

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
December 10, 2003**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Cherner called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Yola Dore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Yola Dore, Joel Ring, and Ann Semonco

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaisons Daphne Dennis and Leslie Isenberg

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the December 10th agenda by Yola Dore, seconded by Suzanne Dietrich, and unanimously carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 12th meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Norman Cherner announced that Chuck Henry has been appointed to the Human Services Commission and will no longer be serving on the Disabilities Advisory Board. He read a card from Ms. Dore to the DAB congratulating the Board on the past year's work and looking forward to the new year's work.

Inna Epshteyn, Disability Specialist, reported that November was a very busy month. The first Social Club for People with Disabilities

was held on December 4th and was unsuccessful. Ms. Epshteyn asked for suggestions on creating a more successful social club.

Daphne Dennis announced that several people have applied to be on the Disabilities Advisory Board and that the City Council may be making some new Disabilities Advisory Board appointments at their next meeting on Monday, December 22, 2003.

Daphne Dennis expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Disabilities Advisory Board over the past year and half and announced that Leslie Isenberg will take over the staff liaison responsibilities for the Disabilities Advisory Board. The Disabilities Advisory Board expressed gratitude for Daphne's leadership and dedication.

Leslie Isenberg addressed Advisory Board member Semonco's question from last month's meeting regarding excused absences on the Disabilities Advisory Board. The by-laws that were adopted last month state that no more than three absences shall take place in a 12-month period. In fact, the City Council is very flexible and understands that Disabilities Advisory Board members may need to be absent more frequently. Daphne Dennis explained that the Council would have to take an affirmative action to remove someone from the Board. She also stated that staff would inform the City Council of legitimate absences.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting Dates and Location: The Disabilities Advisory Board discussed moving their meetings to the fourth Wednesday of the month at West Hollywood City Hall. Several Disabilities Advisory Board members requested taxi vouchers to get to and from the meetings. Motion by Advisory Board Member Dore to move the meeting to the fourth Wednesday of the month at City Hall and to re-visit this issue at their April meeting to see if the new location is working well for people. Seconded by Norman Cherner and unanimously carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) Presentation

Xavier Martin, WHEST Program Coordinator, gave a brief presentation on the employment services offered by Jewish Vocational Services. He also spoke about the array of services and accommodations offered to people with disabilities.

B. Disabilities Advisory Board Retreat: The Advisory Board members discussed the merits of having a retreat for purposes of devising a two-year workplan. Motion made by Yola Dore to hold the Disabilities Advisory Board Retreat on Wednesday, January 28th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm; seconded by Suzanne Dietrich and unanimously carried. Leslie Isenberg will inform Disabilities Advisory Board members at a later date of the Retreat location. Food will be served.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

11. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Suzanne Dietrich wished everyone happy holidays.

Yola Dore wished everyone happy holidays and requested that the Disabilities Advisory Board discuss public safety at an upcoming meeting.

Anne Semonco announced that she has been appointed to the County's MTA Commission. She also discussed bus stop furniture.

Joel Ring made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Suzanne Dietrich and unanimously carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:34 p.m. In lieu of a January meeting, the Disabilities Advisory Board will hold its retreat on Wednesday, January 28, 2004. Location to be determined.