

# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

## *Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Senior Advisory Board and the Disabilities Advisory Board*

**JUNE 22, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Pat Dixon, Chair of the Senior Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Anna Swett, Chair of the Disabilities Advisory Board, led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:**           SAB MEMBERS: Esther Baum, Pat Dixon, Sofia Gelman, Werner Haas, Barbara Krupa, Efim Kutz, Bernice Levin, Rita Norton, Ric Rickles, Mark Skibinsky

                          DAB MEMBERS: Lisa Andreson, Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Anna Swett, Rick Watts

**ABSENT:**           SAB MEMBER: Muriel Schoichet

**STAFF PRESENT:** Daphne Dennis, Craig Rhea

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for June 22, 2011 was approved.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeanne Dobrin of West Hollywood spoke about the benefits of using the City's Dial-a-Ride program rather than taxis for Seniors and people living with disabilities. She also commented on the City's no-smoking ban for outdoor patios at restaurants that exempted bars and nightclubs.

Andrew Campbell, the City's Cultural Affairs Administrator, distributed pamphlets about the 2011 Summer Sounds series and Shakespeare in the Park performances scheduled in Plummer Park and Kings Road Park this summer.

**6. ITEMS FROM THE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM**

Bernice Levin announced the special events and excursions planned for the summer months.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. \$20,000 NOD AWARD – WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY**

The Disabilities Advisory Board and Senior Advisory Board received a presentation from Linda Demmers, the City's Library Consultant, about the new West Hollywood

Library scheduled to open this fall and discussed options for the \$20,000 award received from the National Organization on Disability.

The grand opening celebration for the new Library will be on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at 10am. The current West Hollywood Library will close on September 6<sup>th</sup>; approximately two weeks later, there'll be a "soft" opening of the new Library.

The categories of service that Linda identified for the library grant included:

- Facility Accommodations
- Collections (content & access)
- Programs (informational & educational)
- Reference Assistance
- Furniture Enhancements & Modifications
- Training

Facility Accommodations – Linda pointed out that universal access is a basic requirement for the new library and has been provided for by the County Library system and the City of West Hollywood. The \$20,000 grant will not be spent on facility accommodations.

Collections – Approximately \$750,000 has been spent on new books. The new library will have an excellent wellness collection with medical information and a large HIV resource collection, as well as other resources for persons living with disabilities. In addition, audio books, large-print books and Braille books will be available. Linda recommended spending some of the grant money on enhancements to access information for persons living with disabilities, but not on content.

She noted some exemplary sites for people living with disabilities, including the Long Beach, San Francisco and Oakland Public Libraries, and the Jewish Vocational Service's vocational rehabilitation center where the DAB took a field trip in September 2010.

Linda reviewed some of the options available through the grant, including hardware (text enlargers, text scanners & readers), software (such as Dragon Naturally Speaking which types the spoken word into a Word document), ergonomic keyboards, trackballs and mice, large calculators, book supports and e-book readers (such as Kindles). Linda also noted that most computers already have built-in features for individual accommodations, such as enlarging text and changing the color contrast.

She indicated that the following basics would be included in the new Library:

- All of the fire and life safety signals are both audible and visible
- Assistive listening technology for all programs
- Videophones
- Sign language interpreters available upon request for all programs

- A procedure, which is already in place, for timely response to requests for disability-related accommodations

Linda's recommendations for the \$20,000 grant included:

- Magnifiers
- Large-print calculators (kept at the Library's main desk)
- Large-print keyboards
- Book supports
- Book baskets (there's a possibility that the Friends of the Library will purchase these)
- Rollator/s (a walker with wheels and a basket that has brakes)
- Text Enlarger or Reading Machine (hardware)
- Software Text Enlarger, such as Zoom Text
- Dragon Naturally Speaking (which has already been requested by a member of the public)
- Training for the Library staff to work with individuals with disabilities and show them how to use the new technology and equipment
- Workshops for the public on how to use basic programs on PC's and MACs that will improve their ability to access information
- Workshops for the public on how to use the library equipment; manufacturers of the equipment often provide demonstrations at no cost
- Public relations and publicity; for example, some of the grant funding could be used to produce a flyer or web site similar to one from the British National Library called "Access for Disabled Visitors" which provides information about bathrooms, pets, elevators, wheelchairs and other pertinent issues for persons living with disabilities.

Linda also mentioned that branches of the public library offer Wii nights for Seniors. Wii connects to a television screen and offers many interactive programs (such as tennis, bowling and downhill skiing) that keep people physically active without the strain of the actual activity.

Linda distributed and collected informal ballots listing most of the options for the \$20,000 grant. Those present were asked to mark each item as "Must have," "I don't think so," or "I need to know more." Write-in suggestions were also encouraged. Linda is hoping to organize a product demonstration at the July 27<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the SAB and the DAB.

*Public Comments on the Item:*

Jeanne Dobrin of West Hollywood praised Linda Demmers and asked if the West Hollywood Library was limited to West Hollywood residents and business people. Linda explained that patrons don't have to be West Hollywood community members to use the Library's facilities.

Vikee Waltrip of West Hollywood spoke about the benefits for the deaf community of the video relay phone system over a TTY line. She asked that the new West Hollywood Library include services for the deaf community, such as video cams and the Internet, in addition to the video relay system.

Mark Helmuth of West Hollywood requested that the new West Hollywood Library include one centralized area for deaf culture and ASL (American Sign Language). He noted that the San Francisco Public Library has a small room especially for deaf culture and ASL, including a large-screen television with captioning on the bottom. He also would like to encourage recognition of Deaf Awareness Month (September in the U.S.).

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

None

## 9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis made the following announcements:

- She congratulated Rick Watts on receiving one of the City's Rainbow Key awards at last night's presentation.
- She addressed the timing of stipend checks for SAB members.
- She provided an update on Kathy Page.

Craig Rhea made the following announcements:

### A. Future DAB Meetings:

- **July 27<sup>th</sup> – Joint meeting with SAB at 2pm – Plummer Park, Room 6;** to conduct focus groups about the City's transportation programs. We'll also establish a subcommittee for the October televised meeting and conduct elections for Chair & Vice Chair.
- **August 24<sup>th</sup> –** Craig will be on vacation and David Giugni will staff the meeting. The agenda includes discussions about the program for the October televised meeting and presentations from David Kruskall about WHEST and Roz Helfand about the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Fair on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> (*changed from Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> because of Rosh Hashanah*) –** Selection of the 2011 Disability Service Award recipients. The nomination forms will be available after July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **October 26<sup>th</sup> –** Televised meeting.

### B. Other:

- **2011 Rainbow Key Award –** Added his congratulations to Rick Watts for being honored at last night's Rainbow Key Awards as one of this year's recipients for his many years of grass roots activism.
- **Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 9pm –** L.A. County Commission on HIV is holding a roundtable for HIV service users at Plummer Park, Rooms 5&6; dinner will be included.
- **Family 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration** at Plummer Park from 11am to 2pm on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## 11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

Barbara Krupa spoke about organizing a Senior Volunteer Corps. Since a majority of the SAB members expressed interest, she will contact the SOVA Community

Food & Resource Program to schedule a time for volunteer service. She also spoke about her recent attendance at a Rent Stabilization Commission meeting.

Ric Rickles spoke about his attendance at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon held earlier in the day. Awards were given to The Avenues (the Art, Fashion & Design District in West Hollywood) and to the new Red Building at the Pacific Design Center. He praised the City's leaders for keeping West Hollywood financially sound, while noting that small businesses have been hurting. He also congratulated Rick Watts for receiving one of the City's Rainbow Key awards and encouraged Seniors to attend the awards ceremony in the future. He praised the Shakespeare in the Park performances and encouraged everyone to attend.

Pat Dixon congratulated Bernice Levin on her upcoming retirement from the Comprehensive Services Center and thanked her for her service to the community.

Anna Swett asked that today's meeting be adjourned in memory of Mrs. Helena Wharton, formerly a board and care operator in Los Angeles County for about 35 years, who was instrumental in helping Anna with her life's achievements.

**12. BOARD REPRESENTATIVE TO REPORT TO COUNCIL**

Rick Watts will report to Council offices about the June 22<sup>nd</sup> joint meeting of the SAB and the DAB.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The joint meeting of the Disabilities Advisory Board and the Senior Advisory Board adjourned at 3:52 p.m. in memory of Mrs. Helena Wharton to their next meeting on Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 6 of the Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90046.



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SAB Chairperson – Pat Dixon

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DAB Chairperson – Anna Swett