

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 10, 2001
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Teresa DeCrescenzo at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 10, 2001, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Ruth Cislowski, John D’Amico, Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler
Excused: Shirley Roberts
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator, 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. Without objection, the agenda was amended to provide for an item from a Commissioner next.

II. MINUTES

Minutes of the March 13, 2001, meeting were corrected to reflect that Commissioner Mackler was excused, rather than present, and that the Commission had requested Christopher Street West (CSW) to attend on a monthly basis to update the Commission on their progress on the 2001 pride festival. The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner D’Amico, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, with Commissioner Mackler abstaining.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo expressed the Commission's regret upon learning that Curtis Brown, Jr., Recreation Services Administrator, has accepted a new position with the City of Menlo Park. Commissioners were invited to a reception at City Hall to thank him for his years as Recreation Services Administrator.

On a motion by Commissioner Mackler, the Commission agreed to send a letter to Curtis Brown thanking him for his years of partnership and service on behalf of the people of West Hollywood.

Commissioners DeCrescenzo and Davis expressed dismay that CSW was not in attendance at this meeting, although they had been invited to appear monthly to provide updates on the 2001 pride festival.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Steve Weltman, the new liaison to the Commission from the Disabilities Advisory Board, introduced himself and said he was looking forward to working with Commissioners.

The Commission received a report from WeHo Cares regarding condom distribution in the last month.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION BY PATH

Joel Roberts, executive director of PATH/Foundation House, introduced Sam Colquitt, lead case manager for Access Center, who has been with the homeless organization for eight years. He said PATH is able to help about 50% of those it contacts, because the other half are not interested in services. The latter group is provided with hygiene kits and other simple assistance. He said many in this group are addicted, and that it takes months for them to feel comfortable in talking with an outreach staffer.

Rufus Parks, case manager at PATH, said he had been with the organization for 10 years. He reviewed residential services, including 120 days of initial housing and 180 days in transitional. He spoke of helping residents to become more reliable in terms of "working hard, saving, and taking care of business."

Gary Brown, a graduate of PATH, spoke about his experience, having arrived in Los Angeles from Philadelphia, and been referred to PATH by APLA.

Commissioner Cislowski asked about follow-up, and the staffers said there is an alumni group which goes back to PATH to offer advice and conduct workshops for the current residents.

Daphne Dennis asked about the new facility, and Joel Roberts said they are hoping to move in September or October 2001, and that all necessary initial funding for the transition has been secured. Daphne Dennis asked if the Access Center would remain in Hollywood, and Roberts said that it would probably be maintained as a satellite office. He said the new site is growing rapidly in its capacity to offer coordinated and correlated services, because so many agencies were agreeing to provide branch services there.

B. PRESENTATION BY LA GAY & LESBIAN CENTER YOUTH PROGRAM

Garrison Smith provided Commissioners with a handout, activity schedule, and a blue bag used by the Youth Program. He noted a Massachusetts survey indicating a high correlation among GLBT youth, drug use, and suicide. He estimated there are 15,000 youth ages 12 to 24 on the streets of Los Angeles, and that approximately 40% self-identify as GLBT. The Center served about 3,000 youth last year.

He spoke about their new poster campaign and about the youth talkline, 800-773-5540, which is open from 4 to 10 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and needs volunteers. There is a new residential supervisor named Dave Lopez. A revised policy manual is being developed. The youth center upgrade is about 3/4 complete, including new furniture and paint. The youth/senior photo project is in its third year, with a new exhibit opening in May. He introduced Dylan Gailey, deputy director of youth services.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis noted that the City's grant application regarding a psychological trauma center looks positive with the California Wellness Foundation.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Peter Mackler attended the chairs meeting last month. There were no other reports this month.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SCHEDULE OF AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

Daphne Dennis provided a draft schedule of presentations by agencies, generally grouped by topics. Commissioners discussed the kind of materials and information they would like the agencies to provide during these presentations. Commissioner Cislowski asked the agencies to highlight their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and asked that presenters adhere to time limits. Commissioner Griffin asked agencies to show their unique contribution to

providing services, in terms of what sets them apart from other agencies. Commissioner Davis said the Commission does not need to be told the monthly figures by the agencies in their presentations, because these have already been submitted.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. in memory of Jeff Henry.

Signed: _____
Steven L. Davis

Attest:

_____ *JTB*