

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
July 9, 2003**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Ed Ahern called the Meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michael Arrigo.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Ed Ahern, Michael Arrigo, Norman Cherner,
Suzanne Dietrich, Yola Dore, Ann Semonco

EXCUSED: Joel Ring

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff Liaisons Daphne Dennis and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairperson Ahern moved to amend the agenda to add urgency item 8-B, New Business for the Election of Officers; second by Mr. Arrigo. Mr. Cherner spoke against the motion, stating that he believed it a violation of the Brown Act because the election of officers is not an urgency item. Staff indicated that the City Clerk had suggested adding the item to the agenda. The motion carried 5 in favor; 1 opposed. The agenda for the July 9 meeting was approved as amended.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Dietrich requested that the reference to her invitation to City of Hope to participate in Breast Cancer Awareness Month events be stricken. Ms. Dore requested that the last sentence in item 7-A-2 be stricken. The minutes of the June 11, 2003 meeting were approved as amended.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Disability Awareness Month: Board members discussed plans for Disability Awareness Month, October, 2003. Chairperson Ahern announced that the City of Santa Monica is seeking to work collaboratively with the City of West Hollywood on plans for events during Disability Awareness Month. The Board indicated interest in a collaborative effort, while reiterating desire to retain the City's own events, and urged that Board and Commission members from surrounding cities be included.

Staff, Board members and Public Information staff will work on PSA's to be broadcast on the City's cable channel. They will be captioned and descriptive for the visually impaired.

The Board determined that there would be three award categories—individual, non-profit, and business. Nominations will be sought from the community and the Board will choose the Award winners. Board members urged that the actual organization of the Awards event be done differently—particularly with respect to the participation of the City Council.

The Board indicated its interest in participating in National Disability Mentoring Day scheduled for October 15. Ms. Semonco cautioned that hosts need to be better prepared to receive a mentee and she suggested that perhaps the mentors and mentees could be involved in some way in the Awards event on the 22nd.

B. Mid-Year Report on Social Services Programs: Daphne Dennis presented the mid-year report on Social Services contracts. Chair Ahern questioned whether all the Social Services provider locations are accessible. Staff responded that this is certainly a goal, though, as we know from experience, some locations assume they are accessible and then turn out not to be when a person who uses a wheelchair actually tries to use the space. Mr. Cherner suggested that when the Board decides to schedule

presentations from Social Services agencies, that the agencies which serve the most people be scheduled first.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Disability Services brochure:** The DAB suggested changes and additions to the services brochure.
- B. Election of Officers:** Chairperson Ahern was re-elected as Chair, with Mr. Cherner abstaining. Vice-Chair Semonco was re-elected as Vice-Chair, with Mr. Cherner abstaining.

9. DISABILITY RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Dore requested that more water be brought to DAB meetings. She said that Toya Brown of Transportation has been excellent in dealing with a taxi problem, though major problems still exist.

Mr. Cherner raised concerns that the items that he's requested be agendaized have not been discussed in the DAB. Chairperson Ahern explained that he didn't get back to the staff in time to include any of the items for this agenda, but asked Mr. Cherner to select two items to include on the next agenda.

Ms. Semonco reported that no action has been taken on her application to be a member of the County MTA Transportation Commission. She would like to know when Fairfax and Santa Monica's construction would be completed. Access to busses is very difficult due to placement of planters. She will raise these concerns with Sam Baxter.

Mr. Arrigo announced that Access Services is holding community meetings around the County seeking feedback about the changes in services which became effective on July 1. Local meetings will be held at Plummer Park on July 23 from 10:30 a.m. – Noon in Room 5 and on Aug. 20 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. in Room 5. Ms. Dennis will mail the full meeting schedule to the Board.

Chairperson Ahern announced that during the first week in October there would be a statewide disability advocacy workshop at the

Airport Marriott. Scholarships are available. He will give Ms. Dennis the information to be included in the next DAB packet.

Ms. Dore expressed concern about the impact the State budget will have on services for people with disabilities.

10. STAFF COMMENTS:

None.

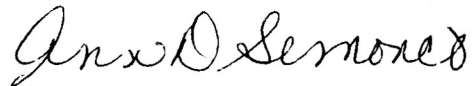
11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Ahern adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting to the next meeting on **Wednesday, August 13, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center at Plummer Park.**

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/dab/minutes-0703

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann O'Seamore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.