

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2015
LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Staff Liaison Leslie Isenberg at 6:04 p.m., Tuesday, August 11, 2015, in the Community Meeting Room of the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tripp Mills.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Shandrick joined the meeting in progress. Staff present included Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, and Laura Schoonover.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported that notices for the meeting were posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **OATH OF OFFICE**

The oath of office was administered to Commissioners Elizabeth Anderson and Sam Borelli by Mayor Lindsey Horvath.

III. **ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIR**

Commissioner Meltzer nominated Commissioner Davis to serve as Temporary Chair for this meeting. There were no other nominations. A roll call vote was taken, and Commissioner Davis was elected without opposition.

IV. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 14, 2015, meeting were amended to reflect that the Commission had expressed a strong desire to encourage all grant recipient collaborators to ensure that they are providing proper staff training. Commissioner Meltzer moved to approve the minutes as amended. This was seconded by Commissioner Cislowski and approved, with Commissioners Anderson and Borelli abstaining.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LA LGBT CENTER SENIOR SERVICES

Leslie Isenberg introduced Tripp Mills and Anthony Bright from the LA LGBT Center's Senior Services program, which is providing reports and information to the Commission over the next three months due to being placed on probation regarding progress toward goals in its social services contract with the City.

Mr. Mills discussed the out dated data collection resources that the center had been previously using and explained that as a result of erroneous data the number of West Hollywood residents that participate in their programs has been under reported. Mr. Mills further explained that they are piloting a new program where participants will use identification cards that will allow better tracking of their participation.

Mr. Mills announced that the center has purchased a vehicle which they intend to use in outreach efforts to homebound seniors.

Anthony Bright discussed events scheduled for September for seniors including a book club that meets twice each month (Reading Opens Minds) which will begin Sept. 15, a men's breakfast on September 12th, a screening on Sept. 16 centered around the documentary "Being Mortal," and Bingo at Plummer Park.

Commissioner Palmieri asked whether the attrition rate due to death has affected the program's participation level. Mr. Mills said this was a possibility.

Commissioner Cislowski stated that she would be very interested to get updates on the homebound outreach efforts.

Commissioner Meltzer asked for clarification regarding the Senior Advisory Board's participation in the "Being Mortal" screening. She also asked for more information on the "Reading Opens Minds" program and what titles would be chosen.

Commissioner Borelli asked for more specific details regarding the outreach efforts to City of West Hollywood residents, and offered suggestions for increasing participation.

Commissioner Anderson requested clarification on the number of seniors that live in West Hollywood and how that compares to the number of West Hollywood seniors who participate in their programs.

Commissioner Cislowski asked for more details regarding the Center's new database and what its capabilities will be.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. AGENCY DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS RFP

Derek Murray provided the Commission a report on funds for contracted social service agency development and capacity building.

Commissioner Davis asked for clarification on whether agencies who have already received a grant could apply for another one. He also asked if the Commission could be more involved in the application approval process.

Commissioner Cislowski requested clarification on the budget for this round of grant offerings.

B. PLANNING AND COORDINATION MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Leslie Isenberg provided the Commission a report on the planning and coordinating schedule.

Commissioner Meltzer requested clarification on whether Commissioners are allowed to offer program suggestions.

Commissioner Shandrick suggested that updates on mental health forums be brought before the Commission on a regular instead of occasional basis.

Commissioner Meltzer requested an update on Aging in Place.

Commissioners discussed assigning liaisons to other Commissions and Advisory Boards, and requested clarification on the Brown Act.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Meltzer nominated Commissioner Davis for the office of Chair. There were no other nominations, and Commissioner Davis was elected unanimously.

Commissioner Cislowski nominated Commissioner Meltzer for the office of Vice Chair, There were no other nominations, and Commissioner Meltzer was elected unanimously.

The Commission's regular election of officers will be in November.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Palmieri commented on upcoming projects by the West Hollywood Project. He also spoke about the film "Tangerine."

Commissioner Cislowski spoke about the Special Olympics.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about a Mindfulness Meditation program offered by National Council of Jewish Women and she announced she has been named to the Advisory Team for AARP's Livable Community program.

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about the importance of the Homeless Collaborative and he spoke about the Special Olympics. Commissioner Shandrick also spoke about

the film "Tangerine," and about his attendance at the West Hollywood Arts Commission's Health Fest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Commissioner Borelli spoke about the flood that occurred at 838 West Knoll and its impact on a particular resident. He also took a moment to introduce himself to his fellow Commissioners and share some of his background.

Commissioner Anderson expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Commission and provided some of her background. She also commented on the recent National Night Out event held in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Davis welcomed Commissioners Anderson and Borelli to the Human Services Commission. He requested that tonight's meeting be adjourned in memory of Dorothy Lank, who was a longtime Social Services provider to the City through Alternative Dispute Resolutions, and who also had been a mediator for the City.

Commissioner Palmieri asked that tonight's meeting be adjourned in memory of Kyle Smith, a member of the West Hollywood recovery community who recently passed away.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray spoke about the HIV treatment Truvada item going to Council on Aug. 17.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Catherine Lawson spoke about a need to improve the quality of job training programs available in the city.

Michael Wojtkielewicz welcomed Commissioners Anderson and Borelli as temporary liaison from the Disabilities Advisory Board. He also spoke as an individual about the Detroit bungalows and West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation.

Stephanie Harker spoke about the Detroit bungalows.

Jerome Boyce spoke about funding for social services agencies.

Cathy Blaivas suggested having an ad hoc committee of residents that would work with Social Services staff. She also spoke about the Detroit bungalows.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

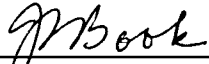
In the absence of further business, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Dorothy Lank and Kyle Smith at 7:49 pm.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2015.



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Attest:



Jeff Book, Secretary