

**MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM /
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 NORTH SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD 90069**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Jimmy Palmieri at 6:07 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, 2016, in the West Hollywood Park Community Meeting Room / Council Chambers, 625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Gamboa.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Elizabeth Anderson, Sam Borelli, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Mayor Lindsey P. Horvath, Mayor-Elect Lauren Meister, Councilmember John D'Amico, and Councilmember John Duran were present. Staff present included Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Corey Roskin, and Jeff Book.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Borelli.

WELCOME BY MAYOR, MAYOR-ELECT, AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Lindsey P. Horvath thanked the Commissioners and public for participating in the process for determining the City's social services. She spoke about the Aging in Place / Aging in Community initiative, which was approved by the City Council at the meeting of April 4, 2016.

Mayor-Elect Lauren Meister greeted the Commissioners, members of the public, and social services providers who were present, and spoke about the importance of social services in the West Hollywood community.

Councilmember John Duran thanked members of the Commission and the public, who are the eyes and ears of the City Council to acquire information and make recommendations regarding social services.

Councilmember John D'Amico also welcomed those attending.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Yola Doré, liaison from Disabilities Advisory Board, said that board is following these discussions closely.
2. Sarah Blanch of the Institute for Public Strategies expressed thanks for the City's support of fun alcohol-free events.
3. Robert Gamboa, liaison from Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, invited the Commission to the next LGAB meeting, which will be discussing LGBT youth homelessness. He also said the Institute for Public Strategies is working on SIZZLE, the next alcohol-free event. He also spoke regarding the Safe WeHo Leadership Council.
4. Tod Hallman spoke on social services priorities.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Palmieri reviewed the purpose and process of the Public Hearing, which is an opportunity for the public to provide input on what the City's social services priorities should be, in preparation for the adoption of priorities by the City Council.

David Giugni discussed the importance of maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving services from social services providers, and noted that the meeting is being shown on West Hollywood Cable and will be available on the City's website.

The Chair opened the public hearing, and the public was invited to comment on social services needed in the community.

The following people presented remarks: (1) Garry Bowie, Being Alive; (2) Steve Wayland, PAWS/L.A.; (3) Sheila Moore, Jewish Family Services; (4) Rachel Resnick, National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles; (5) Rachel Donaldson, community mental health at NCJW/LA; (6) Brett Holland, WeHo Life program at LA LGBT Center; (7) Dustin Kerrone, sexual health program, LA LGBT Center; (8) Mike Rizzo, addiction recovery program, LA LGBT Center; (9) Amy Kane, LA LGBT Center; and (10) Fred Summers, Jewish Family Services/SOVA Food Pantry.

Followed by: (11) Keith Star, Tarzana Treatment Center; (12) Marina Berkman, West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center, Jewish Family Services; (13) Terry Goddard, Alliance for Housing and Healing (Aid for AIDS); (14) Sofia Komskaya, on behalf of West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center; (15) Guenter Keunecke, president of residents council at 848 West Knoll (16) Diane Schneider, Hirsh Family Kosher Kitchen, Jewish Family Services; (17) Harry Aguado, former chair of Disabilities Advisory Board; (18) Yana Batrak of Jewish

Family Services; (19) Kevin Stalter, Thrive Tribe Foundation; and (20) Orren Plaut, on behalf of Thrive Tribe Foundation.

Then: (21) Jonathan Edwards, on behalf of Thrive Tribe Foundation; (22) Anthony Beechler, on behalf of Thrive Tribe Foundation; (23) Dr. Jay Gladstein, on behalf of Thrive Tribe Foundation; (24) Lia Despotovici, JFS Connect program; (25) Cynthia Blatt, concerning grants for rehab and help for people losing their homes under the Ellis Act; (26) Esther Baum, regarding transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities; (27) Derek Oye, grant manager at Saban Community Clinic; (28) Dr. Cathy Reback, executive director of Friends Research Institute; (29) Andrew Lopez of Friends Community Center's Friends Getting Off program; (30) Madison Rae, of Friends Research Institute's WeHo Streets outreach program; (31) Fernando Gutierrez, of WeHo Streets outreach program; and (32) Yola Doré, on behalf of social services for persons with debilitating illnesses other than those already being helped by programs.

The Commission took a five-minute recess.

After the recess, the public hearing continued with remarks from: (33) Mike Pitkin, encouraging the City to partner with City of Los Angeles housing programs and provide a more coordinated experience; (34) Lydia Szamraj, on behalf of mental health services, AIDS Project Los Angeles; (35) Michael Dolan, resident, in support of the City's social services programs; (36) Cynthia Chavez, grant writer with Safe Refuge, Long Beach; (37) Rudy Salinas, Housing Works; (38) Drian Juarez, Transgender Economic Empowerment Program at the LA LGBT Center; (39) Brian Hardin, executive director of McIntyre House; (40) Shawn Kravich, vice president for development and external affairs, Bet Tzedek Legal Services; (41) Lyndsie Zacheis of Hey. Everyone. Lets. Play. (H.E.L.P.); (42) Nir Zilberman, Love No Hate; (43) Kris Nameth, LA LGBT Center; and (44) Marne Carmean, regarding pets and housing issues.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

3. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck spoke about the Lesbian Speakers Series, whose next program is with novelist, playwright and lesbian rights leader Sarah Schulman. She spoke about the Kids Fair happening this weekend.

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the Senior Health Fair coming up, and the Senior WeHo Stories project.

David Giugni said the next step in the Social Services funding process is the Human Services Commission meeting next Tuesday, April 19, at 6 pm in Rooms 1 and 2 at the West Hollywood Community Center in Plummer Park.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about the City Council's April 4th approval of the Aging in Place/Aging in Community initiative.

David Giugni said an updated list of social services agencies not currently having contracts for services with the City was distributed to the Commission before the meeting, and copies are available at the public information table in the back.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nir Zilberman said Love No Hate is becoming a nonprofit. He spoke about a video discouraging meth use, which will be shown in West Hollywood bars. He spoke about bisexuals not having a voice.

5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Borelli thanked staff for organizing the social services funding Process. He said meeting with the commission and advisory board chairs had been very informative. He noted continuing themes of homelessness, mental health, and a need for food.

Commissioner Shandrick said it was very helpful to hear from the public this evening, and from the boards and commissions previously. He hopes the process will facilitate connections among the agencies. He also spoke about attending the Out in Iran event, regarding the realities of living in countries which still have policies of violent suppression toward gays and lesbians.

Commissioner Cislowski thanked the agencies and staff.

Commissioner Anderson thanked the public, residents, agencies, and staff.

Commissioner Davis referred back to a remark made by Drían Juarez, that “the future is fluid,” referring to the rising share of young people not identifying with a definite sexual orientation.

Commissioner Meltzer thanked everyone and noted that the word ‘connections’ had come up frequently during remarks. She said how important connections and collaboration are, for the agencies and the funding process.


Commissioner Palmieri thanked staff, the agencies, and his fellow members of the Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Human Services Commission was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

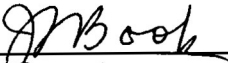
The next meeting is at 6 pm, Tuesday, April 19, 2016, in Rooms 1 and 2 of the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 19TH
DAY OF APRIL 2016.



Jimmy Palmieri, Chair

Attest:



Jeff Book, Secretary