

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 1998**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was led by Advisory Member Howard Jacobs.

3. **OATH OF OFFICE:**
Councilmember Prang administered the oath of office to new Advisory Member Stephen Weltman.

4. **ROLL CALL:**
PRESENT: Advisory Members Aizenman, Gold, Howard Jacobs, Pavich, Stredicke, Weltman, Vice-chair Von Douris and Chair Hallenberg.
ALSO PRESENT: Co-liaisons Dusterberg, Reynolds & Springer and Deputy Clerk Lucero.
ABSENT: Advisory Member Kate Jacobs.

5. **CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Minutes of Wednesday, January 14, 1998. Motion Advisory Member Howard Jacobs, seconded Advisory Member Pavich with corrections.

7. **STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. REPORT ON SANTA MONICA BLVD. ACQUISITION AND ACCESSIBILITY TO THE DISABLED
(Department of Transportation & Public Works)

This item was tabled due to the unavailability of staff from the Department of Transportation & Public Works.

Staff Co-liaison Dusterberg stated it would be more appropriate to have a representative from the Transportation Department before attempting to invite Caltrans personnel.

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs expressed the urgency of the issues with regard to accessibility of the disabled to the Boulevard.

Advisory Member Weltman would also like the concerns of those with respiratory disabilities to be addressed.

Von Douris would like to include Crescent Heights Blvd. in the discussion due to the lack of safety on that street.

Chair Hallenberg would like the Transportation Department to address disabled accessibility within the City as a whole, specifically the curb cut program and the Department's plans for making the public streets as accessible as possible.

Co-liaison Reynolds commented on the Sheriff's Department's recent sting operation to crack down on unsafe drivers who disregard pedestrians. She will make an inquiry as to whether the Department is planning another such sting operation.

B. HOUSING ISSUES WITH REGARD TO THE DISABLED

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs of the Housing Subcommittee presented a report to the DAB at-large. He outlined a number of goals and plans for the upcoming year:

Goal #1: Increase the number of housing units available for the disabled.

- 1) Identify and encourage not-for-profit and corporate/private foundations to develop in the community.
 - a) Not-for-profit groups such as Habitat for Humanity.
 - b) Corporate/private foundations such as the Miliken Foundation.

- 2) Review distribution of Section 8 housing certificates for the disabled and general community.
 - a) Review distribution process.

- 3) Set asides for new construction.
 - a) Identify and review other city set aside programs.

- 4) Identify and encourage for-profit companies (landlords, developers) to build/renovate units to meet market share needs.
 - a) Publicize the market share potential available in the community.
 - 1) Specifically for areas in development such as the Santa Monica/La Brea Project.

Goal #2: Improve living conditions of current Section 8/rent stabilized low income housing for the disabled.

- 1) Review code enforcement procedures.
 - a) Follow-up.
 - b) Fine collection and fine collection distribution.

- 2) Meet and encourage DAB participation in Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).
 - a) Ways to save existing housing stock.
 - b) Encourage renovation of housing for disabled.

- 3) Identify and encourage private foundations who improve housing units in the community.

Advisory Member Weltman inquired if any study has been done regarding amenities in housing provided to the disabled.

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs responded that a representative from the West Hollywood Housing Corporation was present at the last DAB meeting.

Advisory Member Weltman inquired about the waiting period for housing.

Vice-chair Von Douris stated that the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers can be from 4 to 6 years.

Advisory Member Pavich asked how non-profit funding organizations are going to be found.

Advisory Member Howard Jacobs stated that the Internet and local real estate sources can be utilized.

Advisory Member Weltman inquired as to whether brochures are available explaining various housing options.

Co-liaison Reynolds replied that the Department of Rent Stabilization provides a tremendous amount of information on this topic.

C. POSSIBLE CHANGE OF MEETING DAY AND ROOM

Chair Hallenberg stated that the current day and time are adequate as long as the meeting will continue to begin at 5:30 instead of 6:00 P.M.

9. NEW BUSINESS: None.

10. ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS:

JON OSBORNE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding his interest in the DAB and asked about the housing waiting lists for the disabled.

Dale Schiff, Disabilities Specialist, replied that West Hollywood Housing Corporation (WHHC) takes applications over the phone. The waiting list for singles is about one year. The City of West Hollywood places a priority on housing those afflicted with AIDS and HIV related disabilities.

11. DISABILITIES ADVISORY MEMBER COMMENTS:

Advisory Member Gold regrettably announced his resignation from the DAB due to his recent appointment to the Public Facilities Commission.

Vice-chair Von Douris would like to agendize inviting a representative from MTA due to overcrowding on Santa Monica Blvd. buses. This particularly impacts the disabled community.

Vice-chair Von Douris commented that in Orange County low income residents, seniors and the disabled are being forced into HMO's. He also commented on banking issues impacting the disabled.

Advisory Member Weltman suggested agendizing an item on alternative means of transportation.

Chair Hallenberg stated that the DAB should concentrate on the various issue areas that were agreed upon and then focus on transportation at a later time.

Advisory Member Aizenman suggested that members of the DAB attend MTA sponsored meetings which address these issues.

Motion Advisory Member Howard Jacobs that the DAB review the report of the Recreation Subcommittee at the next meeting, seconded Chair Hallenberg.

Motion Vice-chair Von Douris to agendize submitting a recommendation to the City Council to consider changing the designation of the DAB to that of a commission, seconded Advisory Member Aizenman and denied on a roll call vote:

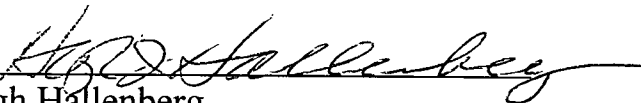
AYES: Advisory Members Aizenman and Vice-chair Von Douris.

NOES: Advisory Members Gold, Howard Jacobs, Pavich and Stredicke.

ABSTAIN: Advisory Member Weltman and Chair Hallenberg.


Advisory Member Howard Jacobs announced an upcoming workshop offered by AIDS Project Los Angeles.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 6:39 P.M. to their next regular meeting to be held at 5:30 P.M. on **Wednesday, March 11, 1998.**



Hugh Hallenberg
Chair

ATTEST:



John Lucero
Recording Secretary