

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 8, 1998**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was led by Advisory Member Stredicke.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Advisory Members Aizenman, Jacobs, Pavich, Semonco, Stredicke, Vice-chair Von Douris and Chair Hallenberg.
ALSO PRESENT: Co-liaisons Reynolds & Springer and Deputy Clerk Lucero.
ABSENT: Advisory Members Cislowski & Weltman and Co-liaison Dusterberg.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Minutes of Wednesday, June 10, 1998. Chair Hallenberg noted an error in the Roll Call. Motion Advisory Member Jacobs with correction, seconded Advisory Member Pavich.
6. **STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**
 - A. **ACCESSIBILITY OF THE DISABLED COMMUNITY TO THE WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK POOL:**

Co-liaison Springer provided an update of renovations at the West Hollywood Park pool. The renovations are mainly to make the pool wheelchair accessible.

Ms. Springer stated that Sam Baxter, Landscape and Building Maintenance Manager, is available to review the plans with DAB members.

Chair Hallenberg stated that members of DAB will be meeting with Mr. Baxter and will report back to the full DAB at the August meeting.

Chair Hallenberg would prefer not to have tile on the West Hollywood Park pool deck for safety reasons.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Vice-chair Von Douris feels that there is too much of an emphasis on AIDS related programs. He suggested more support for those afflicted with respiratory disabilities, cancer or other disabilities.

Advisory Member Jacobs inquired if the City is evaluating the relationship between substance abuse and HIV.

Co-liaison Springer stated that the City is addressing drug abuse issues with an emphasis on the Crystal Meth problem.

Ms. Springer also stated that the community afflicted with HIV and AIDS is an overwhelming service need within the City.

Chair Hallenberg requested clarification if those with disabilities not related to HIV have not made many requests for City services.

Ms. Springer replied that this is the case.

Advisory Member Jacobs feels that the word does not get out to those residents who do not have cable and thus do not have access to the City Channel.

Advisory Member Aizenman stated that particular disabled groups gravitate toward their individual supporting organizations.

Advisory Member Pavich stated that the DAB should increase visibility.

Advisory Member Jacobs expressed his gratitude for the City's social services with regard to HIV and AIDS.

Advisory Member Aizenman suggested networking with other disability groups from neighboring cities.

Chair Hallenberg stated that there is very low public attendance at the City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability and also at the County level.

Loren Belovsky, Disabilities Specialist, stated that there are currently over 50 active cases. This month 10 new West Hollywood residents have been added as clients. She also stated that there have been many information and referral calls.

Ms. Belovsky also stated that mental illness is the most frequent problem. Cancer patients and those with physical disabilities are also frequent callers.

Advisory Member Aizenman stated that perhaps the Russian community tends to hide disabilities with more frequency as is common with other cultures.

Advisory Member Jacobs, citing page 78 of the Community Needs Assessment, stated that a distinction between HIV and AIDS must be recognized and the reported number of women with HIV does not reflect the reality.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. EMPLOYMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

Advisory Member Jacobs provided background information as provided in the subcommittee report dated June 10, 1998. Two major goals were outlined: 1) Lower the unemployment rate for the disabled population within the City; and, 2) Increase West Hollywood employer awareness of the abilities of disabled employees.

Advisory Member Aizenman stated that the visually impaired have different needs with regard to employment. However, she believes it is not wise to separate the different disabled groups because this will diminish the effectiveness of the disabled community.

Vice-chair Von Douris stated that an employer may hire a disabled person and may later be impacted by the employee's physical limitations and then choose to terminate their employment.

Chair Hallenberg citing the ADA, stated that an employer may not question a potential employee about their disability until an offer of employment has been made.

Motion Advisory Member Jacobs to approve the recommendations of the Employment Subcommittee report, seconded Advisory Member Pavich and approved by a roll call vote:

AYES: Advisory Members Jacobs, Pavich, Semonco, Stredicke and Vice-chair Von Douris.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Advisory Member Aizenman and Chair Hallenberg.

A. ELECTION OF DAB CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR:

By a consensus of the DAB, Vice chair Von Douris and Chair Hallenberg were reelected as Vice-chair and Chair respectively.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

10. DISABILITIES ADVISORY MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chair Hallenberg requested volunteers for the subcommittee to plan the activities related to Disabilities Awareness Month.

Vice-chair Von Douris and Advisory Members Aizenman & Semonco volunteered.

Advisory Member Semonco stated that the plans for the new Kings Road Park appear to be accessible to the disabled.

Chair Hallenberg is concerned that the site will become primarily a dog park.

Vice-chair Von Douris announced a petition to save the Great Hall and the Long Hall at Plummer Park. He also stated that Craig Richie, Chair of the Eastside Project Area Committee, suggested that a representative from DAB attend those meetings.

Advisory Member Jacobs stated that the Santa Monica Blvd. Steering Committee voted against bicycle lanes for the Boulevard.


Chair Hallenberg inquired if anyone would like to attend the Steering Committee meetings.

Vice-chair Von Douris stated that he may be able to attend.

Co-liaison Reynolds stated that she will attempt to arrange the attendance of a representative from the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce at the next DAB meeting.

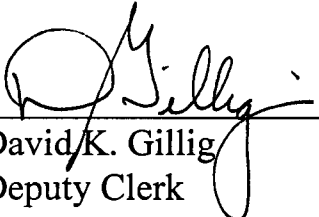
11. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:05 P.M. to their next regular meeting to be held on **Wednesday, August 12, 1998.**

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1998.



Hugh Hallenberg
Chair

ATTEST:



David K. Gillig
Deputy Clerk