

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – AUGUST 5, 2008
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK AUDITORIUM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Chuck Henry at 6:08 p.m., Tuesday, August 5, 2008, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Farmer.

B. **ROLL CALL**

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

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Craig Rhea, and Jeff Book.

The chair noted that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Eldon Zangrando, father of Commissioner Zangrando, and also of Fred Anderson, husband of West Hollywood City Clerk Tom West.

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**

Minutes of the July 15, 2008, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Farmer, seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were three speakers: (1) Michelle LaVette, a client of PATH, regarding funding for housing; (2) Michael Sidler, regarding use of city facilities for cooling centers; and (3) Steve Wayland, regarding a project by Petco and Home Depot.

IV. **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS**

Commissioner Henry thanked commissioners, agency representatives, and staff for their work in preparing, processing, and reviewing the applications from non-profit agencies that would like to provide social services to the West Hollywood community.

Daphne Dennis presented staff recommendations for social services funding for the 2008-2010 contract period, including cost-of-living adjustments and urgent fund allocations, as follows: Aid for AIDS, \$80,500; APLA Dental, \$67,140; APLA Positive Self-Management, \$135,915; Alternative Living for the Aging, \$25,060; AVIVA, \$31,992; Being Alive, \$89,579; Bet Tzedek, \$108,774; Dispute Resolution Services, \$52,275; Friends Research Institute, HIV Education, \$104,228, plus \$3,500 urgent fund; Friends Research Institute, Outpatient, \$65,000; L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center (GLC) Health, \$146,332; GLC Legal, \$23,512; GLC Mental Health, \$117,660; GLC Transgender program, \$52,275; GLC WeHo LIFE, \$122,975; GLC Youth, \$74,648; Jewish Family Services (JFS) Comprehensive Services, \$661,057, plus \$25,500 urgent fund; JFS Nutrition, \$334,960; JFS Partners, \$61,520; JFS Partners Proposition A funding [not from general fund], \$15,000; JFS SOVA Food Pantry, \$61,457; JFS WHEST employment services, \$134,994; McIntyre House, \$27,275; National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Light Up a Library and Women Helping Women programs, \$59,446, plus \$2,500 urgent fund; Pathways, \$79,458; People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), \$310,514, plus \$10,000 urgent fund; PATH community development block grant [not from general fund], \$49,225; PAWS/LA, \$50,599; Project Angel Food, \$65,051; Rainbow Bridge, \$67,256, plus \$3,500 urgent fund; Russian Community Center, \$78,274; Saban Free Clinic, \$173,661, plus \$5,000 urgent fund; St. Thomas the Apostle, \$15,808. Total proposed funding, not including funds from sources other than the General Fund, of \$3,479,195, plus \$50,000 in urgent fund.

The recommendations include many agencies the city has worked with over many years, as well as two agencies – Friends Research institute and McIntyre House – which would be new to city funding. In response to questions, staff discussed the background of McIntyre House, which was started by the St. Victor's parish, and the level of funding recommended for the Friends outpatient program.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

The commission accepted public comment from: (1) Fire Riegel, regarding McIntyre House; (2) Marianne Vecchione, regarding McIntyre House; (3) James Durazio, re: McIntyre House; (4) Joe Mucciacciaro, re: McIntyre House; (5) Ellison Jackson, re: McIntyre House; (6) Lenwood Patterson, re: Rainbow Bridge; (7) Vivian Sauer, re: Jewish Family Services; (8) Ava Rose, re: Women Helping Women; (9) Jessica Olifson, re: Women Helping Women; (10) Hillary Selvin, re: NCJW; (11) Margaret Steele, re: Project Angel Food; (12) Maribel Ulloa, re: Aid for AIDS; (13) Mike Romero, re: McIntyre House; (14) Liliya Gazizova, re: Russian Community Center; (15) Gustavo Robles, re: Rainbow Bridge; (16) Felipe Rodriguez, re: Rainbow Bridge; (17) Kevin Kurth, re: Being Alive; (18) Viktoriya Salesnaya, re: Russian Community Center; (19) Galina Karabchinskaya, re: Russian Community Center; and (20) Rod Sawyer, re: McIntyre House.

Also from: (21) Bruce Robertson, re: McIntyre House; (22) Roger Coggan, re: L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center; (23) David Kruskall, re: WHEST; (24) Adine Forman, re: WHEST; (25) Jim Price, re: WHEST; (26) Caroline Montagu, re: WHEST; (27) Si Frumkin, Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres; (28) Sonya Resnik, re: Russian Community Center; (29) Natalia Zhuraveene, re: Russian Community Center; (30) Mila Gershkovich, re: Russian Community Center; (31) Vera Richkina, re: Russian Community Center; (32) Valentina Ozernaya, re: Russian Community Center; (33) Olga Ivanova, re: Russian Community Center; (34) Yelena Miller, re: JFS Partners; (35) Mikhail Glekel, re: Partners; (36) Marilyn Stoch, re: Partners; (37) Stella Goldroya, re: Russian Community Center; (38)

Felix del Prado, re: McIntyre House; (39) Robert Alleman, re: McIntyre House; and (40) Yola Dore, member of Disabilities Advisory Board.

And then from: (41) Helen Levin, re: Russian Community Center; (42) April Saravia, re: Friends Research Institute; (43) Lorenzo Banda, re: Friends Research Institute; (44) Tim Grant, re: Friends Research Institute; (45) Barry Weiss, re: Friends Research Institute; (46) Brick Bricken, re: Friends Research Institute; (47) Cheryl Connolly, re: APLA; (48) Mark Skibinsky, member of Senior Advisory Board; (49) Kathryn Turk, re: Dispute Resolution Services; (50) Karen Bhangoo, re: DRS; (51) Fr. Ian Davies, St. Thomas the Apostle; (52) Grigoriy Adlivankin, former member of Russian Advisory Board, regarding Russian Community Center; (53) Marina Berkman, re: JFS; (54) Queen Victoria of the Royal Court of West Hollywood; (55) Janet Witkin, Alternative Living for the Aging; (56) Larisa Brizinova, re: Russian Community Center; (57) Klara Grobman, re: Russian Community Center; (58) Alton Carswell, L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center; (59) Thomas [last name not submitted], a client of WeHo Life; and (60) Jerome Boyce, on community programming.

After a brief break, the chair declared the public hearing closed. Commissioner Zangrando left the meeting temporarily at this point.

VI. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS, 2008-2010

Commissioner Davis moved to recommend to the City Council the same amounts and distribution of funding that staff recommended. This was seconded by Commissioner Farmer. With the consent of the seconder, the motion was divided to separate funding for Jewish Vocational Services from funding for the other agencies. Commissioner Cislowski left the meeting at this point, and Commissioner Zangrando returned.

The motion and second to recommend funding for Jewish Vocational Services at the level recommended by staff were reiterated, and approved on a vote of 6 to 0, with Commissioner Cislowski not present.

Commissioner Cislowski then returned to the meeting. The motion and second to recommend funding for all the other agencies as recommended by staff was reiterated. In response to a question from Commissioner Cislowski, Cathy Reback of Friends Research Institute discussed their approach to providing services with the funding level recommended.

Commissioner Henry said he thought the staff had done a masterful job of balancing the pressures of this social services funding cycle, and responding to the concerns and input of commissioners. He also noted a conference on LGBT-related hate crimes was long overdue, and he looked forward to it occurring.

The motion to approve funding for the remaining agencies, as recommended by staff, was approved unanimously, 7 to 0, with all commissioners voting.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis asked that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of Janet Siegel, a former member of the Senior Advisory Board.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF CANCELLATION OF AUGUST 7, 2008, MEETING

Since the Commission had completed the work of making recommendations to City Council for 2008-2010 social services funding, Commissioner Sims moved to cancel the previously scheduled meeting of August 7, 2008. This was seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and unanimously approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. in memory of Eldon Zangrando, father of Commissioner Zangrando; Fred Anderson, husband of City Clerk Tom West; and Janet Siegel, former member of the Senior Advisory Board.

The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at West Hollywood City Hall.

Signed: 

Steven L. Davis

Attest:


