

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES - JANUARY 13, 1998
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 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 13, 1998, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Diane Kahn-Epstein, Tamar Springer, and Tom West, Social Services Program Specialists; 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

The minutes of the meetings of December 9, 1997, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Graney, seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UPDATE FROM WEST HOLLYWOOD CARES

Thomas Dyer reported that outreach events are continuing at Swing Cafe, and that a Mardi Gras or Valentine's Day event is being planned for February.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH L.A. GAY & LESBIAN CENTER'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAM

Daphne Dennis presented staff's recommendation that the Commission recommend to the City Council a contract with COEP in the amount of \$45,550 for the provision of educational, cultural, and social programming to the city's lesbian community, for the period 2/1/98 through 9/30/98, and that a new scope of services be negotiated.

The anticipated scope will require the program to assign a specific staff member to coordinate these services in West Hollywood, if possible from a West Hollywood office or base of operations. Alternatives to the recommendation included renewing the current contract with the current scope of services, hiring a consultant to provide similar services in lieu of the contract, and non-renewal of the contract.

Commissioners expressed strong interest in having the services provided from an office or base of operations inside the City. The recommendation was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Rosenfeld.

C. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH L.A. GAY & LESBIAN CENTER'S YOUTH PROGRAM

Tom West reported that documentation and administrative problems with this program have been greatly lessened during a period of intensive review, including monthly site visits and verifications of records. He presented staff's recommendation that the Commission recommend to Council a contract with this program in the amount of \$34,666 for the period 2/1/98 through 9/30/98, with the program providing in-person updates to the Commission in March, May, July, and September 1998.

Commissioner Davis noted the recurring problem of staff turnover, and asked how the program can be sustained so that it does not fall apart administratively whenever there is a change of staff. Commissioner DeCrescenzo noted that turnover is a chronic issue in youth services because of high stress levels and low pay scales, but that systems should be in place that remain consistent despite staff turnover.

Commissioner Davis emphasized that the program should continue its current improvement in administrative performance, because he would not support continuing the contract if the agency again falters in this area.

The recommendation to extend the contract was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner DeCrescenzo.

Cole Rucker, director of residential services for the program, reported that four buses from the Center will be going to Youth Lobby Day in Sacramento.

D. 1996-97 YEAR-END REVIEW OF SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES

Daphne Dennis presented the year-end self-assessments of the contract agencies, and the Commission received public comment from Anne Factor of West Hollywood Employment & Services Training, from Ms. Desai of Women Helping Women; and from Ellen Eidem of the Los Angeles Free Clinic.

Commissioners reviewed specific items in several reports, including those of Dispute Resolution Services, GLC COEP, and GLC Legal Services.

The Commission directed that a letter be sent to Kathy Watt, executive director of Van Ness Recovery House, expressing their concern over her recent injury by a program client.

At this point, Commissioner Roberts left with Councilmember Paul Koretz to attend a reception for Gil Cedillo, who was elected to the Assembly today.

On a motion by Commissioner Rosenfeld, seconded by Commissioner DeCrescenzo, the year-end self-assessment report was received and filed.

E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT

Tom West presented staff's review of community relations activities originally recommended by the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Council, and recommended that some of the elements be incorporated in the renegotiated scope of services for GLC COEP, and that others be reviewed for implementation as part of the contracting process this year. Some of the items may be appropriate for inclusion in the Unity Project sponsored by Councilmember Heilman's office.

Commissioners discussed and asked staff to follow through with this approach.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. SOCIAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

A special subcommittee to review the COEP contract met this month, but there were no meetings of the regular Social Services subcommittee.

B. LIAISONS

1. CHAIRS MEETING

Commissioner Davis reported the Chairs Meeting was not held this month.

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

Commissioner Graney reported that Youth Lobby Day will be held January 21, 1998, and the next quarterly meeting of Life Lobby's House of Delegates will be at the end of February. Also, Life Lobby participated in a fundraiser at Mark's Restaurant, which raised \$25,000 to enhance lesbian health care.

3. LA COUNTY HRMAC

Commissioner Davis reported the next meeting is January 22 in Burbank, and that he plans to attend.

4. PARTNERS ADHC

There was no additional report on Partners.

5. RECREATION

There was no additional report on Recreation.

6. SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

The City is sponsoring its second annual Valentine's Dance for seniors, which will be at 11:30 a.m., Friday, February 6, at the House of Blues.

7. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Komac reported on the most recent meeting of the Disabilities Advisory Board, which has adopted a workplan focusing on five items: (1) ADA compliance, (2) recreation, (3) employment, (4) housing issues, and (5) pedestrian accessibility.

8. LESBIAN & GAY ADVISORY BOARD

Staff will make sure Commissioner Davis receives information on the schedule of meetings for this group.

Commissioner Komac volunteered to be the liaison to the Library Community Task Force.

Commissioner Rosenfeld brought to the Commission's attention recent discussion over youth gathering in the City on certain evenings. The Sheriff is monitoring this development.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. RETREAT

Lloyd Long reported that a facilitator has been selected for the Commission's upcoming retreat, and that selection of a date is needed. Those present indicated that Saturday, February 7, would be good, so staff will check with Commissioner Nieto and Roberts to confirm this date.

Commissioner Graney will assist in site selection as soon as the date is confirmed. Pursuant to the Brown Act, this will be a public meeting, and public notice will be provided.

B. PLUMMER PARK CENTER

Commissioner Davis volunteered to serve on the Design Review Committee for the Plummer Park Senior / Teen Center.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

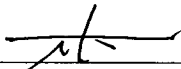
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. in memory of Cece Poirier, sister of Recreation Supervisor Chris Worland.

The next meeting will be the retreat, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 1998, with final time, date, and location to be publicly noticed.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, February 10, 1998, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

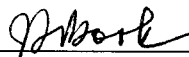


MINUTES APPROVED FEBRUARY 10, 1998



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date