

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2005**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Cherner called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Debra Chodash led the Pledge.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Phyllis Coto, Suzanne Dietrich, Joel Ring, Anne Semonco

ABSENT: Bryan Dahlgren, Dr. Harrison Kline-Aguado

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaisons Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda of February 23, 2005 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 26, 2005 meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Anna Swett, a West Hollywood resident and Chair of the LA County Client Coalition spoke about their work of empowering mental health consumers. She suggested that the City needs a wellness center for mental health clients.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Inna Khariton, Disability Specialist, provided the Board with program statistics and reported that the Valentine's Day event was a success with 13 attendees, including several DAB members. She will not be regularly attending DAB meetings in the future unless there is a specific request.

B. Leslie Isenberg updated the DAB on liaison assignments. She announced that the ADA plan is due in March or April and she will

inform the DAB when that is completed. She also reported that she and Chairperson Cherner discussed focusing upcoming meetings on specific topics. The April meeting will focus on transportation and the May meeting will focus on housing.

Vice-Chair Semonco and Chairperson Cherner will serve on a subcommittee that will report next month on the definition of wheelchair accessibility to be included in RSD's rental listings. The subcommittee will bring a definition of wheelchair accessibility to the Board for approval.

Ms. Isenberg announced that Susan Mendlowitz, Director of JFS Partners ADHC, said that she could use volunteers with clinical experience, perhaps someone who has retired from the field, to make follow-up calls from interested parties. Anyone who is interested should call (323) 883-0330.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. LIAISON UPDATES:

Vice-Chair Semonco attended the MTA Governance Council Public Hearing where a number of bus drivers spoke; there will be a vote at the March 3rd meeting. She announced that the Transportation Commission may give privileged parking to persons with hybrid cards.

Mr. Chinich announced that the Historical Preservation Committee will meet on Monday.

Ms. Coto reported that the seniors had a fun festival at Plummer Park last month.

Ms. Chodash attended a Council meeting and encountered some misconceptions of her disability.

Chairperson Cherner made a presentation to the Human Services Commission on public right-of-way issues. They are interested in helping on this issue.

Ms. Dietrich said that the PAC didn't meet this month. She announced that on Feb. 26 there will be a production of "The Vagina Monologues" and that volunteers are needed for the event.

B. BUS FURNITURE:

Ms. Isenberg brought a rendering of the bus furniture that is being shipped from France and will be arriving this week or next. These will be piloted at 3 different intersections.

C. HIDDEN DISABILITIES:

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS YEAR-END REPORT:

Ms. Isenberg distributed the report for the DAB's perusal. Ms. Coto suggested that the DAB write letters of appreciation to all the agencies. She would like to see the City fund an all-day mental health center.

B. DECAL PROGRAM FOR ADA COMPLIANT RESTAURANTS AND BRAILLE MENUS:

The DAB approved a motion to work with the Chamber of Commerce on a program to display decals in the entrances of restaurants which are ADA compliant and to encourage restaurants to have Braille menus available for those who need them.

C. ADA COMPLIANT RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS:

The DAB approved a motion to prepare a brochure that identifies local religious institutions and notes their accessibility. The first step will be to check with the City attorney as to the legal ramifications of such.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Coto brought several brochures on mental health services, as well as a flyer about a fundraising concert at Cal State LA.

Ms. Dietrich raised concerns about taxi driver misconduct and will bring this up at the April meeting on transportation.

Mr. Chinich would like to be given the option to get a disabled bus pass in lieu of taxi vouchers. Ms. Isenberg will follow up on that.

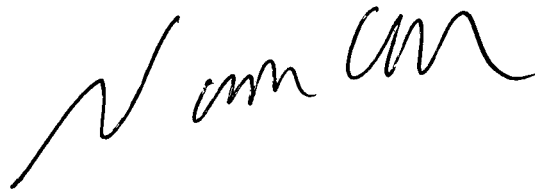
Chairperson Cherner spoke on his own behalf at the City Council meeting about his concerns regarding ADA compliance at the mixed-use business space at Hacienda and Holloway. He will draft a resolution about the inclusion of ADA compliance on planning documents. He also reminded the DAB of the special March 13th West Hollywood Chorale concert for people with disabilities.

Vice-Chair Semonco raised concerns about safety during emergencies. Ms. Isenberg will invite a speaker from Public Safety to address these concerns of emergency preparedness.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:16 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/Disabilities Advisory Board/minutes/022305

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora Ann" or similar, written in a cursive style.

Norman Cherner,
CHAIRPERSON