

West Hollywood Committee on Disability
Minutes: Thursday, June 9, 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,
Z Zimmerman
Excused: Mark Handley
Absent: Paul Alleyne, Brian Cole, Renae Dean,
Diane DeVries, Jim Dowling,
Shirley Roberts, Deanna Stevenson
Guests: John Von Douris
Staff: Jodi Curlee, Pat Regan, Jeff Book

A. Introductions

There were no introductions.

B. Announcements

Pat Regan announced that Lucy Dyke, who had been scheduled to make a presentation at this meeting, was unable to attend, and would be rescheduled for the next meeting.

C. Minutes

Members reviewed and approved as submitted the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 1994.

II. Special Presentations

A. Community Needs Assessment

Jodi Curlee reported on the Disability Section of the Needs Assessment Report. According to the Census, nine percent of West Hollywood residents have a disability which affects their mobility or ability to care for themselves; the Needs Assessment survey indicated 20 percent of households are affected.

Tom Hamlett noted that determining the identity of persons with disabilities has been a problem for the disability movement, and this is one of the reasons there is interest in overlapping services and advocacy with seniors and people living with AIDS.

John Von Douris said it would be useful to have a survey which identifies city departments by name and asks whether people with disabilities and/or AIDS are having problems with those specific departments.

B. Taxi Coupon Criteria

This report was deferred to the next meeting. Tom asked for information on the current criteria for taxi coupons to be included in the packet for the next meeting, so members will have an opportunity to review this information before discussing it.

III. Action Items

A. Presentation of ADA Brochure

Regan showed a mockup of a brochure calling attention to the terms of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), which is due to the printer at the end of June. Marty Sweeney is doing the layout, and Regan is preparing a photo shoot which will highlight examples of good or bad access.

Members made various suggestions about the contents, theme, and distribution of this brochure.

B. Plan for the Year

The members discussed the various goals set out in the minutes of the previous meeting. Z said that the final report of the Disability Task Force remains a viable source of goals and directions for the committee.

IV. Items From the Committee

Z said that since the first meeting of the committee in September 1992, members have been told about the difficulty of identifying persons with disabilities. She said members had suggested various ways of approaching the problem, but that nothing had been done because the City's actual commitment to the committee amounts to two hours of staff time per month, and no follow-up or development work between meetings.

John said the committee should be reformed as a Commission, appointed by the City Council; should meet more than once a month; and should work toward establishing a storefront which would provide visibility for disability services and advocacy.

Regan said she believes the City has a serious commitment to disability-related issues, but an expanded role for the committee is dependent on funding priorities and staff structure.

Jodi said that Jewish Family Services are proposing a full-time Disability staff position which would have responsibilities for case management as well as education and advocacy.

New Member

John requested to be added to the roster as a member of the committee. This nomination, made by Z and seconded by Louise, was approved by the committee.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m. The next meeting is at 4 p.m., Thursday, July 14, in the Human Services Conference Room at City Hall. Lucy Dyke of the City's Transportation Department will be the guest.