

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
March 26, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Joel Ring, Anna Swett and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Steven Sawyer

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for March 26, 2008 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for February 27, 2008 were approved.

6. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Anna Swett was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chair to complete the term of Alan Bernstein who was appointed to the Planning Commission.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. SIERRA BONITA HOUSING PROJECT

Robin Conerly, Executive Director of the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, updated the DAB about the 42-unit housing project at Sierra Bonita and Santa Monica Blvd. for people living with disabilities. The project will include ground floor office space for a non-profit agency. The project will break ground in mid-May, with an anticipated move-in date in July of 2009.

B. WEST HOLLYWOOD MARKETING & VISITORS BUREAU

Brad Burlingame, President of the West Hollywood Marketing & Visitors Bureau, gave a presentation introducing the concept of branding and its application to West Hollywood's unique cityhood. Suzanne Dietrich and Anna Swett volunteered to meet with him to talk about how to appeal to and reach travelers living with disabilities.

C. BEING ALIVE

Kevin Kurth, Executive Director, gave a presentation about Being Alive's history and wide-ranging services to HIV+ residents, including peer counseling, support groups, risk reduction sessions, social events to break isolation, and much more.

D. ORGANIZATION OF THE DAB

The DAB decided to table until May the issue of reducing the number of members from nine to seven.

8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

A. Anticipated Agenda Items for the 4/23/08 DAB Meeting:

- Jeff Huffer, Economic Development Administrator, will provide an update about the City's Library project, including the \$20,000 prize from NOD (National Organization on Disabilities).
- Joyce Rooney, Transportation & Transit Operations Supervisor, will provide information about transportation services available for residents living with disabilities, including Access Services and the Taxi Voucher Program.
- Francie Stefan, Senior Planner, will give a status report on the City's General Plan update.

B. Senior Health Fair – May 14, 2008, 10am to 2pm

Suzanne Dietrich and Rick Watts volunteered to staff the DAB table at the Senior Health Fair at Plummer Park on Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Anna Swett announced the birth of her new grandchild, as well as the success of her recent cataract surgery. She reported that the Women's Leadership Conference was excellent, and that there will be eleven home auctions due to foreclosure.

Rick Watts reported that Steven Sawyer will have cataract surgery on Monday.

Suzanne Dietrich announced 1) Senior Month in May, 2) Transportation Commission will recommend that bicycles be allowed with restrictions on sidewalks due to the danger to cyclists on the streets, 3) families are now preferred by Section 8, 4) she & Debra Chodash attended a women's group of commissioners and board members, and 5) "Ten More Years" is a very interesting film.

Chair Pavich attended a lengthy Human Services Commission meeting where agencies presented their year-end reports.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 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