

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
August 27, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Joel Ring, Steven Sawyer, Link Schrader, and Anna Swett

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for August 27, 2008 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for July 23, 2008 were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Public Safety Commissioner Sam Borelli and Emergency Management Coordinator Shirley Berry addressed the Board about National Emergency Preparedness Month in September. They emphasized:

- Being prepared for an emergency for at least 3 days (some organizations recommend being prepared for up to 10 days).
- Having a well-equipped emergency supply kit at your home, at work, and in your car which should include such items as water and ready-to-eat food for at least 3 days, a first aid kit, an ABC fire extinguisher, a flashlight with additional batteries, cash (preferably in small denominations), shoes, eyeglasses, medications, tools, a whistle, copies of important documents, & any individual special-need items.
- The importance of discussing your disaster plan with family, friends and neighbors and having an out-of-state contact.
- Getting involved in your Neighborhood Watch group and possibly signing up for a CERT class.
- Posting emergency phone numbers in your home where others can find them.

Shirley noted that there will be a statewide emergency preparedness drill, called the "Shake Out", on November 13th, and that the City now has a search and rescue dog named Maverick at Fire Station #8. She will look into whether any shelters provide

generators for people on ventilators or who have other medical needs requiring electricity.

B. 2008 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS

The 2008 Disability Service Award nomination forms were distributed. The nomination forms will be sent to all City commissioners and advisory board members, social service agencies funded by the City, all City staff, and will be available at City Hall, the parks, the West Hollywood Library, and on the City's cable channel. Nomination forms must be submitted to Craig Rhea by Thursday, September 18, 2008.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. OCTOBER 22, 2008 TELEVISED MEETING

The Board received a report from the Televised Meeting Task Force made up of Suzanne Dietrich, Anna Swett and Link Schrader and a draft/working agenda for the October 22nd meeting was distributed. The Board discussed possible presenters for the televised meeting, including:

- Nancy Foster, wife of Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, who many Board members have heard speak about dealing with mental health disabilities.
- Michael Silverblatt, who has a radio show on KCRW and is a person living with a disability.
- A disabled American veteran who could provide a motivational address.

Other possible presenters mentioned were Dr. Mary Falvey, Nancy Spears, a disability specialist from Santa Monica, a representative from NCJW/LA to talk about their counseling programs, and a representative from the West Hollywood Housing Corporation to talk about their project under construction at Santa Monica Boulevard and Sierra Bonita Avenue.

The Task Force has already extended invitations to some of those noted above and will follow up and report back to the entire Board at the September 24th meeting for finalization of the October 22nd program.

Craig Rhea confirmed that the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will be performing and that Russian translation will be provided. Mayor Jeffrey Prang and Councilmembers Sal Guarriello and John Duran have confirmed their attendance; confirmation from Mayor Pro Tem Abbe Land's and Councilmember John Heilman's offices is pending.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

The Board agreed to the following volunteer assignments as liaisons to other Boards and Commissions:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Business License Commission | Link Schrader |
| • Russian Advisory Board | Link Schrader (on a trial basis) |
| • Women's Advisory Board | Anna Swett |

Other voluntary Commission/Board liaison assignments remain unchanged.

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

- The Annual Congress of City Commissions and Boards will be held on Saturday, September 13th from 8:30am to 1:30pm at Plummer Park. An optional ethics training will be held from 2pm to 4pm.
- General Plan Community Workshops will be held on September 3rd, 9th, and 10th at the times and locations listed on the flier that was distributed.
- A Westside Extension Transit Corridor Update Meeting will be held on September 4th from 6pm to 8pm at Plummer Park.
- "Equity for All Artists", an exhibition of work by artists challenged with paralysis and spinal cord injury, is being held at Gallery 825 located at 825 N. La Cienega, through Friday, August 29th.
- NCJW/LA is offering a free community event and panel discussion about Proposition 8 on Tuesday, September 9th from 11:30am to 1:30pm.
- Roz Helfand of the West Hollywood Book Fair is looking for a volunteer to provide American Sign Language services for a talk by author Ray Bradbury.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Anna Swett advised the Board that she has information about nursing home care at minimal cost and requested that this be agendized for a future meeting. She noted her concern about identification theft, especially involving older adults and those living with disabilities. She mentioned her attendance at a 1970's-style celebration at the PDC.

Debra Chodash noted that she has been unable to obtain long-term care insurance because of a pre-existing condition. It was mentioned that this type of situation may affect other people living with disabilities.

Link Schrader asked that issues about health insurance coverage be agendized for a future meeting. He would also like the Board to discuss collaborating with local businesses to sponsor American Sign Language interpreters at public events.

Steven Sawyer stated his concern with the increase in crime in West Hollywood, including gay bashings and robberies at ATMs, and would like to discuss how the Sheriff's can provide additional assistance for people living with disabilities. He also noted the recent increase in transportation costs and asked what the Board could do to assist people living with disabilities.

Suzanne Dietrich gave a recap of the Senior Advisory Board meeting held earlier in the day and provided an account of some problems she's been having in her apartment.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 6:00pm in the first floor Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Tom Pavich

Chairperson – Tom Pavich