

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

October 28, 2015

City Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Horvath led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Jim Chud and Brian Zeiden

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the October 28, 2015 meeting was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 30, 2015 meeting were approved with the corrections that 1) one cannot simultaneously be on a working group and a Board or Commission, 2) that the Mayor's item was on housing and commercial accessibility, and 3) that the Women's Advisory Board's October 21 meeting was televised.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Block, West Hollywood resident, thanked the Board for their work.

Marina Berkman and Yelena Ginko of JFS Comprehensive Services Center congratulated the Board on the successful Disabilities Awareness Month and said that they welcome referrals to the Center.

Stephanie Harker, West Hollywood resident, thanked the Board for their work.

Genevieve Morrill, CEO of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, congratulated the awardees and asked the Board to engage in a future discussion on ways businesses can support people with disabilities.

Josh Kurpies from the Office of Assemblyman Richard Bloom, spoke about the life-changing aspects of living with a disability and the importance of the Board's ongoing work.

7. WELCOME BY DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FROM THE BRAILLE INSTITUTE'S JOHNNY MERCER CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Chair Smith welcomed everyone, including Mayor Horvath and Mayor Pro Tem Meister, to the Board's televised event that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Chair Smith shared the Board's accomplishments of the past year which include hosting the second annual Health and Wellness Event, co-sponsoring a screening of "I'll Be Me" with the Senior Advisory Board and the Alzheimer's Association, participating in the Special Olympics as "Fans in the Stands", and the City's Aging in Place strategic planning initiative.

Mayor Pro Tem Meister presented Michael Arrigo with a plaque for his years of service.

The Braille Institute's Johnny Mercer Children's Choir was introduced and performed three songs.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2015 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Councilmember Duran and Vice-Chair Colantonio presented Capitol Drugs with the Business Award. Mayor Pro Tem Meister and DAB member Yola Dore presented the Special Olympics of Southern California with a Non-Profit Award.

Councilmember Heilman and DAB member Suzanne Dietrich presented the LA LGBT Center-WeHo with a Non-Profit Award. Mayor Horvath and DAB member Rick Watts presented the Lovedy Brydon Differently Abled Individual Award to Congressman Adam Schiff which was accepted by his aide Michael Aguilera.

B. PRESENTATION ON STREET MEDIA AND SELECTION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Kate Mayerson, Innovation Analyst, and Francisco Contreras, Innovations and Strategic Initiatives Manager, gave a presentation on the Street Media Project which will study public assets and wayfinding signage within the City's public right-of-way and open spaces. They requested that a representative from the Board serve on the Street Media Project Design Ad Hoc Committee, and Michael Wojtkielewicz was selected, with Anny Semonco as the alternate. The meetings of the committee will be open to the public.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Arrigo, Los Angeles resident, thanked the Board for the plaque and cautioned against the use of the word "handicapped" which is derived from the image of a person standing on a street corner with cap in hand.

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

Rick Watts applauded the work of the Board and asked for the meeting to be adjourned in honor of the awardees as well as Ozzie and all who have had to deal with living with HIV/AIDS.

Suzanne Dietrich recommended that residents keep their hedges cut back from the sidewalk to facilitate accessibility. She suggested that the Board apply again for the National Office on Disabilities award. She announced that October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a disease that affects one out of eight women.

Yola Dore spoke on the importance of accessibility, affordable housing and Aging in Place.

Vice-Chair Colantonio addressed the need to combat discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Anny Semonco spoke to the importance of the ADA for all people living with disabilities.

Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke to both the 25th anniversary of the ADA and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

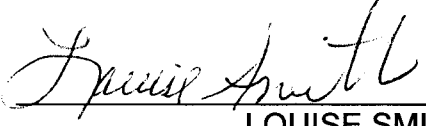
11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck announced that the Public Facilities Commission would like a representative for a special meeting on the development of the Werle Building on Nov. 5th at 6:30 PM at Kings Road Park. Yola Dore was elected as the DAB's representative, and Rick Watts will be the alternate.

12. ADJOURNMENT

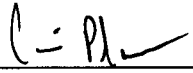
The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., in the Community Meeting Room of the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd, West Hollywood.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 28th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015.



LOUISE SMITH,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



CORRI PLANCK,
STAFF LIAISON

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.)