

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Suzanne Dietrich called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Alan Bernstein, Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Joel Ring, and Steven Sawyer

ABSENT: Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda for July 25, 2007 was approved with the amendment to move 9A before 8A.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for June 27, 2007 were approved.

6. ELECTIONS:

Tom Pavich was unanimously elected chairperson. Alan Bernstein was unanimously elected vice-chairperson.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

Roz Helfand, Book Fair Coordinator, and Steve Albert, intern, announced the 6th Annual West Hollywood Book Fair, which will be held on Sunday, Sept. 30 at West Hollywood Park and invited the DAB to participate in this wonderful event. The DAB members made the following suggestions to make the fair more accessible to people living with disabilities:

- Increase outreach to deaf and blind patrons
- Contact "Recordings for the Blind"
- Contact the Center for the Partially Sighted
- Encourage outreach to people who are illiterate
- Have a book donation drop-off location at Plummer Park
- Consider color contrast for partially-sighted people when designing future book fair artwork.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Emergency Evacuation Plans

Captain Anthony Penn of the Los Angeles County Fire Department made a presentation about emergency evacuation plans for residents of multi-unit buildings and answered questions from the Board. Follow-up issues raised by the Board include:

- Getting the message out to people living with disabilities that, in an emergency, someone has to let the Fire Department know where they live and what kind of help they need.
- Helping property owners create a Fire Emergency Guide as called out in the L.A. County Fire Code, Section 1305.5.3.1. (*Captain Penn offered to obtain a template for the Guide from the County Office of Emergency Services.*)
- Encouraging the Fire Department to revise its Official Inspection Report (Form 410) to include the requirement for a Fire Emergency Guide. (*Captain Penn said that he will follow up on this with his Battalion Chief.*)
- Considering a "person-living-with-a-disability" window sticker for residents of West Hollywood.
- Learning more about preparations for emergencies other than fires. (*Captain Penn noted that the County's Office of Emergency Services deals with all types of emergencies.*)
- Inviting Kristin Cook, Public Safety Manager, to attend a future DAB meeting to address ways in which the City is handling these issues.

B. Disability Service Awards

The DAB approved the revised Rules & Procedures Governing the Disability Service Awards and the revised nomination form that were presented by the Task Force.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

B. OCTOBER TELEVISED MEETING

After initial discussion, a task force comprised of Mr. Bernstein, Ms. Dietrich, and Mr. Sawyer was formed to make recommendations to the DAB at the August meeting regarding a keynote speaker, other presentations, entertainment, and meeting set-up.

10. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

- As follow-up to the DAB motions passed on May 23rd, Residential Code Compliance is doing semi-annual driving tours of neighborhoods and issuing notices to property owners for overgrown vegetation. Regarding incentives for landlords, emergency funds are available for some simple interior improvements (such as bath/shower grab bars) through the Comprehensive Services Center at Plummer Park. Bigger issues may require additional funding and/or staff time. Staff is awaiting further direction from Council.
- Terri Slimmer, Transportation Manager, would like to share information about bicycles operating on sidewalks at the DAB's August meeting and the crosswalk policy at its September meeting.

- Public Safety Commissioners will make a presentation at the DAB's September meeting since September is Emergency Preparedness Month.
- DAB members should contact Mr. Rhea if they are interested, or know of others who are interested, in participating in Disability Mentoring Day on Wednesday, October 17th.
- National Night Out will be celebrated at a number of locations on Tuesday, August 7th.

Craig also distributed the following materials:

- Notice of the Tweakers Project screening on Wednesday, August 8th.
- The City's crystal methamphetamine social marketing campaign brochure.
- Information from Palm View Apartments' Resident Advisory Board dated July 9, 2007.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Alan Bernstein noted that since the Board was functioning well with seven members, the DAB could suggest to the City Council that its membership be changed from nine to seven, reducing the number required for a quorum from five to four. This will be agendized for a future meeting.

Ms. Dietrich announced that the PAC elections were held last night, and Steve Wayland of PAWS/LA, a previous Disability Service Award recipient, became chairperson.

Chair Pavich attended the Human Services Commission meeting where there was an update on the Transgender program as well as reports from other social service agencies. Leeza's Place also made a presentation regarding services they provide for people living with Alzheimer's and other disabilities and their caregivers.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dietrich adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room of City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA.