

WEST HOLLYWOOD SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2013

City Hall

8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Walkup

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

B. ROLL CALL

Members present: Esther Baum, Barbara Krupa, Sophia Gelman, Bernice Levin, Rita Norton, Ric Rickles, Lee Walkup

Members absent: Pat Dixon, Muriel Schoichet

Staff present: Corey Roskin

C. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Corey Roskin stated that the agenda was posted at all the usual places.

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Walkup stated the procedure for public comment.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 29, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lily Ortiz with Metro spoke about the upcoming "Senior Travel Training Program" to be held at Plummer Park on August 1st from 1 to 2:00 p.m.

Marcy Norton, liaison from the Public Safety Commission, mentioned that National Night Out will take place on August 6 and there will be 11 different locations this year. Marcy also mentioned that a senior safety meeting was held at Fairfax Towers last week and she was concerned regarding the lack of noticing about the meeting and also expressed a desire to hold senior safety meetings at other locations in the City. Marcy also provided an updated on SAB member Muriel Schoichet and suggested that the SAB adjourn their meeting in memory of Abbe Land's mother (which the SAB agreed to unanimously). Marcy said that it was difficult finding parking in the City Hall lot prior to the SAB meeting and

asked if there might be consideration of reserved spaces for the SAB members in the way that spaces are sometimes reserved for other board and commission meetings.

Lee Walkup asked Marcy Norton if she can communicate to the Public Safety Commission concerns about the timing of traffic lights at Fairfax Ave. /Santa Monica Blvd. Marcy said she will mention this to the Commission, but that the Transportation Commission typically handles issues related to traffic light signalization and timing.

III. ITEMS FROM THE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Nancy Desser, Activity Program Director, mentioned the following upcoming activities at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center:

- A new interactive computer class on memory enhancement will begin at the Senior Center on August 14 and will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Two trips to the Hollywood Bowl and a trip to the Bowers Museum in August.
- August 2 – Movie Club featuring “Beginners” and moderated by a new volunteer who was formerly an entertainment reporter from the Hollywood Reporter
- August 9 – Senior Scam Stopper event sponsored by Assemblymember Richard Bloom’s office

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rent Stabilization and Housing – Year-End Report

Andi Lovano and Elizabeth Savage presented highlights from the Rent Stabilization and Housing Year End Report. Questions and concerns brought up by members of the Senior Advisory Board included the following:

Sofia Gelman talked about her concerns that there should be more residences/facilities for seniors in West Hollywood that offer a greater continuum of care.

Esther Baum inquired as to why some of the newer developments/units for seniors in West Hollywood aren’t smaller so that more units can be included. Elizabeth Savage discussed some of the particulars in terms of unit size and requirements of funding sources, but she also indicated that she will talk to the West Hollywood Housing Corporation about the possibility of more user participation in the design phase of new projects.

Barbara Krupa countered that sometimes small units can be claustrophobic and she appreciated newer units being built on a larger scale.

Bernice Levin discussed the confusion regarding some of the recent low-cost housing applications and differing classification for what constitutes low-income and very-low income.

Lee Walkup asked if units under rent control remain under rent control after a tenant moves out and the landlord raises rent. Elizabeth Savage indicated that although the landlord can raise the rent to market value for a new tenant that the unit is then under the same rent control laws in terms of raising the rent.

B. West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center overview

Marina Berkman, Director of the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center (WHCSC) of Jewish Family Services, provided an overview of the services provided by WHCSC

Esther Baum asked if WHCSC can help her in terms to have a ramp placed at her building where there are stairs that are difficult to navigate. Andi Lovano addressed how the Rent Stabilization Ordinance addresses reasonable accommodation issues for building owners/landlords. Marina Berkman talked about ways WHCSC might be able to help

V NEW BUSINESS

A. City of West Hollywood – Info Map & WeHo Direct

Francisco Gomez, Social Services Intern, showed the Board how to access and use the City's website (weho.org) to use Info Map (which provides information on development projects in the City) and WeHo Direct (a program that facilitates reporting of various nuisances and issues).

B. Elections

Lee Walkup talked about his experience as the Chair of the SAB and communicated a message from Muriel Schoichet about her experiences as Vice-Chair. Lee also talked about the various accomplishments of the SAB over the past year and discussed upcoming events including a mention that the upcoming Annual Congress of Boards & Commissions will be held on October 14.

Esther Baum was chosen as the new Chair and Barbara Krupa the Vice Chair.

V BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Lee Walkup asked if staff could provide an update on the Trader Joe's development project on the east side at the next SAB meeting. He spoke about the Disability Service Awards and encouraged SAB members to consider making nomination(s) for this year

Ric Rickles mentioned that he was surprised by the lack of turn out for an emergency preparedness meeting he attended last week at Plummer Park. In addition, he discussed some problems he was having with the new Taxi card program. Corey Roskin indicated that he would have Perri Goodman contact him regarding his Taxi card.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corey Roskin provided a handout on estate planning to the SAB including information about wills, durable power of attorney and health care directives as requested at last meeting. In addition, as per Lee Walkup's request, Corey passed out the City Clerk's current list of SAB members with contact information.

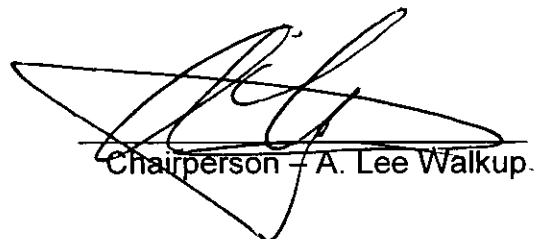
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no further items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Senior Advisory Board indicated adjournment in memory of Mayor Abbe Land's mother, but did not repeat the motion at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to the next meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 in the Community Conference Room of City Hall.


Chairperson - A. Lee Walkup.