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2002, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Griffin.

Present: Ruth Cislowski, John D'Amico, Steven Davis,
Ponsella Gratton, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler
Excused: Teresa DeCrescenzo
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, Diane Kahn-Epstein, David Giugni, 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 of the January 8, 2002, meeting were read and approved on a motion by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Cislowski.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jessica Lee from PATH/Foundation House gave a general update on their move to the new facility, which took place January 26. She said all 55 residents made the move, and that services are well underway at the new location. She thanked Social Services staff for

the welcoming basket, and said that tours of the new location are available for those who have not visited yet.

Jeff Bailey of WeHo Life said their website has been improved, and that they are initiating an “HIV Stops With Me” campaign this month.

Garrison Smith of the Gay & Lesbian Center thanked the commission for their support during all the changes that have occurred in their program. He spoke about the Kruks/Tilsner transitional living program, and distributed a brochure to commissioners about it. A Spanish-language version is being prepared. Garrison recently attended the National Network for Youth meeting in Washington DC.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PROJECT ANGEL FOOD

Joy Aprento, director of programs, and Sunshine Day, director of client services, which has been combined with outreach, gave an update on the work of Project Angel Food. They said the AIDS Nutrition Service Alliance (ANSA) is meeting in Hollywood this month, with more than 300 people in attendance. These are agencies throughout the U.S. and elsewhere that are providing Project Angel Food-type services in their local communities.

B. JFS NUTRITION

Rachel Berkovic, director of senior services, thanked the commission for their support of the program, which she said has a broader impact on seniors than just helping with nutritional needs, because the personal delivery service helps seniors feel less alone, which can be reflected in a lessened need for medical care, and other benefits.

Commissioner Davis asked about frozen meals, and said a program of that kind should be considered in the next funding cycle.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Daphne Dennis presented the year-end report on social services programs. She said that while West Hollywood is experiencing a decline in the number of residents who are seniors or have lower incomes, those who remain from those categories are “aging in place” and in need of a higher level of services.

Council’s mid-year budget review will take place soon, and more information will be available regarding some social services funding that currently is frozen.

There were several public speakers who commented on the year-end report, including (1) Anne Factor of WHEST, who noted there is a job fair tomorrow in West Hollywood Park; (2) Gabe Gutierrez of City Project, who is working on HIV/STD prevention through safer sex training, peer advocate training, and substance abuse prevention; (3) Wendy Douglas, of the sexual health program at the Gay & Lesbian Center; and (4) Lori Karny of Women Helping Women, who introduced Sidney Goldfarb, their new liaison.

Commissioner D'Amico asked who sets income requirements for agencies that have them, and Daphne Dennis said it is usually set by other agencies that have enough budget impact to require their funds to be used in a certain way. She said that agencies vary in strictness on income eligibility.

Commissioner Cislowski asked if there would be any amendments to the current contracts, and Daphne Dennis said the contract with Russian Community Center would be amended to provide funding for the furniture center, as previously determined.

B. COMMUNITY REPORT 2002

Daphne Dennis presented information about the Community Report 2002.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Mackler reported on the chairs meeting, which heard a presentation on the general plan process, which is a broader undertaking than the strategic plan.

Commissioner Davis said he accompanied staff to PATH for an tour, and was very pleased with the new facility. He said it was well worth visiting, and to plan to take about two hours to see it.

Commissioner Mackler asked what happened with regard to Council discussion on Christopher Street West, and Lloyd Long said that Council had encouraged the event to become more community-oriented and have less of a "circuit party" atmosphere. They also advocated the use of West Hollywood's name on the event, since it is held in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Mackler asked if a draft of the recreation brochure could be provided to commissioners earlier in the publication cycle, so they will have a better opportunity to review it for any questions or clarifications.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. RETREAT

A retreat for the Human Services Commission has been scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2002, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., with lunch provided. The facilitator will be Gary Topchick. The location will be announced.

B. STUDY SESSION

The study session between the Council and the Commission will be held April 29 or May 13, and will last approximately 90 minutes.

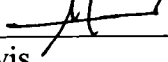
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. in memory of Scott Forbes, founder of Studio One and a longtime member of the city's business license commission, and in memory of Skip Ciotti, former executive director of the Sara Project, dealing with housing for people living with AIDS.

The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2002.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest:

