

MINUTES - CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Committee on Disability

Thursday, November 10, 1994 -- 4:30 p.m.

Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Michaeljohn Horne. Members present were Michaeljohn Horne, Tom Hamlett, and the Rev. John Von Douris. Louise Mebane joined the meeting in progress. Brian Cole was absent. Members of the public present were Shawn Casey O'Brien, Mike Radcliffe, and Michael Sidler. Staff present were Daphne Dennis, Janyce Kamahele, Sam Baxter, and Sharon Perlstein. Agency personnel present were Monica Stone, Disability Specialist, and Vivian Sauer, JFS Disabilities.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 13 meeting were approved, with the following corrections and additions:

John Von Douris also stated his disagreement with the memorandum from City Manager Brotzman, and at the October 13 and previous meetings, had asserted that the Committee on Disability should become a free-standing City Commission. He also called for blue curbing on specific sites along Santa Monica Boulevard, Sunset Boulevard, and Melrose Avenue.

Michaeljohn Horne noted that it is the Brown Act which requires that a Commissioner be chair of the Committee, since it is a subcommittee of the Commission.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. Shawn Casey O'Brien

Shawn Casey O'Brien reported on the Unique People's Voting Project, which is a project to increase the political participation and influence of persons with disabilities and others who support issues of concern to persons with disabilities. He said the organization sponsored a well-received debate in the District 45 State Assembly race, and placed special emphasis on non-partisan voter registration and absentee balloting. They currently are seeking funding from the California Community Foundation and other sources in order to expand their program.

Tom Hamlett asked how the Committee could help UPVP, and O'Brien said he would include the Committee among those receiving information and invitations for support.

B. Other persons addressing the Committee were Mike Radcliffe, Michael Sidler, and Robert and Phyllis Coto.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Overview of City Efforts Concerning ADA Compliance --

Janyce Kamahele, Sam Baxter, and Sharon Perlstein spoke about City actions and plans to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and its requirement for reasonable accommodations to make public facilities and the process of local government accessible.

John asked why the Committee was not an Advisory Committee under the terms of the ADA. Janyce said the Committee did participate in the ADA-compliance process. John recommended that the Committee become a full Advisory Committee under ADA.

Sam reported on three major elements of the City's transition program: the new City Hall at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard; three current City buildings in need of alterations; and the remodeling of the Partners Adult Day Health Care Center, 7362 Santa Monica Boulevard, in response to damage from the earthquake.

Janyce reported that the City now offers ASL interpretation at city meetings, and makes notices of materials available in alternative formats.

Sharon reviewed actions by the Department of Transportation and Public Works regarding ADA compliance, including the planned installation of streetlights which do not block sidewalks, and road improvements on San Vicente Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard. The latter is a CalTrans project, so the changes are long-range, but do include improved access and crossing grades.

John Von Douris asked about blue curbing and white curbing at the new City Hall, and said CalTrans needs notice from the City to install them. Sharon said that the existing sidewalks will be replaced, and that upgrades in markings will follow. John asked for further information on blue curbing for Melrose and Sunset, and recommended Glendale as an example of outstanding attention to blue-curb provision.

Tom Hamlett thanked the guests for the update and said that the Committee would probably ask them back for further information in the future.

B. Report on Status of Public TDD Proposal

Daphne Dennis said that the "Sounds of Silence" proposal will be going to the Human Services Commission at its November meeting, and then to the City Council on November 21. Copies of the staff report were distributed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of COD Applications & Overview of Outreach Efforts

Copies of these applications were distributed to the Committee: Louis Barrios, Glenn Flor, Phyllis Coto, Robert Coto, Robert A. Rootenberg, Michael Sidler, Donna Vega.

Michaeljohn suggested having two members of the Committee review the applications and bring back recommendations to the Committee. John and Tom agreed to review the applications, and Michaeljohn will be available as an alternate in case one of them is unable to attend the review. The subcommittee will meet at 10:15 a.m., Tuesday, November 22, in the Department of Transportation Conference Room at City Hall.

Daphne reported on outreach efforts, including media.

B. Items for Future Agendas

The Committee established the following priorities for its next agenda.

1. Housing Element of General Plan
2. Workplan for 1995
3. Appointments to the Committee

C. Regular meeting place, day, and time

The Committee established the second Thursday of each month, at 4:30 p.m., in Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park, as their regular meeting place, day, and time.

Due to a staff conflict, however, the December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 4:30 p.m., at Fiesta Hall.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Michaeljohn noted the inadequacy of the sound system, and the Committee agreed to ask the Human Services Commission to notify Council of the need to replace the system with one that is appropriate to the space, reliable, easy to use, and not prone to feedback.

John said he is still in need of notes and minutes from meetings that occurred during January-July 1992, and in 1990.

Tom Hamlett distributed handouts regarding Project AccessAbility 1994 and disaster preparedness.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Robert and Phyllis Coto spoke to the Committee about transportation issues, including improving accessibility and street crossings. Phyllis asked about extending the City Shuttle to other routes, and Daphne said that the Committee could make specific recommendations to the Transportation Department. Phyllis noted that citizens could attend the Transportation Commission meetings to advocate for improved markings.

Monica Stone informed the Committee about a public hearing being held on disability access by the Los Angeles County MTA. Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the LACMTA Board Room, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, December 1, in Fiesta Hall.