

West Hollywood Committee on Disability
Minutes: Thursday, May 12, 1994

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. in the Human Services Conference Room at City Hall.

Present: Tom Hamlett, Louise Mebane,
Deanna Stevenson, Marty Sweeney
Excused: Mark Handley
Absent: Paul Alleyne, Brian Cole, Renae Dean,
Diane DeVries, Jim Dowling,
Shirley Roberts, Z Zimmerman
Guests: John Von Douris
Staff: Perri Sloane, Pat Regan, Jeff Book

A. Introductions/New Disability Specialist

Perri introduced Pat Regan, who has succeeded Leslye Sneider as the Disability Specialist.

B. Announcements

Deanna announced that the Excellence in Service Task Force is looking into the possibility of phone lines to Council meetings for those who cannot attend.

Marty said the Computer Access Center in Santa Monica is losing its Executive Director and will begin recruiting soon. The Center makes information available to people with disabilities regarding the capabilities of computer hardware and software. The Committee would like to learn more about this organization, and Marty will bring additional information to the next meeting.

Tom said an Abilities Expo will be held May 21-22 at the Anaheim Convention Center. He plans to attend and will report back on what he finds.

Perri spoke about materials from N.O.D., including a guide to ADA Title 2 (community access), access materials, volunteer guidelines, a list of publications, and a guide to organizing a community partnership program. The address of N.O.D. is 910 16th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

Members discussed disability-related publications, including Mainstream and the Disability Rag.

Marty had attended an Other Voices program at the S. Mark Taper Forum, and said it was a fine show.

C. Minutes

Members reviewed and approved as submitted the minutes of the meeting of April 15, 1994.

D. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

Perri informed members that the Committee is now subject to Brown Act regulations on public notice and record keeping, and therefore there can be no action on items not appearing on the agenda.

In introductory remarks, Pat Regan discussed her background and goals for the committee.

Regan said that while she had her own ideas about goals for the Committee to accomplish, she also wanted to pursue recommended goals from the members.

Tom mentioned updating the list of homebound people with disabilities for use in earthquake recovery, and would like more input to help identify buildings and businesses which need to become more accessible.

Louise said it was important for Committee morale for projects undertaken to be carried all the way to their conclusion, and recommended that the position of Disability Specialist be made a full-time position.

Marty said he views the Committee as a brain trust to select proposals for activities and programs involving people with disabilities, and said he would like to see an increase in the visibility of the disability community, and a decrease in isolation.

John said he would like to see an in-depth questionnaire to provide more information on how to increase visibility in the city. He would also like to see more cooperation among seniors, people with AIDS, and people with disabilities.

Regan stated she would also like to see full-time coverage of the Disability Specialist position, but was not personally available to work more than 20 hours a week. However, she hoped that the limitations of time would not limit the imagination of what could be achieved.

II. Action Items

A. Safety and Self Defense

The Public Safety office will be willing to work with the committee to host a seminar. Officer Dunn will attend a future committee meeting.

B. Inclusion in Census

Deanna and Louise will work on advocating for more specific information on disabilities to be included in the next Federal Census.

C. Topic Calendar

Members told Regan that Leslye had been pursuing several issues on behalf of the Committee, including (1) facilitating government and business implementation of ADA; (2) educating the public about disability-related issues; (3) outreach to people with disabilities, to increase their awareness of, and participation in, available activities; and (4) disability-related cultural events.

Marty recommended that Regan ask members to write short paragraphs about their backgrounds, and to state five goals they would like to see the Committee pursue. John recommended checking the original format for the Committee's goals, as presented to Council at the time of the Committee's formation; he would like to see the Committee develop a resource guide.

Tom said not to forget people with disabilities who don't need services, per se, but would like information on culture, groups, and opportunities.

Members discussed improving contacts and cooperation with parallel Committees on Disability in the County of Los Angeles and the Cities of Los Angeles and Pasadena.

The possibility of scheduling Regan's video of the Disabled Women's Theater Project was discussed.

Regan will research minutes from the last year, and draft a plan to bring to the next meeting for review.

D. Cable Programming and Closed Captioning

Deanna said she would have a report on cable programming and closed captioning at the next meeting. She also suggested possible joint programming with "Up Front" and "Crime Watch."

E. 1994 Needs Assessment

Copies of the 1994 Needs Assessment Report were distributed to members. The report includes a section on people with disabilities, and will be used to help determine funding priorities for social services in the 1994-1996 contract cycle.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m. The next meeting is at 4 p.m., Thursday, June 9, in the Human Services Conference Room at City Hall. Jodi Curlee, the City's Social Services Administrator, will be the guest.