

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JANUARY 9, 2001
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 Teresa DeCrescenzo at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2001, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Peter Mackler.

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

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd Long, Director of Human Services; Curtis Brown, Jr., Recreation Services Administrator; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; 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.

Without objection, the agenda was amended in sequence, to provide that Item VII would be taken up first, Item IV last, and Item III next to last.

II. MINUTES

Commissioner Davis noted that at the last meeting he had asked for Halloween and Christopher Street West to be placed on the January agenda, and that this had been discussed by the Commission.

With that amendment, the minutes of the December 12, 2000, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Davis, with Commissioners Cislowski and Mackler abstaining.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

The floor was opened for members of the public who wished to address the Commission. Anne Factor spoke about her program, and Garrison Smith of the Gay & Lesbian Center gave an update on youth programs.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis attended a meeting on AIDS education. Commissioner DeCrescenzo asked members to please commit to attending meetings of the groups with which they serve as liaisons.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Curtis Brown distributed the new recreation brochure, noting that library information is included on page three.

Curtis invited commissioners to the January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day events in West Hollywood, including an award to David Mixner, a candlelight march, and speeches.

Regarding Christopher Street West, Curtis said they will be invited to the next meeting. Commissioners were provided with the Council item approving CSW for one more year. Councilmembers have expressed concern about the tone and funding of the event, and may consider issuing an RFP for the 2002 event.

Lloyd Long reported that he and Curtis Brown met with the new special events director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, regarding the reopening of Santa Monica Boulevard, Summer Sounds, new year's events, and other special occasions.

Tom West thanked Jeff Bailey, Kathy Watt, Greg Cardona, and all those helped with the city's new year event.

IV. A. USE OF STAFF AS TRAFFIC GUARDS

Commissioner Mackler said he had been concerned at the West Hollywood Park farewell event for Councilmember Paul Koretz because staff members were guiding traffic without special equipment or clothing. He asked whether appropriate vests, flashlights, and safety equipment can be provided.

Lloyd Long said that the absence of such equipment was an anomaly, and that staff would have it on future occasions.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Daphne Dennis presented the year-end report on social services programs, including charts showing funds expended, and how close the agencies came to meeting their goals. She reported that there is \$8,000 for available for reprogramming, and an additional \$7,000 available either for return to the general fund, or for reprogramming.

Trends noted include a generally growing affluence among city residents, with the proportion of seniors in the population slowly declining, while the proportion of persons not living on fixed incomes rises. This change has had an impact on social services programs in the city.

Being Alive and Child & Family Services had been on probation. Daphne reviewed their progress.

Commissioners Cislowski discussed the reports from PATH, regarding the differential between number of bed nights reported and number of persons served, and APLA, regarding outreach in food distribution. She also discussed AHF and the WeHo Lounge.

Commissioner Davis moved, and Commissioner Mackler seconded, to report to Council that the Commission recommends holding the money available for reprogramming, and determining its use in the future.

Commissioner Cislowski discussed services for women. Commissioner Mackler discussed the APLA dental program and the upcoming agency relocation.

Commissioner Mackler noted that we are one year away from the next RFP process, and said he would like to hear a retrospective regarding what worked well and what worked less well in the process last time.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo asked whether another needs assessment would be undertaken, and Daphne Dennis said that we would probably do something along those lines, and decide in March or April what direction to go on that. On Commissioner DeCrescenzo's recommendation, Jacquelyn McCroskey of USC and the LA County Children's Planning Council will be invited to speak to the Commission in February.

The motion was approved on a vote of 6 to 0.

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

IV. B. CONDOM DISTRIBUTION INITIATIVE

Jeff Bailey reported on the current condom distribution program through the Gay & Lesbian Center.

Commissioner Griffin moved to oppose the mandatory condom distribution initiative which has been placed on the upcoming city ballot by petition. This was seconded by Commissioner D'Amico, and approved 5 to 0.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Senator Alan Cranston and Congressman Julian Dixon, and in honor of John Brown, former executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Center, and current executive director of the Desert AIDS Project, who has raised four sons -- Oscar, Reuben, Emilio, and Roberto -- and set a remarkable example for the community.

Signed: 

Steven L. Davis

Attest:


