

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – NOVEMBER 10, 2015**  
**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2015, in the Community Meeting Room of the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Gamboa.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Elizabeth Anderson, Sam Borelli, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corey Roskin, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported that notices for the meeting were posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

II. **AGENDA**

Commissioner Davis moved to add the Election of Officers to the Agenda as new Item VII, and to move Item VI. B. (World AIDS Day) so it follows Public Comment. These changes and the agenda as a whole were approved on a motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer.

III. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 13, 2015, meeting were corrected to reflect that the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Anderson, rather than Commissioner Meltzer. With this correction, the minutes of October 13, 2015, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, with Commissioner Davis abstaining due to absence.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Morin spoke about concerns with the Ellis Act and protection of renters in West Hollywood. He said he is being removed from his apartment a few days before his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday, after living in the same apartment for more than 30 years.

Vivian Sauer of Jewish Family Service spoke about the Aging in Place/Aging in Community strategic planning process, which she strongly supported.

Tory Berger, liaison from Public Safety Commission, said the draft of the Aging in Place/Aging in Community strategic plan was very well done. He said he attended the recent Health Fair, and learned about the potential effects of El Niño this winter at a County meeting.

Robert Gamboa, co-chair of Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke about several items that Board will be discussing t their Nov. 12 meeting, including LGBT historical kiosks, how to recognize the LGBT historical importance of the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente, and adopting a schedule for 2016 Rainbow Key nominations.

James Wen, Transgender Advisory Board, thanked Sam Borelli for attending their recent meeting, and spoke about plans for the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Friday, Nov. 20. James also spoke about progress with the End Racial Profiling Act, which the state legislature approved and the governor signed, but little has been accomplished on the Federal level yet.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. WORLD AIDS DAY

Corey Roskin presented plans for World AIDS Day recognition on Dec. 1, noting events both worldwide and in West Hollywood, including City Hall's display of a panel of the AIDS Quilt, which is particularly significant to the City because it includes squares in memory of West Hollywood City employees. He spoke about the AIDS Watch name-scroll on City Channel, the silent scroll of names in the Council Chambers from 5 to 7 pm, the candlelight vigil from 6 to 7 pm, and the event for the Paul Starke Warriors Awards at 7 pm.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. AGING IN PLACE/AGING IN COMMUNITY FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Elizabeth Savage gave a presentation on the draft version of the Aging in Place/Aging in Community strategic plan, which has been developed from extensive public input, including focus groups, expert interviews, and the May 9 public meeting. The strategic plan will soon be presented to the City Council. She said additional information on ways to measure qualitative and quantitative change during the implementation of the strategic plan will be provided at the December 8 meeting of the Human Services Commission. Marci Eads, John O'Connor, and Elizabeth Sadlon, consultants on the project, will attend the December meeting as well.

Public Comment: Victor Omelczenko spoke about living in a rent-stabilized building, which he said is threatened in the City these days. He was particularly concerned about how the City will meet the priorities in the Domain 4, Housing, section of the Aging in Place/Aging in Community strategic plan, and that he looks forward to discussion.

Commissioners discussed the draft plan, which all of them had read, and some more than once. Topics raised by the Commission included making sure people were aware that the Aging in Place plan is not itself a new program, but rather a set of strategies for positive change in the lives of people living in the City; that a buddy system, to encourage people to check on each other on a regular basis, may be a good idea; that an entity such as Bloomberg Philanthropies might be interested in helping fund implementation of the plan; that property managers should be engaged as part of the planning process; that it is good the draft plan includes a focus on individual stories; what else the City can do to mitigate the negative impact of the Ellis Act; and that the City should consider having Code Enforcement pro-actively check buildings for safety, instead of responding only when notified of a problem.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (resumed)

B. HOLLYWOOD/HIGHLAND SHUTTLE (PILOT PROGRAM)

Perri Sloane Goodman spoke about the City's pilot program to provide a shuttle from Santa Monica Boulevard to the Hollywood/Highland subway station, which will restore a link that existed through Los Angeles's DASH bus prior to 2010. The new shuttle will appear on the NextBus app, just as CityLine does now. Bus users are very familiar with NextBus.

Discussion from Commissioners included the possibility of encouraging a special effort for the Shuttle around Pride, because LA Pride's Youth Advisory Committee has said that one hindrance is the difficulty of getting to the event using public transportation.

Public Comment: Victor Omelczenko spoke about being part of the West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition, and said the pilot program for the Shuttle is a fine expenditure of public funds.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Davis thanked fellow Commissioners for the opportunity to serve as Chair, a role he has fulfilled several times before.

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair for 2015-2016. Commissioner Cislowski nominated Commissioner Palmieri, who accepted. Commissioner Borelli nominated Commissioner Meltzer, who declined. On a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Borelli, the Commission closed nominations and declared Commissioner Palmieri elected.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair for 2015-2016. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Meltzer. There were no other nominations. On a motion

by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Shandrick, the Commission closed nominations and declared Commissioner Meltzer elected.

#### VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Anderson spoke about visiting the National Council of Jewish Women, and attending the Transportation Commission last month.

Commissioner Borelli spoke about attending the homeless services roundtable, a site visit to the Tarzana Treatment Center, attending the awards presented by the Disabilities Advisory Board, and attending the televised meeting of the Transgender Advisory Board. He encouraged attendance at the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about attending the opening of the new STD testing facility, which will provide on-site PEP and PrEP treatment, and about visiting the Tarzana Treatment Center and Safe Refuge in Long Beach. He spoke about cold-weather shelter information from the Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about a need for West Hollywood to increase its support for protecting the homeless during the impending cold/wet weather season, particularly in light of Los Angeles County committing an additional \$50 million to this. He spoke about National AIDS Day; information on PrEP available by text; Transgender Day of Remembrance; the free #BOOM! Sober New Year's Eve event on Dec. 31 at West Hollywood Park Auditorium. He attended the Nutrition providers roundtable this month. He said holidays are a particular time of concern for relapse in the recovery community, and urged people to direct anyone to the Tweakers Project on Facebook, which provides around-the-clock support.

Commissioner Cislowski asked about the Chamber of Commerce raising funds for something relating to social services. David Giugni said this was regarding an incubator for social services agencies to create programming, and that he could bring further information to an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about meeting with Marina Berkman at Jewish Family Service; attending Senior Advisory Board; about the Ad Hoc Committee of the Street Media Project; and meeting with Tory Berger of Public Safety Commission. She and Commissioner Palmieri, if possible, will be visiting Tarzana Treatment Center soon.

Commissioner Davis spoke about visiting Tarzana Treatment Center.

Commissioner Borelli thanked Commissioner Davis for serving as chair for the last few months, as well as several other times during his service on the Commission.

#### IX. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni spoke about the Center's new testing facility on Santa Monica Boulevard, thanked Corey Roskin for the presentation on World AIDS Day, and said that homeless information cards have been updated and are now at the printer.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Dobrin said she was honored to listen to the Commission but didn't hear anything for the last 40 minutes because the hearing system failed. She said bicycling is not part of Aging in Place; that the Aging in Place/Aging in Community draft plan is a wonderful report; that she appreciates the City and Elizabeth Savage; that the Sennheiser listening devices work very well in the Council Chambers, but not at all in Plummer Park or West Hollywood Park locations; and that she disapproves of not having council deputies.

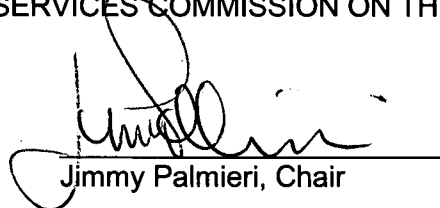
Victor Omelczenko welcomed recently seated Commissioners and congratulated the new officers. He spoke about the Ellis Act and how the City makes it very attractive for developers to swoop in and take over properties. He spoke about the Nov. 5 Planning Commission action on the new project for the Center for Early Education on La Cienega Boulevard, which involves removing a 9-unit rent-stabilized building at 533 N. Alfred Street, and said that some accommodation for this should be made.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2015

  
Jimmy Palmieri, Chair

Attest:

  
Jeff Book, Secretary