

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES - FEBRUARY 13, 1996

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chairperson Michaeljohn Horne at 6 p.m., Tuesday, February 13, 1996, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Those choosing to do so recited the Pledge.

B. ROLL CALL:

The Recording Secretary called roll.

Present: Steven Davis, Michaeljohn Horne, Leslie Hull,
Sandra Jacoby Klein, Peter Mackler, John Nieto

Excused: Shirley Roberts

Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd Long, Director of Human Services; Jodi Curlee, Social Services Administrator; Curtis Brown, Jr., Recreation Services Administrator; Armando Abrego, Arthur Lindsay, Bonnie Smith, Chris Worland, Tyrone McKinley, Aron Sumii, Gwen Part, Beth Sazama, Mike Atkin, and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA:

The Recording Secretary reported that notices were posted as required.

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to indicate this on a speaker request form.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 9, 1996, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. RECREATION SERVICES REPORTS

Curtis Brown introduced members of the parks and recreation staff, who reported on current projects.

Armando Abrego reported that the second Cinco de Mayo festival will be held at the corner of Lexington and Detroit.

Arthur Lindsay, who was honored by the City as an "Angel Amidst" in 1995, reported on the Tiny Tots program at West Hollywood Park. He stressed the value in involving people in civic programs at an early age.

Bonnie Smith discussed the WHINS (West Hollywood Is Neighborhood Service) community policing program, under which six additional Deputies are addressing local safety concerns. Nancy Greenstein is lead staff for this project, with parks and recreation personnel cooperating.

Chris Worland discussed the forthcoming Summer Brochure, which is anticipated for distribution by June 1. Summer classes begin on July 8. This year, the division will be conducting registration by computer for the first time. Three staff members have been trained on the data-entry system, which will allow improved tracking and mailing-list retention.

Tyrone McKinley reported on the Junior Lifeguard program and other aquatics programs. There have been excursions to aquaria and beaches, as well as regular swimming and water polo events. Curtis Brown noted that Tyrone is moving away soon, and that recruitment for his position is underway. The Commission thanked Tyrone for his work in the City's aquatics program.

Aron Sumii reported on the Farmers Market and Community Garden programs. Current goals for the Farmers Market program include increasing attendance and sales through an expanded advertisement program, a continued schedule of special events, and selected new projects, such as "Fresh from the Garden," which will provide a delivery service to City Hall for Farmers Market products. A third Community Garden is now being opened at 1201 Detroit.

Gwen Part discussed the Youth Summer Employment program, which offers 10 weeks of part-time (20 hours/week) work for youth. Most work is in staffing the park offices and the pool. The program increases familiarity with recreation programs, gives an opportunity to improve interpersonal skills, and encourages consideration of recreation as a professional career.

Beth Sazama, recreation specialist for special events, discussed the broad range of her duties, which include responsibility for City-sponsored special events such as Halloween and the Summer Sounds series; helping to coordinate periodic special events at the parks; facilitating outside special events, such as Christopher Street West and the California AIDS Ride. A new special events calendar was distributed to the Commissioners. Beth is working on increasing corporate sponsorships, reinforcing the image of West Hollywood as an ideal location for special events, and preparing ideas for an annual fundraising event.

Mike Atkin distributed the February issue of West Hollywood Park News, and older issues were provided to the Commission for information.

Curtis Brown congratulated the staff on their presentations and thanked them for their work. Lloyd Long noted that Curtis has recently been elected Secretary/Treasurer of the California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS), an honor not only for Curtis but for the City as well, because it establishes the City in a statewide leadership role in parks and recreation programs.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

1. Bet Tzedek Legal Services

Yellena Orloff described the work of this agency, more than 50% of which is performed by volunteers. Although Bet Tzedek's services are available under City contract to all age groups, most of those who take advantage of the services are seniors. The heaviest case loads are in the areas of evictions, bankruptcies, wills, conservatorships, guardianships, and restitution.

2. Dispute Resolution Services

Dorothy Lank said that since its founding in 1987, DRS has seen a steady increase in calls and mediations. The program acts to defuse conflicts such as landlord/tenant and neighborhood disagreements. There is a growing popularity for mediation as an alternative to the court system. Dorothy noted that DRS facilitates periodic neighborhood meetings at the House of Blues, and conducts a variety of trainings and briefings for the Sheriffs Department and other key service providers.

3. GLCSC Legal Services

Matthew May distributed the current information pamphlet for this program, which provides free private consultations with volunteer attorneys. There are 87 volunteer attorneys and 27 non-attorney volunteers in the program now. The areas of highest volume are anti-violence, government benefits, HIV law, immigration, self-help, seniors, youth, mediation, and general-issue clinics.

B. FUTURE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Jodi Curlee noted that the Commission had previously planned to have periodic public hearings, and asked if there were issues the Commission would like to address this way. Refunding of social services agencies is one forthcoming public hearing. Commissioner Mackler said services for youth could be another topic.

Public Information Officer Helen Goss is scheduled to attend the March meeting. Topics to be covered will include (1) changes in Federal telecommunications law and whether they will have an impact on the City; (2) whether it would be helpful to have a public hearing on cable services/programming; (3) expanding PSAs and infomercials on recreation, disabilities, etc.; and (4) update on public access programming.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

A. SUBCOMMITTEES

1. HIV Subcommittee

Commissioner Klein reported that the subcommittee is recommending a change in focus since many of the plans growing out of the HIV Task Force already have been implemented. The new primary goal is coordinated advocacy on AIDS issues, with increased attention to legislative action. Commissioner Mackler noted that he

frequently updates a report on all AIDS issues before the Legislature.

Commissioners Mackler and Horne were established as a study group on these issues. Tom West will monitor these issues and keep the Commission informed of opportunities for advocacy. Helyne Meshar will be contacted to meet with the Commission soon.

Commissioner Horne expressed concern about the possibility that tapwater may be less safe than bottled water for persons with compromised immune systems. David Hare of Environmental Services will be contacted to report on this question at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hull said she attended the opening of Linn House, 1001 N. Martel Ave., a new facility sponsored by AIDS Healthcare Foundation. She asked for Cesar Portillo, AHF legislative director, to address a future meeting.

B. LIAISONS

1. Chairs Meeting

Commissioner Davis reported on the most recent Chairs Meeting.

2. Senior Advisory Council

Commissioner Davis said a new activities director for the Senior Center has been hired. Ray Reynolds, the new Community Development Director, is also joining the City this month. Lucy Dyke reviewed the Dial-a-Ride program with SAC.

3. L.A. Human Relations Commission Mutual Assistance Consortium:

Commissioner Klein attended the February meeting in the press box at the Rose Bowl. The mutual assistance agreement is scheduled for the March Commission agenda, and will be taken to Council in April.

4. Partners

Commissioner Roberts, who was excused, sent word that she had recently attended events at Partners, and that the programs were running very well.

C. OTHER ITEMS

Freedom to Marry

Commissioner Mackler updated Commissioners on AB 1982 (Knight), which was approved 41-31 by the Assembly and is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF:

There were no additional items from the staff.

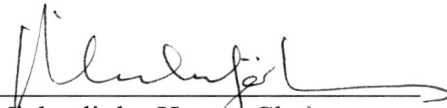
VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ron Nyman, 1430 Miller Drive, inquired about the status of the HIV Day Clinic. Lloyd assured him of the importance of providing the services. Staff will update Mr. Nyman regarding the status of plans for the new budget year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

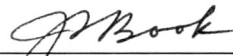
At 8:10 p.m., the Commission was adjourned. The next meeting will be held in the same location on Tuesday, March 12, 1996, unless otherwise announced.

MINUTES APPROVED MARCH 12, 1996



Michaeljohn Horne, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date