

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 9, 2007
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 9, 2007, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was repeated.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer, Charles Henry, Shirley Roberts, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: Hywel Sims.

A quorum was present at all times. As noted below, Commissioners Henry and Roberts joined the meeting in progress, while Commissioner Cislowski left the meeting in progress. Staff members present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Craig Rhea, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

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

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Sept. 11, 2007, meeting were deferred due to the temporary absence of a quorum of members who were present at that meeting.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **STATUS REPORT FROM AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION**

The program manager of AHF's mobile testing program discussed relocation and expanded days of service for their program, which is now using a site near 7969 Santa Monica Boulevard. Also, Lynn Bridges is working with the program one day per week.

B. STATUS REPORT FROM GAY & LESBIAN CENTER

Alton Carswell, project coordinator for WeHo Life, reported on this program, including discussions with the Tweakers Project, work on a website update, and preparation of "webisodes" that will be posted and can be viewed online.

Commissioners Henry and Roberts joined the meeting at this time, and Item II was reopened for action.

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the Sept. 11, 2007, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Farmer. Commissioner Zangrando did not vote due to his absence from that meeting.

IV. C. REPORT ON CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PARK ACQUISITION

Sam Baxter discussed the city's 25th anniversary capital campaign, including plans for a new library, an expansion of City Hall, and other renovations at both Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park. He also discussed the development of two neighborhood parks on Havenhurst and Formosa.

Commissioner Roberts asked about any prospects for acquiring Poinsettia Park. Sam Baxter said this had been explored several times, and that so far there had not been much interest from the City of Los Angeles.

At this point, Commissioner Davis left the chair and the room, and Commissioner Henry acted as chair.

D. COST OF LIVING INCREASES AND PROBATIONARY STATUS

Daphne Dennis said that staff and City Council had concurred on not giving a cost-of-living adjustment to the two social services programs currently on probation, and reported that staff recommends allowing a COLA to be proposed after the probation period, assuming that agencies go off probation at the end of the six-month period. Lloyd Long said a question was whether a COLA at that time would be retroactive to the start of the funding cycle.

Ruben Acosta of the Center's WeHo Life program said he is succeeding Tripp Mills with that program, and spoke in support of the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Zangrando said we want the agencies to succeed, and the COLA is an investment in that success. He recommended making it retroactive as well.

Commissioner Farmer said she would support a COLA if an agency successfully completes probation and comes back to the Commission for a change in their status, but does not support making it retroactive to the start of the funding cycle.

Commissioner Cislowski said she agreed with a COLA after probation, but also does not support making it retroactive.

Commissioner Roberts said a COLA after probation was acceptable, but that it

should not be made retroactive for the time on probation, as a means of ensuring accountability of programs.

Commissioner Henry said he doesn't personally support the proposal but will not oppose it.

Commissioner Farmer moved to accept the staff recommendation, and to discuss this further during the funding process, with unused funds going into contract savings. This was seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved with 4 in favor and none opposed, with Commissioner Henry abstaining.

Commissioner Henry said he had noted that HIV/AIDS organizations are placed on probation more frequently than other agencies, and he wonders why.

Commissioner Cislowski moved that an agency which is placed on probation in the middle of the funding cycle would also lose the COLA during probation. This was seconded by Commissioner Farmer, and approved 4 to 1, with Commissioner Zangrando opposed.

At this point, Commissioner Davis returned to the room and to the chair, and Commissioner Cislowski left the meeting due to an emergency.

E. YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Craig Rhea provided an update on the Youth Scholarship Program, which was launched at the Book Fair, in a booth that drew attention from students, business leaders, and others.

F. COMMISSION "TO DO" LIST

Commissioner Davis asked that the naming of the urgent needs fund be placed on an upcoming agenda for discussion.

The topic of space in the city for social services agencies will be placed on an upcoming agenda.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. CRYSTAL METH WARM LINE

Van Ness Recovery House is providing, and will continue to provide, a "warm line" (similar to a hotline, but not necessarily staffed for immediate response around the clock), and is looking into getting an 800 number and funding for 24/7 availability.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis reminded that the congress of boards and commissions is Saturday, Oct. 13, at Plummer Park. He also reported on visiting the nutrition program in Plummer Park, and reminded that elections for the chair and vice chair of the commission will be held in November.

Commissioner Zangrando said Anson Snyder of the Housing Corp. would like to update the Commission on their business. This will be placed on an upcoming agenda.

Commissioner Henry asked about the calendar for the upcoming funding cycle, and Daphne Dennis said this will be available next month.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

The Commission reviewed a memo from Nancy Beard, Recreation Services Administrator, regarding policies and procedures at the Cooling Center in Plummer Park. Lloyd Long said consistency of hours and the level of public notice and signage are being reviewed. Additional information will be publicized in the city newsletter, and the item will be brought back to the Commission for further information at or about the April 2008 meeting.

Daphne Dennis said staff had checked on paperwork requirements for agencies that reserve space at parks, and that recreation staff uses a one-page form and requires proof of nonprofit status once, at the first reservation. Commissioner Henry asked if this was once per recreation site, or once altogether, and staff said they would check.

With regard to the question about whether HIV positive rates are rising among youth, Daphne Dennis said that the city's social services agencies were not noting such an increase, and staff will check on current county numbers to see if it is reflected there.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ruth Tittle said she is continuing as liaison from the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest:


