

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2005**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Kline-Aguado, PhD. called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chair Dietrich led the Pledge.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Bryan Dahlgren, Pamela Keevil-Grey, Harrison Kline-Aguado, PhD., Joel Ring

ABSENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, and Tom Pavich

ALSO PRESENT: Daphne Dennis and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda of August 24, 2005 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 27, 2005 meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Kruskall of West Hollywood Employment Services & Training introduced his program.

Inna Khariton, West Hollywood Disability Specialist, explained their services to the new members.

Michael Arrigo, West Hollywood resident, distributed EARS brochures about talking books, and spoke about Media Access, an employment resource in the entertainment business.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Dennis requested the DAB's input on updates and changes to the Disability Services brochure by the first week of September, so

that the new brochure can be available at the October meeting. She announced that Leslie Isenberg will have a draft of the National Organization on Disability award application in the September packet. Also, there will be a public meeting regarding City participation in Christopher Street West on September 14th from 6-8 p.m. at West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

Lastly, Ms. Dennis encouraged the DAB's attendance at the September 19th City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. when October will be declared Disability Awareness Month. A reminder e-mail will be sent the week before the meeting.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS:

Bryan Dahlgren is now working on the Christopher Street West issue, so he will not be able to continue as liaison to the Public Facilities Commission. Pamela Keevil-Grey will now be the liaison to the Women's Advisory Board, replacing Suzanne Dietrich. Ms. Dietrich will now be liaison to the Senior Advisory Board.

B. OCTOBER TELEVISED MEETING:

The DAB discussed possible themes, speakers and entertainment. They agreed to invite a psychiatrist to speak and the New Directions singing group to perform. For easier reviewing, all award applications will be typed.

C. ACCESS ISSUES:

Ms. Dennis updated the DAB on the access issues that the DAB has addressed. The Council agreed with the DAB proposal and both Code Enforcement and the Chamber of Commerce will send letters to offending businesses in September. DAB members should contact Leslie Isenberg if they notice any problems. The City Attorney has prepared a change to the municipal code regarding public right of way with outdoor dining and it should go to Council on September 19th. In regard to ADA compliance, the City's code is almost identical, and our building codes are in full compliance. She clarified that Sunset Plaza, including the sidewalk, is privately owned, like a mall, so there

would need to be a change to the municipal code to include private businesses, if issues were to be raised about their property. She mentioned that David Giugni is investigating lack of accessibility at mobile testing sites. The DAB can raise further issues if they wish.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ANNUAL CONGRESS:

Ms. Dennis announced that the opening activity topic will be housing. Then there will be reports from each Board and Commission.

The City Clerk has requested that the DAB submit five trivia questions about the Board or topics it deals with for use as an icebreaker. The following suggestions were made:

- 1) What group was instrumental in implementing the ADA? (Answer: Vietnam veterans)
- 2) Does the Supreme Court meet ADA standards? (Answer: No)
- 3) What do DAB members do in their spare time?
- 4) What famous author had stigmatism and autism? (Answer: Roald Dahl, author of famous children's book, and former husband of actress Patricia Neal)
- 5) What do Cher, Whoopi, etc. have in common? (Answer: They all have learning disabilities.)

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no further public comment.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES:

Chair Kline-Aguado suggested that a table of contents be included in future agenda packets, and that the documents be consecutively numbered reflecting the order of the agenda. Mr. Dahlgren created a sample Table of Contents for the current meeting. He proposed the Agenda Items be expanded in more detail to ensure that all relevant issues are covered and to facilitate Board Member understanding, preparation and participation.

Ms. Dietrich announced that PAWS is looking for short-term volunteers to house pets during the summer vacation period. She

also announced that the Women's Advisory Board is co-hosting a rally and movie on August 26 at 7 pm to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the women's right to vote.

Ms. Chodash said that she felt left out of the meeting, and had ended up being physically separated from the rest of the Board.

Mr. Ring requested that his address not be included in the roster.

Chair Kline-Aguado, PhD. would like to rearrange the tables to resolve the issue that Ms. Chodash raised, and also to help the visually-impaired. He didn't attend the LGAB meeting last month, but did attend the Art & Cultural Affairs Commission meeting. He reported that the George Gershwin House will be torn down.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Kline-Aguado, PhD. adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.

Suzanne Dietrich
Suzanne Dietrich, Board Member