

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
October 25, 2006  
West Hollywood Park Auditorium**

**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: Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Pamela Keevil-Grey, Tom Pavich, and Alan Bernstein

ABSENT: Joel Ring

*ALSO PRESENT: Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson*

**4. WELCOME BY COUNCILMEMBER JEFFREY PRANG:**

Councilmember Prang commended the DAB for their important work on behalf of people with disabilities in West Hollywood.

**5. PERFORMANCE:**

Pianist Jordan Kamnitzer performed his song "Self-Advocacy".

**6. OPENING REMARKS BY BOARD CHAIR:**

Board Chair Suzanne Dietrich outlined some of the accomplishments of the DAB in the past year.

**7. BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:**

Each of the DAB members introduced themselves and pledged to serve the community.

**8. EIGHTH ANNUAL DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS:**

The Individual Award was presented by Tom Pavich to Eric Brun Sanglard.

The Non-Profit Award was presented by Suzanne Dietrich and Debra Chodash to PAWS/LA which was accepted by the Director of Special Programs, Steve Wayland.

The Media Award for KCBS was announced by Pamela Keevil-Grey.

The Business Award was presented by Alan Bernstein and Councilmember Abbe Land to the West Hollywood Branch of Wells Fargo Bank.

Councilmember John Duran congratulated the awardees, and thanked the DAB for their important work.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ann Ehrenthal and Barbara Hamaker of the West Hollywood Community Housing Corp. announced that there are 42 new units for the disabled under construction on Santa Monica Blvd.

Mark Heineman spoke about how disabled drivers are unfairly penalized on fees for parking permits, and suggested that the City revise the law so disabled people don't have to pay more for guest permits.

Rita Norton, president of the Friends of the West Hollywood Library, thanked the DAB for choosing to allocate the \$20,000 prize from the Access America award to the new library for materials for people with disabilities.

Ivy Bottini and Ruth Tittle of the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board congratulated the DAB on their work.

Captain Smith of the Fire Department shared his thoughts and experiences on serving the community.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. KEYNOTE SPEECH BY KEVIN KNESTRICK**

Kevin Knestrick, staff attorney, for Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) spoke about DRA and their work regarding full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and detailed particular cases that they have fought and won.

**B. WEST HOLLYWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES CENTER**

Joan Schumacher, acting Disability Specialist while Inna Khariton is on maternity leave, spoke about the variety of services that are provided to the 60-80 clients that they serve each month. She also introduced the LIFE program which is building community among neighbors and issued a call for volunteers to help out.

## **11. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Leslie Isenberg described the National Organization on Disability's Access America award of \$20,000 to the City for its comprehensive work for the disabled. She also described the successful National Disability Mentoring Day on October 16<sup>th</sup> which partners people who have disabilities with potential employers for a job shadowing day. Chair Dietrich added her personal experience as a mentee.

## **12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Chair Dietrich attended the PAC meeting where they discussed accessibility and sidewalk encroachment. She also encouraged people to get a brochure called "Working Together to Protect the Transgender Community".

Mr. Pavich reported on the Human Services Commission meeting where funding for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Transgender Program was discussed, as well as the Season of Wellness program which incorporates Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Disability Awareness Month, and the introduction of a new walking path.

## **13. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Michael Arrigo, West Hollywood resident, spoke about both hidden and non-hidden disabilities, and congratulated the awardees for their well-deserved recognition.

Yola Dore, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the need to focus on ability, and thanked the awardees for their work.

## **14. PERFORMANCE BY JORDAN KAMNITZER**

Pianist Kamnitzer performed a stanza of "Battle Hymn of the Republic".

## **15. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dietrich adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in Community Conference Room of City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.