

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 1998**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was led by Advisory Member Howard Jacobs.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

The Oath of Office was administered by Deputy Clerk Lucero to new Advisory Member Dick Stredicke.

PRESENT: Advisory Members Aizenman, Howard Jacobs, Pavich, Stredicke, Vice-chair Von Douris and Chair Hallenberg.
ALSO PRESENT: Co-liaison Dusterberg and Deputy Clerk Lucero.
ABSENT: Advisory Members Gold, Kate Jacobs and Co-liaisons Reynolds and Springer.
4. **CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Minutes of Wednesday, December 10, 1997. Motion Advisory Member Howard Jacobs, seconded Vice-chair Von Douris.
6. **STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Dale Schiff, Disabilities Specialist, stated that she is currently working on two events for this year: A picnic for the disabled community during the summer and also a Kids on the Block event to raise awareness of disabilities issues in March or April. Additionally, different events will be held during Disabilities Awareness Month in October.
7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - A. **REPORT ON AUDIBLE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC SIGNALS**

Peter Wolff, Associate Transportation Engineer, provided background information as outlined in his staff report dated January 14, 1998.

Advisory Member Aizenman voiced specific concerns regarding the intersection of La Cienega and Santa Monica Boulevards. The unusual angle of the intersection and the islands creating separate turn lanes are particularly hazardous to the blind. She also inquired about the permit process.

Mr. Wolff responded that Advisory Member Aizenman's observations are accurate but unfortunately Santa Monica Blvd. is outside the jurisdiction of the City. Because it is a state highway, Caltrans is responsible for repairs and maintenance of the sidewalks and roadway. However, the City would like to address many of these issues during the relinquishment negotiations.

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs inquired as to whether the City is lobbying Caltrans.

Co-liaison Dusterberg stated that full ADA compliance is one of the issues to be addressed when the City assumes control over the Boulevard. He suggested inviting a Caltrans representative to address the DAB. He also stated that the City Council, various City staff and the City's lobbyist are in contact with Caltrans.

Advisory Member Aizenman asked what organizations of the blind would be consulted if and when the intersection is rehabilitated.

Mr. Wolff replied that any acceptable proposal of a civil engineering design firm must comply with all ADA requirements.

Advisory Member Stredicke suggested a letter to the City Council recommending acquisition of Santa Monica Boulevard in order to achieve ADA compliance.

Co-liaison Dusterberg suggested inviting City Engineer Sharon Perlstein to update the DAB on the negotiations with Caltrans.

Advisory Member Pavich also suggested a letter from DAB to the City Council supporting acquisition of the Boulevard.

Co-liaison Dusterberg replied that the DAB will be better informed following a staff presentation on the acquisition of the Boulevard considering the complexity of the subject matter.

Motion Chair Hallenberg to invite a Caltrans representative to present disability issues with regard to state highways, seconded Vice-chair Von Douris and unanimously carried.

By consensus, the DAB agreed to postpone a letter to the City Council regarding acquisition of Santa Monica Boulevard until after hearing a presentation from either Caltrans or City staff.

- B. HOUSING ISSUES WITH REGARD TO THE DISABLED
Ann Ehrenthal, Associate Director West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, provided an overview of the financing, development and ongoing management of affordable housing projects by the Housing Corporation.

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs inquired as to how the Corporation is informed of different financial resources.

Ms. Ehrenthal stated that financing of affordable housing is very complex. Often consultants are utilized and bond financing is more popular now.

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs asked how many units are available for the disabled within the City.

Ms. Ehrenthal responded that most, if not all those currently living in affordable housing in West Hollywood are afflicted with at least one disability.

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs also inquired about waiting lists.

Ms. Ehrenthal stated that there are currently two waiting lists and there is at least a two year wait for single-sized apartments. However, forty units on Palm Avenue and twenty units on Detroit Street are currently being built.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POSSIBLE CHANGE OF MEETING DAY AND ROOM


By consensus, the DAB agreed to begin the February meeting at 5:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

At the next meeting, the possibility of changing the meeting day to the third Thursday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. will be discussed.

9. DISABILITIES ADVISORY MEMBER COMMENTS:

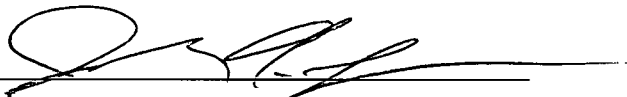
By consensus, the DAB agreed to hear the report of the housing issues subcommittee and entertain a possible presentation from a Caltrans representative at their February meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned to their next regular meeting to be held on **Wednesday, February 11, 1998** at 5:30 p.m.



Hugh Hallenberg
Chair

ATTEST:



John Lucero
Recording Secretary