

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES -- DECEMBER 9, 2003**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 9, 2003, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Roberts.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven Davis, Ponsella Gratton,  
Dr. Bill Griffin, Shirley Roberts.

Excused: Chuck Henry, Peter Mackler.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Nancy Beard, Recreation Services Administrator; and Jeff Book. Mayor Jeffrey Prang and former Commissioner Teresa DeCrescenzo were also present.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The Secretary reported that notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a request form.

II. MINUTES

The minutes for November 11, 2003, were approved, on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Gratton, with Commissioner Griffin abstaining due to his absence from that meeting.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tripp Mills of the Gay & Lesbian Center provided the condom distribution report for the month of November 2003, and spoke about the Club Freedom event, which will be held again this year on New Year's Eve.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. HOMELESS ISSUES

Daphne Dennis provided a summary of a report given recently to the City Council with regard to the topic of homelessness in West Hollywood. She noted that a food program provided by a local church has apparently influenced the arrival of homeless persons in the community, and that changes to that program may be occurring soon.

Staff is working with the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and with the Sheriff's Department and PATH, to respond to the current situation. Patrols have been increased in parks citywide, and additional steps are planned.

V. PRESENTATION

Mayor Jeffrey Prang thanked former Commissioner DeCrescenzo for her six years of service on the Commission, and noted how valuable it has been to him to have a person with her experience and insight as a resource and friend.

He expressed confidence that newly appointed Commissioner Chuck Henry would also prove to be a valuable resource.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECREATION SERVICES

Nancy Beard reported on current activities in the Recreation Division, which has completed its summer programs. She provided information about the day care and tiny tots program; the book festival; the special Halloween events held for children, involving costumes and activities; and the presentation of "Hairspray" in the park. More films are planned for this summer.

She also reported on the Drag Race held in conjunction with Halloween; the *Carnaval* on the boulevard, which this year attracted an estimated 250,000 participants despite inclement weather; and the continuing popularity of the city's aquatics programs.

Commissioner Roberts said it would be helpful to publicize that the DASH bus system can bring people to the Farmers Markets.

Commissioner Davis asked staff to look into an organized walking program, since there is no appropriate space for "mall walking" in the city. Daphne Dennis said Cedars does sponsor a mall walking program at Beverly Center, but that a similar

effort did not pan out at Pacific Design Center. Staff will talk with providers about possibilities.

Nancy Beard also reported on plans for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Angels Amidst, and the 20th anniversary of cityhood.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioners joined Mayor Prang's sentiments in thanking Commissioner DeCrescenzo for her outstanding service on the Commission.

Commissioner Davis said he attended a World AIDS Day rededication in the lobby of City Hall, as well as a lunch at the House of Blues.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis noted that Lloyd Long, who is absent due to flu, also extends his appreciation and thanks to Commissioner DeCrescenzo for her years of service.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

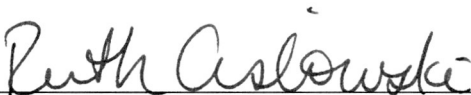
Rachel Bercovic of JFS spoke about their holiday plans, which include providing gift baskets to the homebound, containing holiday meals that include latkes.

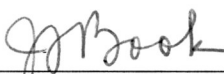
X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Minutes approved January 14, 2004

  
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RUTH CISLOWSKI, Chair

  
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JEFF BOOK, Secretary