

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board February 26, 2014 Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

Michael Arrigo called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Richard Maggio led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Michael Arrigo, Larry Block, Marco Colantonio, Suzanne Dietrich, Anny Semonco, and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Jim Chud, Louise Smith, and Thomas DeLorenzo

STAFF PRESENT: David Giugni, Corri Planck, and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for February 26, 2014 was approved with the postponement of 7A.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 20, 2013 meeting and January 22, 2014 meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Maggio, chair of the Rent Stabilization Commission, and Andi Lovano, City staff in the Human Services and Rent Stabilization Division, presented the overview of the annual rental adjustment, the guides for renters and landlords/property managers, and introduced the Building Blocks Workshops.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Due to the speaker's emergency trip to Sacramento, the item was postponed.

B. PRESENTATION FROM JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE WEST HOLLYWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES CENTER

Marina Berkman, director of WHCSC, introduced Julia Kraft, the new Disability Specialist, who gave an overview of services, and also spoke about case management for the homebound, urgent needs funds, food vouchers, Choice Care agencies and contracts.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2014 WORK PLAN

Larry Block spoke about the need for more input from the public, development of understanding of Federal Disability Limits, and a community forum on mobility issues, and organizing a Disability Job Fair.

David Giugni talked about more pop-up booths for DAB outreach, and about having two televised meetings per year, and including a possible feature on trending.

Corri Planck accentuated the importance of doing more outreach and education, and pointed out that due to the Brown Act, social media with DAB members would be a violation.

The idea of wheelchair basketball was raised, but it was pointed out that no one from the public attended the last event that was held, to the disappointment of the team who came to play. It was also suggested that the mentoring program be re-established, but there was concern that previous efforts included a majority of businesses that were not accessible to volunteers in wheelchairs.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

On Saturday, March 8 a Writing Workshop for people with HIV will be held at the Library, and the Annual Women's Leadership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20 at the Chamber of Commerce. The next pop-up booth will be set up on Tuesday, March 25 from 3-5 PM at the West Hollywood Library, a certified enroller for Covered California will be available at the booth. The deadline for signing up for Covered California is 3/31/14.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

11. BOARDMEMBERS COMMENTS/ LIAISON UPDATES

12. BOARD REPRESENTATIVE TO REPORT TO COUNCIL

Marco Colantonio spoke about ThriveTribe.org that provides social events and support groups for HIV+ men. They hosted a cocktail event that had 150 attendees.

Anny Semonco has been working with the Women's Advisory Board in planning the Women's Leadership Conference scheduled for April 4-5.

Suzanne Dietrich attended the Transportation Commission meeting which discussed the Uber cars, Lyft, and other programs that offer rides; she warned that they don't have insurance, don't pick up people in wheelchairs, and mentioned that it takes business away from cabbies who are trying to earn a living.

Rick Watts announced the Abilities Expo to be held March 1-2. On Easter/Passover weekend Rick will , once again, go on his annual fast while continuing to make meals but giving them to the homeless. He asked people

to consider joining him, or making a donation to agencies that provide food services, such as PATH, Project Angel Food, SOVA, etc.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm in honor of the 2014 ParaOlympics in Sochi, as well as Susan Hirschhorn (Larry Block's sister), Michael Sidler, and Jay Jones (of Jewish Family Services Nutrition program) to its next meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., in the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, 90046.



DAB Vice-Chair, Michael Arrigo