

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

April 22, 2015

Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Watts called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Michael Arrigo, Marco Colantonio, Louise Smith, Rick Watts,
Suzanne Dietrich, Anny Semonco, and Yola Dore

ABSENT: Jim Chud

STAFF PRESENT: Corri Planck, Derek Murray, and Kim Patterson

4. INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister installed Michael Wojtkielewicz as a new member of the Disabilities Advisory Board.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the April 22, 2015 meeting was approved.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting were approved with one abstention.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Blavis, West Hollywood resident, expressed gratitude to the Board for their work.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood resident, said that the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation has done many good things, but expressed concern for the residents of the Detroit Bungalows who may have to move out of West Hollywood.

Victor Omelczenko, member of the West Hollywood Bike Coalition, spoke about increasing bike lanes in the City and on the need for affordable housing.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION FROM THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AGENCY ON DEAFNESS

Heidi Booth, of the Health Education Department of GLAAD, described the extensive services of the 40 year old organization. They formed the first HIV Education program for the deaf, have teen pregnancy prevention programs,

develop curriculum, provide technical assistance with healthcare projects, and more. She also fielded questions from the Board.

Cathy Blaivis, Stephanie Harker, and several DAB members requested more closed-caption monitors at City Council meetings.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. AGING IN PLACE INITIATIVE

Due to the health of alternate Jim Chud, Yola Dore was elected as the DAB's second alternate to the Aging in Place meeting on May 9th.

The Board discussed items that they want to include in the Strategic Plan:

Mobility and Transportation – issues with cab companies; offer free parking permits to seniors; “Beyond the Curb” program to enlist the help of drivers from origin to destination

Aging with Disabilities, including HIV – transgender discrimination; ombudsmen for the very elderly who are hesitant to ask for help; list of geriatric doctors; support group for HIV-positive individuals; affordable housing and more

Fitness & Personal Care Needs – elevated chairs for people with bad hips and knees; low-vision assistance, including free or low-cost glasses and better signage; grievance support groups; assistance to caregivers who suffer stress and loss; City-sponsored incentives for landlords to allow seniors and disabled to move to first floor apartments, and to adapt facilities to accommodate such populations; accessible hotels

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- There will be no competitions on August 1 at the Special Olympics, so the subcommittee is looking into the Fans in the Stands group attending on July 30 instead.
- A sign-up sheet for the Senior Health Fair was passed around for the DAB to volunteer to staff their table.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister expressed her appreciation for the very informative meeting, and encouraged people to fill out the parking survey that Councilmember John D’Amico and her office initiated.

12. BOARDMEMBERS COMMENTS

The Board welcomed Michael Wojtkielewicz to the DAB. He expressed thanks to the Board members for their warm welcome, to City staff for their orientation, to people who encouraged him to re-apply, and to Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister for the appointment to the DAB. He made the following announcements:

- Today is Earth Day.
- May 9 is the U.S. Postal Service pick-up day for food for the needy.

- April is Autism Awareness Month.

He read 14 aphorisms for health. He noted that the DAB is the only Board that seems to feel pressed for time, and requested that Public Comment be extended to three minutes from two.

Marco Colantonio was happy to see in the new Council people who listen and care, and congratulated Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister on her great appointments.

Anny Semonco announced the Women's Leadership Conference on May 1-3. She reported that the Transportation Commission is reviewing issues at various intersections.

Michael Arrigo shared a flyer celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ADA. He also announced that on Wednesday and Friday mornings AIDS Project LA has benefits counseling at the Courtyard at La Brea, and all day Wednesdays and Fridays they offer housing counseling.

Yola Dore announced that Steve Campbell of Buildings & Maintenance has plans to add another TV to Council Chambers. She would like to follow up with a plan to 1) agendize this issue, 2) educate the public, and 3) create a PSA. She would also like to change the seating for the disabled which is currently at the back of Council Chambers.

Chair Watts announced that as a part of Senior Month the DAB will be co-sponsoring the May 11th screening of "I'll Be Me" about Glen Campbell's struggle with Alzheimers, followed by a special panel discussion. He reported on the AIDS Watch conference that he attended in Washington, DC.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm in memory of Donny Caci, Shawn Vega, and Steven "Destiny" Anderson. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., in Room 3 at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.



DAB Chair Rick Watts

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)