

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2006**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Kline-Aguado, PhD. called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

3. ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda of February 22, 2006 was approved with the amendment to move 9a to follow 7.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There were no minutes at the January meeting because the Board participated in a confidential Community Survey Focus Group.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Inna Khariton, Disability Specialist for the City, invited the Board to a celebration of Jewish Family Services' 20 years of collaborative work with the City on Thursday, March 9 at 4 pm at the Comprehensive Services Center.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Pedestrian Safety Update

Leslie Isenberg announced that enforcement to prohibit bicycles and skateboards on the sidewalk is being stepped up and a warning system is in effect for several months. The response from cyclists is that the streets are not safe, but enforcement nonetheless continues.

B. Access America

Ms. Isenberg gave an update that the awards have not yet been announced, though Jan. 31 was the deadline for the decision.

C. Discounts

She said that City events generally do not charge, but that she should be contacted for non-City events if a discount is desired for the disabled. Chairperson Aguado suggested that the City go on record to offer discounts for Chamber of Commerce activities.

D. Emergency Plan

The Public Safety Division has an emergency plan for the City. Interested persons should contact Kristin Cook if they would like to review the document.

E. RFP Process

The Social Services Division is entering into the Request for Proposals process for the next two-year cycle of funding. There will be a Public Hearing on March 28 at 5 pm at Plummer Park which will begin the six-month process.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Wells Fargo

Gary Oliphant, Branch Manager of the West Hollywood Wells Fargo Bank, shared the services that are available for customers with disabilities at all of the branches, including talking ATMs and the Special Needs Trust System. This report was the beginning of a series that will inform the DAB of what local businesses offer to the disabled community.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Public Right of Way

Tom Benedetti, Code Compliance Manager, reported that 250 citations have been issued from October 2005 to the present for violations by businesses whose signs and clothing racks encroach on the public right of way, and this after two letters and a warning. He will continue to update the DAB on developments.

B. DISABILITY SERVICE AWARD RULES

The DAB amended and approved changes in the rules. Rule #5 now reads "No member of the Board may submit a nomination for any other award category without disqualifying themselves from voting in that category." Rule #17 states "Nomination forms incorporate all changes passed by the DAB in September 2005." Rule #18 states "It is the responsibility of staff to notify the Board of the number of nominees in each category one week before the deadline for nominations." Rule #19 states "No Board member who has served on the DAB within the prior two years can be nominated."

C. ADA COMPLIANCE RESOLUTION

The Board moved to table until April a resolution presented by Mr. Cherner asking the City to comply with the California code which requires that the building codes be equivalent at minimum to ADA standards.

10. NEW BUSINESS (CONT.)

B. WHEST PROGRAM

This item was tabled due to the illness of David Kruskall.

C. GRAPHICS USED IN CITY PUBLICATIONS

The Board unanimously approved amended guidelines for enhancing the legibility of printed materials for people with disabilities. They urge the City of West Hollywood to adopt an ongoing policy, the purpose of which is to make these materials accessible to seniors, people with low vision and other disabilities.

D. Accessibility and the City's Website

The DAB raised two issues: 1) lack of information about disability services in the community, and 2) difficulty finding information that is on the website. Ms. Isenberg will raise both issues with the City webmaster.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Dietrich reported that a woman spoke to the SAB about the housing shortage. She also reported that at the PAC meeting there was discussion about Redevelopment on the west side of La Brea and in the area of Whole Foods.

Chairperson Aguado announced that if anyone needs transportation to the Master Chorale program, they can contact Madeleine Rackley of the Women's Advisory Board. He also reported that the East-West bar has until March 5 to comply with code enforcement.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Kline-Aguado, PhD adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room, City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.

Suzanne Dietrich
Suzanne Dietrich, Board Member