

**STUDY SESSION OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD
CITY COUNCIL WITH
THE SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2001
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Heilman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Prang administered the oath of office to Sofia Komskaya, Commissioner, Public Safety Commission.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Councilmembers Duran, Guarriello, Martin, Prang and Mayor Heilman.

Boardmembers: Wexler, Levin, Page, Weber, Skibinsky, Baum, Gelman, Rickles, Norton, Kutz, Krupa Schoichet.

Absent: Boardmembers: Mansdorf, O'Brien, Hass

Also Present: City Manager Arevalo, Director of Human Services Long, Social Service Administrator Dennis, Assistant City Clerk Taylor, Senior Advisory Liaisons Jacobs and Springer.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Approved by consensus of the Council.

DISCUSSION ITEMS WITH THE SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD:

Mayor Heilman requested that Chairman Rickles give a brief overview.

Boardmember Rickles thanked the City Council for the honor the bestowed on him last week at the Los Angeles Commission on Aging banquet. He spoke on how the Senior Advisory Board wants to have a more contact with council, and how the board needs to work as advocates for the City and City programs. He spoke about how the board needs to have better communication with local seniors. He expressed his concern about the re-opening of Santa Monica Boulevard and how this might have a negative effect on seniors. He also spoke to the issue of the high cost of living for seniors in the City. He also spoke about how the board feels their input on several issues; such as affordable housing and transportation are not being requested.

Boardmember Weber spoke about the mission statement of the Senior Advisory Board.

Boardmember Norton spoke about by miss-information of City events and dates.

Mayor Heilman spoke about creating a database of seniors, so the board and staff would be able to provide better communication to seniors.

Councilmember Duran spoke about wanting to discuss big issues that effect seniors.

Boardmember Hass spoke about what frustrates seniors in the city, is when calling City Hall there is no senior representative for them to call upon. He spoke about the need to create a ombudsman or a senior representative to focus only on senior issues and questions.

Boardmember Levin spoke in support of City staff.

Boardmember Page spoke about how the City bus line doesn't go to Bristol Farms or Ralph's supermarkets. She also spoke about Saturday shuttle, and the need for bus shelters not benches. She also spoke to the issue that pedestrian crosswalks need longer waiting times for seniors to have the ability to cross the street.

Mayor Pro Tem Guarriello spoke about the knowledge of Boardmember Page on transportation issues.

Mayor Heilman spoke about communication problems with seniors in West Hollywood.

Boardmember Baum spoke about creating a list of seniors from the registered voter rolls.

Councilmember Prang thanked everyone who volunteered his or her time to be on the Senior Advisory Board. He spoke about how the board and council need to work with each other on various issues.

Mayor Heilman spoke about the responsibility of staff to engage the board to get their input.

Boardmember Weber spoke about the lack of effective communication from board to council. He spoke about how the board needs to have a more active role in policy recommendations.

Mayor Pro Tem Guarriello spoke about having the board go to staff requesting issues to talk about.

Boardmember Haas spoke about how the board is pigeoned holed in an advisory role to council.

Boardmember Gelman spoke about the boards and cities obligation to youth. She spoke about how the City needs to provide citizenship and how to be an effective citizen and possible use the cities cable channels to promote the idea.

Councilmember Martin spoke about the need to create ways to focus on issues that effect the Senior Advisory Board and seniors across the City and report back to council. He spoke about how the board needs to be the watchdog for the City concerning senior issues.

Boardmember Rickles spoke about having a Senior Health Fair in the City. He also spoke about how City staff sometimes ignores seniors phone calls.

Boardmember Schoichet spoke about having better communication and coordination between the council and the board. She also spoke about having better coordination of liaisons to the board.

Boardmember Baum spoke to issue that seniors were not present on other commissions and boards.

Boardmember Kutz spoke about wanting the board to be more open and available to the Russian community seniors. He spoke about how the board needs to be more available to answer various questions by Russian seniors.

Boardmember Skibinsky thanked the council for all their help with seniors. He spoke about how the City needs to communicate with newer seniors coming into the community. He also spoke about the need for more affordable housing for seniors in West Hollywood.

Councilmember Duran spoke about seniors serving on other various commissions and boards. He also spoke about creating a sub-committee of the council to work with the Senior Advisory Board.

Boardmember Haas spoke about a suggestion that if a piece of legislation comes before council that effect seniors, they should receive a phone call from council or staff to be included in the discussion.

Boardmember Weber spoke about how the liaisons need to be more effective and play a larger role with the board.

Councilmember Maritn spoke about the many successes the Senior Advisory Board has made and how involved they were during the Santa Monica Boulevard project. He spoke about how council needs to be more aggressive about involving the board on council decisions.

Mayor Heilman spoke about the creation of the subcommittee and developing a work plan for the Senior Advisory Board and Council.

Councilmember Prang spoke about how he wanted the board to ask staff to be more involved in senior issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Guarriello spoke about Boardmember Rickles being honored last week.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

HILLARY SELVIN, LOS ANGELES spoke in support of the Senior Advisory Board and thanked them for their participation.

6. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS: None

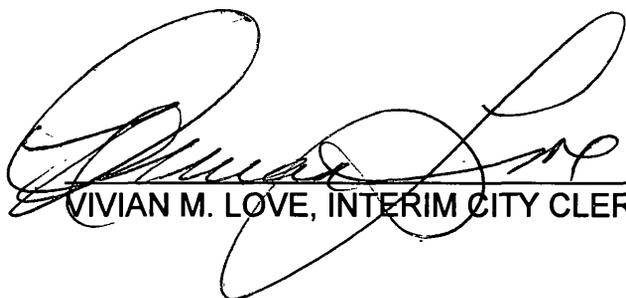
6. ADJOURNMENT: The City Council and the Senior Advisory Board adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL
THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE, 2001.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



VIVIAN M. LOVE, INTERIM CITY CLERK