

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairperson Semonco called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Debra Chodash led the Pledge.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Bryan Dahlgren, Dr. Harrison Kline-Aguado, Joel Ring, Anne Semonco

ABSENT: Phyllis Coto, Suzanne Dietrich

ALSO PRESENT: Daphne Dennis

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda of March 23, 2005 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 23, 2005 meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Daphne Dennis reported that the City Attorney has advised that it would not be appropriate for the City to publish a guide referring to the accessibility of religious institutions because it might have the appearance that the City is advocating that people participate in religion.

Staff sought clarification about the proposed restaurant accessibility assessment item passed at the February meeting, with regard to the use of Braille in menus, indicating that it would be extremely

expensive to implement. Members clarified that it is not necessary to have menus in Braille in order for people with sight impairments to have access to the menu information. The Chair clarified that the intention of the assessment was to rate the accessibility of all businesses in the City, not only restaurants. He volunteered that perhaps people with disabilities in the community could rate accessibility.

Staff announced that the City Council passed an item on right of way enforcement and apologized that notice about the item was not provided. After discussion, Jordan Chinich volunteered to check the City Council agenda in advance of meetings to determine if there are items of interest to the Board and to notify the Board.

The DAB will have a table at the Senior Health Fair on May 18 at the Community Center at Plummer Park. Members who are available to staff the table can sign up at the April DAB meeting.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. PATH PRESENTATION:

Tara Brown, Site Director for the Regional Homeless Center, reported on the services available to people who are homeless or in danger of being homeless. The PATH Mall brings together many different services under one roof--including education, job search, addiction and recovery, mental health, a hair salon, case management and advocacy in addition to emergency and transitional shelter for individuals and families.

B. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Kristin Cook, Public Safety Manager, distributed two publications to DAB members--a checklist for people with mobility problems and a family disaster supply kit and discussed disaster preparedness. She urged the importance of planning ahead, making contact with neighbors if you think you will need help in the event of an emergency and of preparing a small kit to take with you with essential medications, extra eye glasses etc.

C. LIAISON UPDATES:

Vice-Chairperson Semonco did not attend the Transportation Commission meeting.

She reported that the MTA will not be putting a Rapid bus on the 217 line because of concerns over traffic.

Mr. Chinich checked the agenda for the Historic Preservation Commission and there was nothing on the agenda pertaining to the Board.

Dr. Kline-Aguado attended the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, distributed the Disability Services brochure, and reported that the Board discussed presenting special service awards on a monthly basis.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that he has a scheduling conflict with the Senior Advisory Board and requested that he be the liaison to the Public Facilities Commission instead.

Chairperson Cherner attended the Russian Advisory Board instead of the Human Services Commission because the Commission had changed its date and location due to a conflict with the City's election. He inquired of staff the status of the outdoor dining issue. Staff reported that the City Attorney is looking at the proposed change to the Municipal Code.

D. BUS FURNITURE:

A sample of the new bus shelters has been installed at the corner of Santa Monica Blvd and Fairfax. The Chair urged members to go to look at the shelter. The Vice-Chair indicated that it looked like the arm rests installed on the seat could limit access.

E. HIDDEN DISABILITIES:

The Board determined that it will prepare a report for the Human Services Commission and City Council on hidden disabilities, summarizing all the presentations which have been made to the Board, including services which are currently available and advocating for more services if they are needed. Draft by October; final report by March, 2006.

F. APRIL MEETING:

Transportation is the topic for the April meeting and members discussed the importance of having people attend who can speak to the taxi program, Cityline, Dial-a-Ride, Metro busses and ACCESS.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS:

Tabled.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

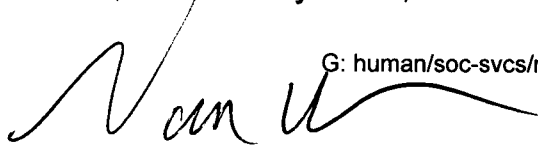
Mr. Chinich questioned whether it was necessary for the City to purchase bus shelters made in France, stating that they seemed to demonstrate form over function.

Dr. Kline-Aguado reported that he and Mr. Dahlgren attended the CSUN Convention on adaptive and assistive technologies, which he indicated was a fabulous experience. He urged that a representative from the organization which presented it be invited to a DAB meeting. Dr. Kline-Aguado also reported that a new television show called "Blind Justice" has begun airing Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. He noted with interest how the media deals with disabilities.

Chairperson Cherner reported that he had a very satisfactory meeting with Steve Bailey to discuss adding specific references to ADA compliance in various planning and building documents.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cherner adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 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/032305

Norman Cherner,
CHAIRPERSON