

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
October 24, 2007**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rick Watts led the pledge.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

ABSENT: Debra Chodash and Suzanne Dietrich

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea, Daphne Dennis, and Mitch Wilhelmsen

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for October 24, 2007 was approved.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for September 26, 2007 were approved.

**6. WELCOME BY MAYOR JOHN DURAN**

Mayor John Duran welcomed the audience and Board and let them know how much the community appreciates the work done by the Board throughout the year. He congratulated this year's DAB awardees.

*(The Mayor's remarks were then translated into Russian by Marina Berkman, Director of the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center.)*

**7. PERFORMANCE BY THE NEW DIRECTIONS CHOIR**

The choir sang "America the Beautiful".

**8. 2007 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION**

The Disabilities Advisory Board, along with members of the City Council, presented the 2007 Disability Service Awards in recognition of Disabilities Awareness Month.

- ***Individual Award to Michael Arrigo***

Award presented by Mayor Pro Tempore Jeffrey Prang and DAB member Steven Sawyer.

- ***Business Award to Gamburd Medical Equipment & Services***

Award presented by Councilmember Abbe Land and DAB members Rick Watts and Anna Swett.

- ***Non-Profit Award to National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles***

Award presented by Mayor Pro Tempore Jeffrey Prang and DAB member Alan Bernstein.

## **9. REMARKS BY BOARD CHAIR**

DAB Chair Tom Pavich welcomed the audience to the Awards meeting. His comments included the following:

- All interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend the Board's monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.
- Board members are advocates for people living with disabilities in West Hollywood in such areas as accessibility, pedestrian safety, and transportation.
- Some of the accomplishments of the DAB include distributing the Disabilities Services Brochure, calling attention to pedestrian safety issues, and discussing emergency preparedness for people living with disabilities with public safety officials.

*(The Chair's remarks were then translated into Russian by Marina Berkman.)*

## **10. REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Steven Sawyer spoke about his passion for helping all people living with disabilities lead a normal life as he is doing as a person who is legally blind.

Anna Swett is excited to be a part of the Board and believes in helping people living with disabilities by educating them about the resources that are available to them.

Alan Bernstein, the Vice Chair of the Board, welcomed everyone and said that he was honored to serve on the DAB.

Rick Watts is thankful to live in a city that places an emphasis on helping people from all walks of life. He appreciates that the City seeks advice from the different Boards to integrate services into the community.

Joel Ring extended a special thanks to staff members Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Marina Berkman introduced herself as the Director of the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center.

Ric Rickles, West Hollywood resident and chair of the Senior Advisory Board, noted that the SAB and the DAB work on similar issues. He congratulated Michael Arrigo on receiving the Individual Disability Service Award.

Elliot Simmons of West Hollywood announced the start of a new TV show, "Living Well with HIV", that he and his partner, awardee Michael Arrigo, are starting.

Jeanne Dobrin of West Hollywood thanked the DAB for all of the services they provide. She also thanked the City's Social Services staff, especially Social Services Manager Daphne Dennis.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. THE LANTERMAN REGIONAL CENTER**

Debrah Murphy, Early Intervention Manager at the Lanterman Regional Center, spoke about Early Start services provided by the Lanterman Center for people living with developmental disabilities and their families.

### **B. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Shirley Berry, the City's Emergency Management Coordinator, presented a presentation about emergency preparedness.

### **C. DISABILITY SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE WEST HOLLYWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES CENTER**

Inna Khariton, Disability Specialist at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center, spoke about services they provide for West Hollywood residents living with disabilities.

*(Her remarks were translated into Russian by Marina Berkman.)*

## **13. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

- Captain Penn of the Los Angeles County Fire Department will attend the next DAB meeting on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, to follow-up on issues raised about emergency preparedness and building evacuations from his presentation on July 25, 2007.
- Provided a recap of various City events leading up to Halloween on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- There will be a meeting on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Plummer Park to address the MTA Westside Extension Transit plan.
- This year more than \$100,000 has been spent at West Hollywood parks on ADA upgrades, mainly on improvements to ramps and handrails. Whenever the City does upgrades to public facilities, ADA upgrades take place first.

## **14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES**

Steven Sawyer attended the LGBT Advisory Board meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> regarding crystal meth addiction and prevention. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, he met with the transportation committee working on roundabouts in neighborhoods to help deal with traffic issues.

Anna Swett attended a national conference in St. Louis and brought back information to share with the rest of the Board.

Rick Watts made note of the importance of the MTA Westside Extension Transit meeting taking place on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Pavich apologized to Rick Watts for failing to mention his name at the City Council meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. He asked attendees to provide Craig Rhea with feedback regarding whether they liked having parts of tonight's meeting translated into Russian. He reported attending the Human Services Commission meeting on

October 9<sup>th</sup> at which the City's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign was discussed. He also mentioned that the City provides a cooling center for people looking for relief on hot days. For more information, contact the Recreation Division at City Hall.

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**16. PERFORMANCE AND COMMENTS BY NEW DIRECTIONS CHOIR**

The members introduced themselves, thanked the Board, and sang, "Wind Beneath My Wings".

**17. ADJOURNMENT TO RECEPTION**

Chair Pavich adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m. and invited everyone to stay for the reception. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 6:00pm in the first floor Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

*Tom Pavich*

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Chairperson – Tom Pavich