

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
November 28, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for November 28, 2007 was approved with the amendment that 7A was moved to a future date because the speaker was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for October 24, 2007 were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dennis O'Brien, disabled resident of Burbank, spoke about difficulties he's had with public transportation, not only in West Hollywood, and felt that home care workers are not paid enough.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. EVALUATION OF OCT. 2007 TELEVISED MEETING

Suzanne Dietrich and Debra Chodash, who weren't able to attend the meeting, watched the tape of it and thought it went very well.

The DAB unanimously decided to invite the Gay Men's Chorus to next year's televised meeting, since they had been interested this year, but had previous commitments.

The DAB discussed the Russian translation, and closer to October 2008 will decide on its use for next year's meeting. Suggestions were made to advertise the availability of the translation and to mention on the invitation that part of the meeting will be translated.

There was discussion about shortening the meeting by incorporating the reception into the 2-hour meeting time. This will be determined after the content of the meeting has been decided. Several members felt that the

presentations were too long. A suggestion was made to have more interaction between the Board and the presenters.

Miscellaneous issues:

- Consider placing the award presentations at the end of the meeting.
- Revisit the positioning of tables; it was difficult to see other Board members.
- If sushi is served in the future, make sure that the wasabi is labeled.

8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

- World AIDS Day, Friday, Nov. 30, 5 p.m. beginning at City Hall.
- National Council of Jewish Women will hold its annual clothing giveaway on Sun., Dec. 2, from 10 AM – 2 PM, at 546 N. Fairfax.
- January agenda item – Human Services Commission is seeking to identify the most pressing Social Services needs in the City in preparation for the next contract cycle that begins Oct. 1, 2008.
- No December DAB meeting, as decided by the DAB.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Phyllis Coto, former DAB member, suggested that the City offer activities for people living with disabilities that she knows about in other cities, including a dinner dance and discounted tickets for rehearsal nights at cultural events.

Robert Coto, West Hollywood resident, announced the holiday party of Project Return for people living with disabilities. He suggested starting a group like that for young people.

Anna Potap, Los Angeles resident with a son living with a disability, asked why the City doesn't have a Special Olympics. (*Note: The City's Recreation Division has an aquatics program for people living with mental disabilities.*)

Julia Zelenina, West Hollywood resident, suggested the creation of a club or other social outlets for young Russians living with disabilities.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Vice-Chair Alan Bernstein reported on a project that would identify tourist areas which are well-equipped for the visitors living with disabilities. This item will be agendized for January or February. He also reported that the Business License Commission continues not to meet.

Rick Watts asked when Terri Slimmer, Transportation Director, will be back to address concerns about pedestrian safety. Craig Rhea will check on her schedule.

Anna Swett spoke about the challenges of being required to exit MTA buses from the rear exit when the bus is crowded, which some drivers insist upon.

Alan Bernstein asked if we could publicize the Board's January meeting to the public since there will be discussion about the social service needs of the Board's constituency. Staff will publicize this on the City scroll.

Suzanne Dietrich attended the SAB meeting which discussed Medicare changes. She also attended the PAC meeting where it was reported that a community garden at Detroit & Fountain is being developed; seven condos are being built, one of which will be affordable housing; and trees are being planted along Fountain Ave. at Detroit.

Chairperson Tom Pavich attended the Human Services Commission meeting where Social Services agencies gave updates. He reported that on Dec. 6 there will be a Homeless Connect Day to link the West Hollywood homeless with resources. Zev Yaroslavsky of the County Commission is allocating \$1 million for crystal meth services. Lastly he spoke about a woman who spoke at the City Council meeting about research that indicates that I-pods may affect the functioning of pacemakers.

Debra Chodash raised concern that the City Line bus stops don't all have seating. She asked if a bench could be placed at Gardner and Willoughby. Craig Rhea will follow up on that with Terri Slimmer, Transportation Manager.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 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