

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
January 28, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Steven Sawyer,
Link Schrader, and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Anna Swett

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for January 28, 2009 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for December 3, 2008 were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lauren Meister, City Council candidate, thanked the Board for their important work and talked about a New York City ordinance that prohibits discrimination in the housing market based on lawful source of income, such as Section 8 vouchers.

Michael Arrigo, former DAB member, announced the Medicare Part B Gap Assistance Program and the prescription drug partnership program.

Phyllis Coto, former DAB member, would like to have a newsletter from City Hall for people living with disabilities, as well as training for advocates for the disabled.

Peter Mutone, veteran with disabilities, asked what the City is doing for veterans and said that he needs a 2 bedroom apartment to house himself and a caregiver.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. THE STEVE GRISSOM RELIEF FUND ACT

Alexander Ghaffari requested that the DAB recommend that the City Council support the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act, with the change requested at the December 3, 2008 meeting replacing "spouse" with "estate" in regard to benefits.

Motion: Following extensive discussion and review, the Disabilities Advisory Board recommends that the City Council support the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act as amended and presented at the Board meeting of January 28, 2009.

Motion by: Link Schrader

Second by: Tom Pavich

Motion was approved.

AYES:	5
NO:	0
ABSTAINED:	1

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. CITYLINE VEHICLES

Joyce Rooney, Transportation and Transit Operations Supervisor, gave an update about mini-vans for Dial-a-Ride which increase capacity to six people and new vehicles for CityLine which will go out to bid. New electronic debit cards for MTA riders, called TAP cards, will be issued in March or April of this year.

B. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DAB

Motion: The Disabilities Advisory Board recommends that the City Council reduce the number of Disabilities Advisory Board members from 9 to 7.

Motion by: Link Schrader

Second by: Steven Sawyer

Motion was approved.

AYES:	4
NO:	1
ABSTAINED:	1

C. DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS

The DAB reviewed the Rules and Procedures governing the Disability Service Awards.

Motion: Amend Item 5 by adding the following language: "Nomination forms shall be available commencing on May 1st of each year."

Motion by: Link Schrader

Second by: Rick Watts

Motion was approved unanimously.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

The DAB unanimously agreed to cancel its November 25, 2009 and December 23, 2009 meetings due to the holidays and scheduled a new meeting for December 2, 2009.

Craig Rhea made the following announcements about upcoming events:

- **Disaster Survival & Rescue Skills Classes (CERT)**
3 Saturdays – 3/7, 3/14 & 3/21 – 9am-4:30pm @ Plummer Park
- **NCJW (543 N. Fairfax Ave.)**
 - **Thursday, 2/19/09** – 7:30pm – Women Making a Difference – SOVA craft project

- **Wed, 2/25** – 11:30am-1:30pm – DNA Rape Kit Backlog (LA City Controller Laura Chick will be a guest speaker)
- **Sunday, 3/22** – 11am to 3pm – NCJW/LA 100th Anniversary Celebration
(*Note: Rick Watts would like the DAB to issue a resolution congratulating NCJW; this will be handled by the City Council.*)
- **Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's Lifeline Program**
An anonymous contribution was made in honor of the DAB.
- **Follow-up re Russian Version of the DAB 10/22/08 meeting**
No one viewed it on the City's website up to 12/8/08. From 12/8/08 until Mon, 1/26/09, one person had viewed it.
- **Sierra Bonita Project Update**
There's an **info line with project info: (323) 848-6898**. State & federal agencies funding the development require that initial tenants be selected by lottery. A few months before the building is completed, applications for the lottery will be available. Those interested in obtaining an application should call the info line when the building appears nearly ready for occupancy.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Sidler, West Hollywood resident, requested agendizing disabilities accommodation training for City staff and agency staff.

Phyllis Coto disagreed with the recommendation to reduce the DAB from 9 members to 7. She also made the comment that most CityLine drivers are unfriendly.

Peter Mutone is looking for a foreclosed property in West Hollywood to move into.

Michael Arrigo expressed mixed feelings about reducing the DAB to 7 members.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Rick Watts would like to know the training staff receives regarding disabilities awareness. He also said that in the alley parking lot between Koontz Hardware and the Mother Lode, the disabled parking sign has been removed.

Link Schrader thanked the public speakers for contributing to the meeting and mentioned the services provided by Alternative Living for the Aging.

Steven Sawyer asked that someone from the Sheriff's Department address the DAB about safety awareness for people living with disabilities and others who may be more vulnerable to crime during these difficult economic times.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 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