

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Disabilities Advisory Board and the Senior Advisory Board April 23, 2014

**City Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jim Chud called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Marcy Norton led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Corri Planck

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Esther Baum, Pat Dixon, Sophia Gelman, Bernice
Levin, Rita Norton, Lee Walkup, Muriel Schoichet

ABSENT: Barbara Krupa

STAFF PRESENT: Corey Roskin and Francisco Gomez

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Disabilities Advisory Board and the Senior Advisory Board both unanimously approved their respective agendas.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Both the Disabilities Advisory Board and the Senior Advisory Board approved the minutes of their respective meetings that took place on March 26, 2014.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Che, a staffer in the City of West Hollywood's Economic Development Division, presented background information about World Book Night and told the Board about the event's location.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. JOINT MEETING STUDY SESSION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

Elizabeth Savage, Director of the City's Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, spoke about affordable housing as a primary strategic goal of the City. She also discussed several components of the City's Housing Element; City programs available to help meet the goals outlined in the City's Housing Element; various ways that the City coordinates the development of affordable housing; SB 391--a legislative item in the California State Senate that seeks to increase available funds for affordable housing; and the status of affordable housing at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Andi Lovano, Project Development Administrator in the City's Rent Stabilization and Housing Division, spoke about the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance and program and provided the Boards with information about the status of the program. Among the information she discussed were the dates the list was active and when it closed, and the total number of people currently on the wait list. She also reviewed eight of the most frequently asked questions related to the City's Inclusionary Housing Program.

Suzette Flynn, Director of Housing and Community Investment Department at the City of Los Angeles, spoke about the federally funded HOPWA program which she helps administer. She explained that because the City of Los Angeles is the largest city in the County, it is designated as the lead agency to oversee federal HOPWA funds for the entire County. HOPWA funds are used to pay for housing and supportive services for low-income individuals living with HIV. Flynn explained that the City's HOPWA program funds 24 non-profits and four public housing authorities to provide services to HOPWA's target populations. Lastly, Flynn described several housing programs available through HOPWA, including tenant and project based rental assistance programs; short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance program; permanent housing placement programs; emergency and transitional shelters; and direct housing development.

Miguel Fernandez, Housing Analyst at the Alliance for Housing and Healing (aka Aid for AIDS), spoke about the work that the Alliance does to provide rental assistance for low-income individuals who suffer from HIV/AIDS. Specifically, he talked about the rental and moving assistance programs and the short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance program.

Anne Zimmerman, an architect at AZ Architecture Studio, discussed the evolution of the California Building Code and explained several key points from Chapter 11a of the Code that deals with accessibility and housing.

Robin Conerly, Executive Director of the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC), talked about the work that WHCHC does to build, operate, rehabilitate and manage affordable housing. She also provided an overview of the properties that are owned by the WHCHC, properties that are planned or under construction, as well as general demographics about individuals that are housed in WHCHC buildings.

Jesse Slansky, Director of Real Estate Development at the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC), discussed his work at the WHCHC, the different funding sources that are used by the WHCHC to develop affordable housing and the constraints that are placed on the development of affordable housing by various funding sources.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck informed the Boards about the Russian Awards Ceremony and the Russian Style Festival.

Corey Roskin talked to the Boards about the SAB and DAB booths at the Senior Health fair and asked Board members to sign-up if they would like to staff the booths. He also discussed the flyer that staff developed to help community members understand the Cal MediConnect Program that changes healthcare for seniors in California that have both Medicare and Medi-Cal. Lastly, Corey discussed the origins and meaning behind Denim Day.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood, discussed the potential construction of affordable housing in the Norma Triangle neighborhood of the City.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES

Esther Baum, Chair of the Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the upcoming Senior Health Fair.

Jim Chud, Chair of the Disabilities Advisory Board, spoke about the loss of Lee Meyers and requested to adjourn the meeting in her memory.

Michael Arrigo, from the Disabilities Advisory Board, spoke about the loss of Ric Rickles and requested to adjourn the meeting in his memory.

Larry Block, from the Disabilities Advisory Board, updated the Board about the work of the Boards and Commissions where he serves as a liaison. He also discussed the West Hollywood Budget Fair.

Marco Colantonio, from the Disabilities Advisory Board, talked about a fundraiser at the Abbey for Project Angel Food. He also asked that City staff provide an update on the approved elevator construction at the Werle Building.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm in memory of Lee Myers and Ric Rickles to each of the Board's respective meetings. The next meeting for the Disabilities Advisory Board is on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, 90046. The next meeting for the Senior Advisory Board is Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 2:00 p.m in the Community Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library.

Michael Arriaga
VICE CHAIR

Jim Chud
DAB Chair, Jim Chud

Esther Baum
SAB Chair, Esther Baum ←