

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board January 25, 2012 Community Conference Room West Hollywood City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick Watts, Chair of the Disabilities Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Lisa Andreson, Michael Arrigo, Larry Block, Tim Carlson, Debra Chodash, James Chud, Thomas De Lorenzo, and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for January 25, 2012 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 30, 2011 meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Sgt. Jerry Paredes of the COPPS team told the DAB about Alert LA which updates citizens on the latest emergency news through a reverse 911-call system. Those interested in receiving emergency alerts via email may sign up online at www.nixle.com.

Shirley Berry, the City's Emergency Management Coordinator, advised the DAB of the County's SNAP program that allows L.A. County residents living with disabilities to register online at www.snap.lacounty.gov so that their special needs are documented. Shirley noted, however, that this is not a guarantee that they will be assisted first in an emergency. Residents are encouraged to make an emergency plan for themselves and their families and to coordinate planning efforts with their friends and neighbors. Shirley also encouraged everyone to replenish their emergency supplies and to be prepared for at least 7 days with food, water, and cash. The next round of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) courses will begin on March 31st; anyone interested in attending is encouraged to enroll.

B. PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBLE TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Sharon Perlstein, City Engineer, and several of her staff made a presentation about the various signalized and non-signalized crosswalks in the City, as well as other pedestrian accessible traffic signals. Sharon reported that West Hollywood received a grant from the MTA to add countdown signals and upgrade the push buttons at 42 intersections in the City. *(Note: Sharon has since provided the DAB with the list of 42 intersections.)*

Sharon also reported that the City spends about \$300,000 annually on sidewalk repair and replacement. A City employee walks every sidewalk in the City at least one time annually and reports on all problems needing to be repaired.

C. EVALUATION OF THE OCTOBER TELEVISED MEETING

Overall, the DAB thought the meeting was a success. Chairperson Watts began with a comment that he felt he talked too much and noted a problem with the dim lighting in the Council Chambers, which is being addressed.

Michael Arrigo was glad that there was only one keynote speaker and thought that two songs (one at the beginning and one at the end of the program) would be appropriate. He would like to see additional activities included in October as part of Disability Awareness Month.

Tim Carlson thought the venue and the timing of the meeting were good and suggested that it would be helpful to provide new members with some pointers about being televised.

Larry Block would like to explore ways to obtain more nominations for the Disability Service Awards.

Vice-Chair Andreson wants to consider spicing up the format, though she's not sure what form that would take. She also wants to promote collecting \$1 per person at the City's Halloween Carnival to raise funds for non-profits.

D. RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS

Tabled until the meeting of February 22, 2012.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Reported by Craig Rhea:

A. Future DAB Meetings *(Reference 2012 Meeting Schedule in packet):*

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 22nd; the DAB will discuss the item tabled from tonight's agenda *(reviewing the Rules & Procedures for the Disability Service Awardsplease keep the document for next*

month); the DAB will also spend some time looking at the schedule for the year and deciding on liaison assignments.

B. DAB Liaisons to Boards & Commissions

- Rick Watts volunteered to be the DAB representative to the **Automated Garage Steering Committee** (in the works for the parking lot behind City Hall). Their next meeting will be on Thursday, March 29th from 6:30pm to 9:30pm in the EOC. There will only be one meeting after that.
- The DAB Liaison list was included in the agenda packet. DAB members were encouraged to attend any Board & Commission meetings that interest them between now and the next DAB meeting.
- **The Bicycle Task Force** has completed its work. Tim Carlson was the DAB's liaison to the BTF. The next step is for staff in the Planning Division to hire a consultant to update the **Bicycle & Pedestrian Mobility Plan** from 2003 and to incorporate some or all of the Task Force's recommendations into it. Planning staff will keep us updated and apprised of any opportunities for community input.

C. Library Update

- Craig Rhea spoke with Linda Demmers last week.
- Susan Anderson, Head Librarian, has assigned a staff member to work with Linda to purchase the items on the DAB list.
- The good news is that the Library has exceeded all of the County's projections in terms of numbers of people served (last Tuesday & Wednesday, 1900 people visited each day; which is about 50,000 per month; or 500,000-600,000 a year). That's had an impact on when the items on our list will be purchased as the Library staff has not yet had time to take on anything new.
- Not to worry. This is a top priority and we know that Linda Demmers is the perfect person to make this happen when the timing is right.
- Jim Chud has offered to talk to Linda about his experience using Dragon Naturally Speaking software and Linda will be contacting him.
- A reminder: The library is fully ADA compliant. The DAB's list goes above and beyond anything the County Library system has ever been able to provide. Training for Library staff will be vital to the successful integration of the equipment purchased.

D. DAB Work Plan

- Tim Carlson asked staff about the DAB's work plan. The City Clerk is looking into whether we need to update it or whether the report to the Annual Congress last fall took care of that. I'll report back at our February meeting.

E. Pacific Serenades, "Tendrils" – Wed, 2/1/12 at 8pm

- Limited number of free tickets available for Boardmembers.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Michael Arrigo reported on attending his first Transportation Commission meeting as the DAB liaison.

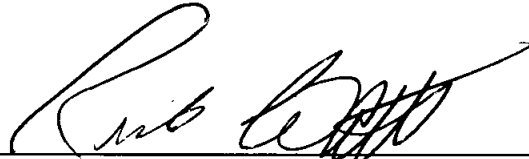
Tim Carlson announced that he will be out of the country in April and May.

12. BOARD REPRESENTATIVE TO REPORT TO COUNCIL

Larry Block will report to Council offices about the DAB's January 25th meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm in memory of Rae Mitchell; in honor of personnel from the L.A. County Fire Department and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department for their work in arresting the local arsonist; and in honor of David Ramos of 24-Hour Fitness who responded quickly to a client having a diabetic seizure by calling the paramedics, to its next meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Community Conference Room, City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.



DAB Chair – Rick Watts