

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2004**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Norman Cherner called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Phyllis Coto, Bryan Dahlgren, Yola Dore, Joel Ring, and Ann Semonco

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaisons Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda of April 28, 2004 was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 24, 2004 meeting were approved.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ann Ehrenthal of the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation encouraged the DAB to support the proposed housing construction on Laurel Avenue at the May 3rd City Council meeting. This item will be agendized at the next meeting.

Laura Wilhelm of Accessible Design & Consulting introduced the company and invited the DAB to attend their lecture series.

6. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Inna Epshteyn, Disability Specialist, reported on client services at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center. The social club continues to grow. She also mentioned that she met with the Department of Rehabilitation at their new Hollywood office location.

Ms. Isenberg reminded the DAB because the real-time captioner is contracted for a two-hour meeting, it is important to keep the meeting to that timeframe. She sent around a sign-up sheet for the DAB table at the Senior Health Fair on Wed., May 19th. Regarding the ADA Conference that Ms. Coto inquired about at the last meeting, there are no City funds available to sponsor participants. She pointed out that the Workplan Priorities now incorporate the DAB members' preferences. Lastly, she asked who would like to continue to receive the real-time captioned transcripts, and Chairperson Cherner, Vice-Chair Semonco and Ms. Coto responded affirmatively.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Meeting Location

The previous decision to move the DAB meetings to City Hall was revisited and it was unanimously agreed upon to stay at this location. Investigation is needed, however, to find out why the door bell at the back entrance doesn't seem to work.

B. Liaisons

Chairperson Cherner suggested that DAB members submit their written preferences, if any, to Ms. Isenberg.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Coto announced a picnic on May 8th in San Pedro.

9. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Semonco reported on the meeting of the Westside Central Sector of the MTA. Line changes were not yet voted on due to insufficient information. New bus furniture is expected by June or July.

Ms. Dore reported that she testified at the Human Services Commission meeting about health care. She encouraged DAB members to consider attending meetings of the Democrats.

Ms. Chodash asked Ms. Semonco to raise the need for back support on bus seats.

Mr. Chinich reported that he attended the inauguration of the new Mayor. He also has observed improvements regarding pedestrian safety.

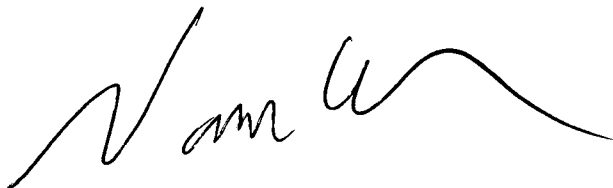
Ms. Coto said that she would like to see more visible signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks. She would also like to start women's and men's rap groups, perhaps with Ms. Epshteyn's assistance. She would also like to request Target stores to provide sugar-free slurpees which are a healthier option for diabetics.

Mr. Dahlgren has observed racks of clothes and rugs on the sidewalks which are a pedestrian safety issue. He requested that Tom Benedetti, Manager of Code Compliance, attend the next DAB meeting to speak about this problem. He also reported that there will be a TOPS conference next week at which State Senator Kuehl will speak on universal health care.

Chairperson Cherner reported that he also attended the Human Services Commission meeting and incorporated the DAB members' input in his comments. He was delighted that his cochlear implant is enabling him to hear people for the first time in years. Finally, he announced that at the next DAB meeting, he'd like to discuss ways to improve previous Disability Awareness Month televised meetings, in preparation for the upcoming October event.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 7:47 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Conference Room of City Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nam A.", is located at the bottom of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Norman Cherner,
CHAIRPERSON