

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 11, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

B. **ROLL CALL**

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

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members included Sam Baxter, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Corri Planck, and Jeff Book. Mayor Jeffrey Prang and Council Deputy Michelle Rex were also present.

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 Nov. 13, 2012, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Zangrando, with Commissioners Shepard and Shink abstaining.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Capt. Kelley Fraser of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station spoke about remarks made at the last Commission meeting by Roger Coggan of the Gay & Lesbian Center, regarding an ongoing problem with negative treatment from Sheriff's officers, particularly of Latinos in the city. She said 10 specific incidents, over a two-year period, were identified, and a complete review conducted. She introduced Lt. Cheryl Newman. Capt. Fraser said a Citizens Academy is coming up at the Sheriff's offices, covering eight Wednesday nights.

Carolyn Weiss, member of the Transgender Advisory Board, spoke about common goals of the Commission and the Advisory Board, and said that the Board would be glad to conduct a “Trans 101” training for Commission members. Sam Baxter said he would work with the Commission chair and vice chair to schedule this training.

Dr. Keith Hernandez spoke about a research clinic on Vine at Willoughby. David Giugni said they would be joining the prevention providers’ collaborative.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

Martha Ortega of West Hollywood Pre-School, Duane Dennis of Pathways, Loren Leach of Aviva, and Hilary Selvin and Melissa Tillman of National Council of Jewish Women (Light Up a Library) – programs with an educational component for children – spoke to the Board about their programs’ concerns and accomplishments.

Melissa Tillman said that the Light Up a Library program was basically running some school libraries on a volunteer basis, due to staff cutbacks by the school district. Volunteers are needed, and are subject to LifeScan fingerprinting and TB testing, due to working with children.

Aviva provides after-school care and homework help, and also seeks volunteers to assist.

West Hollywood Pre-School helps children become ready for kindergarten, and is a full-inclusion program, including students with developmental problems. Duane Dennis said the agency had sustained \$10 million in cuts in the last 5 years, but had not reduced services to West Hollywood because of the City’s funding.

Commissioner Cislowski thanked the representatives for their insights. In response to a question from Commissioner Davis, Sam Baxter said building of a new pre-school building in Plummer Park is on hold.

B. CHILDREN’S ROUNDTABLE

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the most recent meeting of the Children’s Roundtable, which included 35 to 40 educators, principals, teachers, parents, and social services providers.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. DIAL-A-RIDE

Perri Sloane spoke about seeking the “TLC” grant for Dial-a-Ride, which would add escort assistance for people who need help between their door and the vehicle. She also noted that Dec. 29-31 is a special holiday schedule for the transportation service. Commissioner Davis thanked her for her work on mobility for the population.

B. HOMELESS CENSUS 2013

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the countywide effort to calculate how many homeless people are here at a particular time. This will be conducted over three consecutive nights beginning January 30, 2013.

C. COMMUNITY STUDY UPDATE

Corri Planck reported that an item to proceed with a community survey on social services needs will go to Council on Dec. 17. As in previous surveys, there will be outreach to groups, stakeholders, and community meetings.

Commissioners Zangrando, Palmieri, and Davis, with Commissioner Williams as an alternate, were designated as a subcommittee on the community study.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioners Cislowski and Palmieri went to the Kleen treatment center recently.

Commissioner Zangrando spoke about a presentation at Plummer Park on LGBT seniors, and noted that former Councilmember Lindsey Horvath is now on the board of SAGE.

Commissioner Cislowski asked for an orientation/overview of the social services funding process at the January meeting.

Commissioner Cislowski presented a plaque to Commissioner Zangrando in appreciation for his service as chair, and he was congratulated by members of the Board.

Commissioner Davis recently visited the Center's new youth program facility, which he said is spacious and attractive. He also spoke about a televised conversation between Councilmembers D'Amico and Duran. He requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Commissioner Shirley Roberts.

Commissioner Shink congratulated the new chair and vice chair. She noted that the "She" discussion group meets tomorrow, on the topic of health.

Commissioner Williams was a volunteer for an NCJW clothing drive and at the CityX1 holiday party. She also toured the Center's Youth program, and attended the recent meeting of the Disabilities Advisory Board. She said she will be in Guatemala during holiday time, helping training people in service.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck said the new building for the Center's Youth program is a major step forward. She spoke about a clothing drive and collection of toiletries for the program.

David Giugni said the January meeting will be held at the new Council chambers, and

will cover the year-end report of social services agencies. He said the contract with Van Ness Recovery House has been fulfilled; that staff is working with the Kleen program; that World AIDS Day programming went well; and a Sephardic choir will be performing at Plummer Park.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm in memory of former Commissioner Shirley Roberts.

Signed:

Ruth Asmond

May 9, 2015