

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – September 11, 2012
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Zangrando at 6:03 p.m., Tuesday, September 11, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Zangrando. In acknowledgement of Patriot's Day, he requested a moment of silence prior to the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Jimmy Palmieri, Bob Shepard, Heidi Shink, Anne-Marie Williams, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: Steven Davis

A quorum was present at all times. Human Services staff members included Director Sam Baxter, Daphne Dennis, David Giugni, Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, and Margarita Kustanovich.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported 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 form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 10, 2012, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Shink, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **CENTER FOR CIVIC MEDIATION**

Octavio Olivas provided an update on actions being taken by the Center for Civic Mediation to increase participation of West Hollywood community

members in their services. Staff indicated its recommendation that the probationary status be ended as of September 30, 2012.

B. KLEAN RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Commissioners received a presentation by Joe Parrot about residential drug and alcohol treatment services at KLEAN Treatment Center's West Hollywood location. This is a for-profit in-patient program which will provide 10% of its bed availability to West Hollywood community members under a land use agreement with the City.

C. AGENCY DISCUSSION

Three agencies providing food and nutrition services to West Hollywood community members described their operations and responded to questions from the Commission. Speakers included: Sheila Moore, Alina Maldonado, and Fred Summers from Jewish Family Service (Nutrition and SOVA); Robert Boller from Project Angel Food; and Father Ian Davies and Joseph Warren from St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWALS

David Giugni reviewed the staff recommendation that social services contracts be renewed for the third and final year of this contract period from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, with the 2% cost of living increase approved by the City Council in the budget process. The Commission approved the recommendation unanimously.

Ava Rose and Nickie Hemans, representing the National Council of Jewish Women, spoke about the agency's programs, and thanked Commissioners and City staff for their continuing support.

Jeff Bailey, representing AIDS Project Los Angeles, spoke about the agency's programs, and indicated that the funding augmentation received in the last grant period would cover current client service but not outreach expenses.

Terry Maher, representing the WHEST Program, thanked the Commission for its support and indicated the large volume of clients being served by the program since its move to the new site at the Library.

David Kruskall spoke about the impact of WHEST's new location at the West Hollywood Library, which has brought many inquiries and new participants, as well as volunteer assistance.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Shepard said he doesn't think community members should be required to take loans on their home or car before becoming eligible for services on the basis of need.

Commissioner Palmieri said the Tweakers Project will be part of Bakersfield Pride again this year. The Tribe discussion group will meet on Thursday, on the topic of recovery.

Commissioner Williams asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of James Giberson, a New York firefighter who died in the 9/11 attack. The commissioner met his surviving wife and family. Also, tomorrow is NCJW's Women to Women panel, which she is moderating.

Commissioner Williams shared an announcement from Cedars-Sinai regarding a panel and series planned for next month, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She also thanked Councilmember D'Amico and Council Deputy Michelle Rex for the upcoming meeting of the She discussion group, on the topic of money.

Commissioner Cislowski asked about scheduling a Rent Stabilization presentation. Staff said this was planned for the next meeting or two. She also asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Arthur Kruskall, father of David Kruskall.

The West Hollywood Book Fair is planned for Sunday, Sept. 30.

Commissioner Zangrando said he and Commissioner Davis attended the opening of 1234 N. Hayworth, newest West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation building, for seniors.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni spoke about the HIV/substance abuse treatment providers' collaborative meeting to be held on October 9.

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the upcoming Breast Cancer Awareness Month panel at NCJW on Wednesday, October 24, from noon – 2:00 p.m. The event will include a discussion with medical experts from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and will be moderated by Commissioner Shink.

Daphne Dennis introduced Margarita Kustanovich, staff assistant in Recreation, and spoke about the retirement of Craig Rhea, and the hiring of Corri Planck, former Deputy to Hon. Abbe Land, in the Social Services division.

Daphne Dennis and Commissioner Palmieri spoke about the standards for admission to the Klean Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program.


VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. in memory of Arthur Kruskall, Andrew Gamboa, and James Giberson.

Signed:



Mark Zangrando, Chair

Date