

West Hollywood Committee on Disability

Minutes of Meeting of 11/10/93

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Excused: Greg Gossett, Z Zimmerman, Renae Dean, Dee Hays
Absent: Jane LaRue
Present: Barbara Kowalski, Bob Warburton, Deanna
Stevenson, Marty Sweeney, Louise Mebane, Vivian Sauer,
Perri Sloane.

A. Introductions/New Members:

Deanna Stevenson, Deputy to Councilwoman Abbe Land, will be the new representative from Council.

B. Announcements:

Reminder for art reception on 11/30.

Marty called everyone's attention to two important court victories on disability, in the paper today.

C. No changes to minutes of 10/14.

D. Additions/Changes to agenda:

Under #III, add meeting time item.

Under #IV, add Disabled and Deaf Women's Conference report, art exhibit and the Independent article.

II. Old Business

A. Goal Adoption:

Leslye asked for an endorsement of the goals outlined at the last meeting. Marty asked about the role of the COD and the role of the Disability Specialist. The COD is a subcommittee of the Human Services Commission (HSC). The COD makes recommendations to the HSC, which in turn makes recommendations to the City Council. Ultimately, programs could be mandated by the Council, based on these recommendations.

III. New Business

A. Meeting Structure/Committee Mission

B. ADA Handbook/Brochure

We need a structure to address the goals, so Leslye has identified five issue areas to work on. We can prioritize and set time frames, and adopt two project objectives per issue area:

1. ADA/504 Compliance - possible objectives would be an ADA handbook for the community and an assessment/report on agency accessibility.

2. Education - objectives would be ADA forums for businesses and Disability Awareness forums for staff, agencies and the community.
3. Disability Culture - objective would be ongoing programs like the Reading and the Art Exhibit/Reception.
4. Outreach/Community Development - objectives would be COD recruitment, program brochures and possibly an Access Awards program for businesses/agencies that exhibit outstanding disability awareness and access.
5. Employment - objective would be to work with businesses and City Hall to create internships and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Leslye asked for feedback, how to prioritize these issue areas and for other ideas. Deanna noted that some of the objectives are ongoing, i.e., the art exhibits. We do not have enough members to have subcommittees yet. We could go through each one, one at a time, until we have more members. It would be good to have a finished product like the ADA handbook, and it could serve as an outreach tool.

Marty suggested we develop a structured plan, all of Leslye's ideas are comprehensive. We would include more specific content and the plan could be submitted to the Council, with a concrete timetable. Marty asked what goes to Council. We need a map of what to do in each category for the next year. We need to understand the activities for each category before setting the priorities. We will finish the agenda and begin brainstorming today.

Perri interjected about the National Organization on Disability award and the ceremony at the Council meeting on 12/6. Also, a photographer is coming today to take a picture for the NOD.

C. Meeting Time

Leslye proposed that the meeting time be changed from 3-5 to 4-6, to accomodate a new member. We will start this new schedule in January.

IV. Disability Specialist Report

- A. Leslye attended the Los Angeles County Commission on Disability annual Access Awards Luncheon at which individuals and businesses were recognized for their disability awareness and access.
- B. Disability Culture Event

Approximately 20 people attended and the event was well received.

C. October Report

D. Disabled and Deaf Women's Conference

Leslye attended this conference sponsored by the California Women's Law Center. The conference brought together disabled women, service providers and activists for a dialogue and organizing around four issues - Family Law, Employment, Domestic Violence and Reproductive Rights. It was very action-oriented and very successful.

E. Art Exhibit

The committee made suggestions for the flier - identify West Hollywood Disability Services/JFS, indicate part of an ongoing series and attach the Independent article. Barbara will help to publicize the reception. A possible future project would be to get local businesses to sponsor art events.

F. West Hollywood Independent Article

They will publish a story about the art exhibit and the program.

Continuation of Brainstorming Session

Marty requested the current status of each issue area.

1. ADA/504 Compliance - Currently, the Asst. City Manager is the ADA Coordinator. Leslye provides technical assistance with respect to implementation. Ideas: For the ADA Handbook we could draw on the many existing documents. One could be for businesses and one for community members, with who to call, how City can help. We could address the attitude and vision of the ADA in regard to access, equality and civil rights. We could include a bibliography with pertinent resource materials. The vision also ties in with the City's values. For businesses, the handbook could provide technical assistance and consultations. We could also list the businesses that have participated in an orientation/training process. The objectives would be to create access and let people with disabilities know what businesses are accessible. Barbara cited the handbook as an ideal first communication. We should not say "compliance makes businesses people-friendly." The point is how to increase business and reach people with minimal effort and expenses. Do we sell the economic advantage or the philosophical message? The objectives for this issue area may overlap with education - possible advisory to businesses and advocacy

for consumers.

Should we discuss/brainstorm an issue area at each meeting or generally brainstorm about each category?
We will do the latter at the next meeting on 12/9 at 3.

V. Adjournment at 4:45 p.m.