

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
August 13, 2003**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Ed Ahern called the Meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ann Semonco.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Ed Ahern, Michael Arrigo, Norman Cherner, Yola Dore, Joel Ring, Ann Semonco

EXCUSED: Suzanne Dietrich

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff Liaisons Daphne Dennis and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda for the August 13th meeting was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the July 8th meeting were approved with Joel Ring abstaining.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Disability Awareness Month: Ms. Dennis reported that nomination forms for disability service awards were sent out to the community and can be downloaded from the City's website. Copies of all the nominations will be sent to the DAB before the September meeting when voting will take place for the awards.

Two speakers for the televised October DAB meeting were suggested: Wendy Weldt from the County Disability

Commission and the Director of Positive Images at the City of Hope. Ms. Dennis will check to see if they are available. Mr. Cherner would like the meeting to resemble a regular DAB meeting, and suggested that it begin with the awards, then several regular business items including DAB comments, possibly followed by a speaker. He also thought that the awardees or other invited guests could lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Ahern suggested that a report on National Mentoring Day be made from a mentor and mentee. In order to clarify the role of the Council at the meeting, Chairperson Ahern will meet with the Mayor ahead of time. He will also check with Step Up on Second to see if they can provide the refreshments.

- B. National Disability Mentoring Day:** The theme this year is “America works best when everyone works” and the date is Wednesday, Oct. 15. There was discussion about placements. Chairperson Ahern said that the Westside Coalition for Independent Living had a potential pool of mentees. Mr. Cherner said that his law office could take a mentee who is interested in legal or clerical work. Chairperson Ahern pointed out that interpretation may be needed at some placements. There was agreement that presenting thank you letters, as opposed to certificates, were more appropriate for the participants.
- C. Public Service Announcements:** Ms. Dennis reported that the DAB could make three different 30-second PSA’s for Disability Awareness Month. They will start airing on the City’s cable TV channel in October. Storyboarding will be done in the next few weeks.
- D. Community Speaking Engagements:** Staff distributed a list of meetings and organizations where DAB members could make brief presentations during the month of October. It was suggested that Neighborhood Watch meetings and schools be added to the list. Mr. Cherner will make contact with his temple, Congregation Kol Ami. He is interested in speaking at schools, but not just to disabled students. Ms.

Dennis said that the schools would be back in session in a week or two.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Outdoor dining:** The DAB moved to table this item and agendize it for the October meeting.
- B. Real-time captioning at City Council meetings:** Mr. Cherner moved that the DAB recommend to the City Council that real-time captioning be provided for City Council meetings, and that recognizing budgetary limits, the DAB suggests that the Council consider implementing the captioning once a month beginning within a month. Mr. Ring added that Boards and Commissions should also be real-time captioned. Mr. Arrigo added that auditory augmentation is also an important service for people with disabilities.

9. DISABILITY RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Cherner announced that the National Organization on Disability will be awarding communities for their commitment to disabled persons. He recommended that the DAB agendize a discussion about whether the City should consider submitting a nomination for the award.

Mr. Arrigo cautioned people to be aware of cyclists on sidewalks.

Ms. Semonco reported that the Sanfair kiosk at Santa Monica and Fairfax will be completed soon.

Chairperson Ahern announced a 3-day statewide disability workshop Sept. 3-5 at the Airport Radisson. He also suggested that recall candidate, Larry Flynt, who is disabled, be invited to speak at the September DAB meeting.

Ms. Dore announced that a meeting on the recall election will be held on Sept. 3 at the National Council of Jewish Women.

Ms. Semonco asked if the DAB must invite the rest of the recall candidates if they invite Mr. Flynt. Ms. Dennis said she will check on it.

10. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Dennis reported that the Human Services Commission will not meet in August, but they will discuss the RFP process in September.

Ms. Ina Epshteyn, the new Disability Specialist, was introduced. She has been in that role on a temporary basis for the past year and is anxious to be a resource for the DAB. She sees the greatest needs of the disabled community as housing, money, food and advocacy and hopes to assist in meeting those needs.

Chairperson Ahern suggested that Disability Specialist announcements be agendized earlier in future meetings.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Debbie Chodash, founder of a Jewish Program for people with disabilities, invited everyone to participate in their work. The organization is open to all.

Mr. Cherner suggested that she leave materials at the October meeting and also speak at public meetings about her group.

Ms. Phyllis Coto urged that people with disabilities become their own advocates. She is interested in finding out what the needs are in the community and would like to start a peer support group. Chairperson Ahern suggested that she talk to the Disability Specialist. Mr. Cherner recommended that she speak at the October DAB meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Ahern adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting to the next meeting on **Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center at Plummer Park.**

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/dab/minutes-0803

