

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JANUARY 5, 1999
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 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1999, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, Tamar Springer, Diane Kahn-Epstein, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 10 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Graney, seconded by Commissioner Komac.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CHILD & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Daphne Dennis presented an information item regarding a proposed "Saturdays in the Park" project for children and families. This will be a developing project, and the Commission will be kept informed.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES YEAR-END REPORT

The Commission received general comment regarding the Social Services Year-End Report from Anne Factor of WHEST; Kathy Watt of Van Ness Recovery House; Matthew Scelza of Dispute Resolution Services, who invited Commissioners to attend and publicize a Jan. 25 Town Hall meeting on changes in the rent control law, which will be held at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium; Lynn Easley and Merle Siegel of Women Helping Women (NCJW/LA); and David Lash and Margaret Hennessy of Bet Tzedek Legal Services.

Also, from Dan Fisher, former program director for Foundation House, who noted that he is now the director of grant development there; Juan Ledesma and Robert Dal Porto of Being Alive, who emphasized that the City's extension of office space to their agency was a critical factor in the organization's ability to survive a budget crunch this year; Vivian Sauer of Jewish Family Services (Senior Center, Disability Services, Partners ADHC, Board & Care and HUD Outreach); Janet Witkin of Alternative Living for the Aging; Helen Levin of the Russian Community Center; and Jeff Bailey of GLC West Hollywood Cares.

Daphne Dennis presented the staff report, noting that the agencies give statistics and respond to specific questions in the year-end report. At this time, none of the contract agencies are on probation. The newly-funded agencies remain on provisional status.

Commissioner Komac expressed several concerns with regard to the JFS Board & Care contract: (1) whether the numbers reported for the Kings Road facility, pp. 48-49 of the year-end report, are accurate, and whether ineligible persons have signed as participants; (2) whether services are duplicated or lost due to both City funding and HUD funding of activities; and (3) whether persons are encouraged to attend outside activities.

Daphne Dennis said staff would review the legitimate participation and outside activities issues, and that the appropriateness of activities issue is already being handled in arbitration.

The Commission asked staff to present information at the next meeting on the amount of year-end savings available, and some recommendations on where that money could be used.

C. REVISED SOCIAL SERVICES TIMELINE

The timeline will be in ongoing revision. Agency presentations originally planned for January will be rescheduled, and a study session tentatively placed in May, with a public hearing in June.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. BY-LAWS

Commissioners discussed the possibility of revising the by-laws to provide for rotation of the chair among the members, or among the members interested in serving in that position, in comparison to the current procedure of electing a chair and vice chair each year.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Rosenfeld, seconded by Commissioner Nieto, to place on the agenda in September, two months before the election of officers in November, an opportunity for members to express their significant interest in serving as an officer. This was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Graney expressed the belief that persons serving as Vice Chair should be in training for the post of Chair, and should move into the Chair at an appropriate time.

Without objection, the agenda was amended to provide that Item VIII would occur next.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Chair. Commissioner Graney nominated Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Nieto. In the absence of further nominations, a motion to close nominations and declare Commissioner Davis elected was made by Commissioner Graney, seconded by Commissioner Nieto, and unanimously approved.

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Komac nominated Commissioner DeCrescenzo. When the roll was called, there were four votes (Davis, Graney, Nieto, and Rosenfeld) for Commissioner Roberts, and one vote (Komac) for Commissioner DeCrescenzo. Commissioner Roberts was declared elected.

The agenda then reverted to the regular order. Commissioner Nieto left the meeting at this point due to a prior engagement.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Social Services Subcommittee: The subcommittee did not meet this month. Reorganiza-

tion of the Subcommittee was placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

Chairs Meeting: Commissioner Davis reported the chairs of the boards and commissions did not meet in December.

California Alliance for Pride & Equity: Commissioner Graney reported that CAPE is up to about 300 members now, has hired a lobbyist, and is conducting a search for a permanent executive director, and research into a permanent board which will reflect the diversity of the gay and lesbian community. He and Daphne Dennis will check on the status of potential City financial support for the organization.

Disabilities Advisory Board: No additional report.

Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board: No additional report.

Senior Advisory Board: No additional report.

Commissioner Rosenfeld said she spoke with Darryl Cummings of the Center recently, and he may be interested in conducting Russian outreach programs on a non-contract basis.

Commissioner Davis said he would like the Commission to receive an agenda report on Angels Amidst at an upcoming meeting, with a written explanation of the rules and procedures, and how this will be conducted in the future.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis reported that the substance-free New Year's Eve event was a tremendous success, attracting more than 500 participants. There is every reason to expect that this could become an annual event. Tom West was integral to the planning and success of the project.

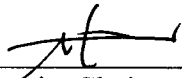
VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional comments. Dan Levy, liaison with the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board, was present.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

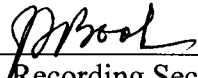
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. in memory of Elizabeth Burns, a civic activist and founding member of the West Hollywood Senior Advisory Board, who passed away recently.

MINUTES APPROVED FEBRUARY 9, 1999



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date