

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
April 25, 2007**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Suzanne Dietrich called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Rick Watts led the pledge.

**3. ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Alan Bernstein, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Steven Sawyer, and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Debra Chodash, Joel Ring

STAFF PRESENT: Daphne Dennis and Kim Patterson

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda for April 25, 2007 was approved.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes for March 28, 2007 were approved.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Daphne Dennis made a number of announcements:

A) The request for Disability Service Award nominations are advertised on the City website, cable scroll, and monthly newsletter, and sent to all Social Services agencies and Boards & Commissions.

B) The City can't offer a cash award for the Disability Service Awards because it would be considered a gift of public funds, but the DAB can raise funds, for example, from local businesses.

C) The Home Secure program used to be federally funded through a Community Development Block Grant to the Rent Stabilization & Housing Department which was administered through Jewish Family Services. The last year that the program was funded was in 2002-03 when \$35,000 was granted. This has been discontinued due to the decrease in CDBG funding. If residents need these services, they can contact the Comprehensive Services Center for the Urgent Needs Program.

D) The City's Acting Public Safety Manager checked with the Fire Department regarding emergency evacuation plans for apartment buildings. Apartment buildings of ten or more units are required to have an Emergency Evacuation Plan under Section 1303 of the Fire Code. This is the responsibility of the

landlord. (Note: The DAB would like to learn more about this issue at a future meeting.)

E) Terri Slimmer, the City's Transportation Manager, will address the issue of non-signalized crosswalks at the next DAB meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

F) The MTA is proposing major fare increases possibly beginning in July and again in 2009. There will be a public hearing on May 24<sup>th</sup> about the proposed fare hikes which include an increase in the monthly bus passes for seniors and people with disabilities from \$12 to \$37.50.

G) Installation of new Mayor John Duran and Mayor Pro Tempore Jeffrey Prang will be held at the City Council meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. A celebration will follow at Club 11.

H) The Senior Health Fair will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am – 2 pm at Plummer Park. The DAB will staff a booth.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **A. Hedges & Sidewalk Accessibility**

**Motion:** The Disabilities Advisory Board encourages the City Council to view encroachment of vegetation or physical objects onto the public right-of-way as encroachment into public air space. The DAB encourages enforcement of existing applicable codes and an examination of those codes to determine whether changes are needed to ensure unobstructed access.

**Motion by:** Alan Bernstein                      **Seconded by:** Suzanne Dietrich

**Ayes:** Bernstein, Dietrich, Pavich, Sawyer

**Noes:** Watts

**Motion passed.**

### **B. Social Services Urgent Needs Program for 2006-07 –**

Ms. Dennis explained that this program is not advertised in the community, but through the Social Services providers. In the upcoming 2008 Request for Proposal process, there will be an increase in funds and number of agencies who will have access to this program.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Accessibility Incentives for Housing Units Constructed Prior to 1979**

**Motion:** The Disabilities Advisory Board encourages the City Council to explore incentives for owners of older buildings to make improvements (install amenities) that will improve the quality of life for persons living with disabilities in their buildings.

**Motion by:** Alan Bernstein

**Seconded by:** Rick Watts

**Ayes:** Bernstein, Pavich, Sawyer, Watts  
**Noes:** None  
**Abstained:** Dietrich

**Motion passed.**

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Vice-Chair Pavich reported on the Human Services Commission meeting where they approved support for the Tweakers Project and the Gay & Lesbian Center's transgender job placement program and job fair.

Steven Sawyer reviewed the Transportation Board's agenda but did not attend the meeting because there was nothing relating specifically to the disability community.

Alan Bernstein said the Business License Commission did not meet.

Chair Dietrich made a number of announcements:

- The PAC didn't meet this month.
- She attended the Senior Advisory Board meeting and announced that May is Senior Month. There will be a Senior Awards luncheon on May 2<sup>nd</sup> honoring Goldie Kahn, Bernice Levin and Councilmember Sal Guarriello. A representative from Time Warner discussed the discount program for seniors and people with disabilities. The City Manager spoke about the Park Master Plan Steering Committee which is planning to add green space and extra parking in the City.
- The West Hollywood Democratic Club will hold an awards dinner on May 10 at The Lot. West Hollywood has been named one of the 12 best cities in the U.S.
- Earth Day was March 21, marked by different events, and is a way to make a difference with the environment.
- The Job Fair had a smaller turn-out this time.
- She attended the meeting of the Access Paratransit Board which is trying to improve the quality of drivers. They have started Share Rides which can pick up multiple riders on a single trip.
- She raised concern about the Resident Referral List which has few Section 8 listings.
- She asked for a liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and Mr. Sawyer volunteered.
- Chair Dietrich didn't attend the Chairs Meeting.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dietrich adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:17 p.m. in memory of those who lost their lives at Virginia Tech. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room of City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA.