

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board October 24, 2012 Council Chambers, West Hollywood Library

1. CALL TO ORDER

Larry Block, Chair of the Disabilities Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember John D'Amico led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Michael Arrigo, Larry Block, James Chud, Thomas De Lorenzo, Suzanne Dietrich, and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Lisa Andreson

STAFF PRESENT: Daphne Dennis, David Giugni, Kim Patterson, Corri Planck, and Corey Roskin

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for October 24, 2012 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting were approved.

6. WELCOME BY DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Larry Block spoke about the special work of this City, "a community that cares", and the importance of Disabilities Awareness Month.

7. PERFORMANCE BY ADAM MANDELA WALDEN

Autistic student Adam Walden played his cello, and he and his mother Rosanne Katon-Walden received a commendation for their achievement in gaining his entrance into an LAUSD Magnet School program.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS SINCE OCTOBER 2011

The DAB members each read several sections of a presentation summarizing the issues that they have addressed between October 2011 and August 2012. A slide show accompanied the script.

B. STREET BANNERS

The Disabilities Advisory Board unveiled four posters of the new street banners of past award recipients celebrating Disabilities Awareness Month.

9. 2012 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Jeffrey Prang thanked the DAB for their important work and for the legacy of 16 years since the DAB's founding.

Mayor Pro Tempore Abbe Land, assisted by DAB member Thomas DeLorenzo presented the Media Award to David Stern, publisher of Frontiers Magazine and the Business Award to Tim Mahoney and Vicki Catlin of Gelson's Market West Hollywood.

Councilmember John Duran, assisted by DAB Chair Larry Block, presented the Non-Profit Award to Dana Miller of Toy Box Party.

Mayor Jeffrey Prang, assisted by DAB Vice-Chair Jim Chud, presented the Lovedy Brydon Differently Abled Individual Award to Nadia Sutton.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ted Liso, West Hollywood resident, suggested that Frontiers promote some less drug & alcohol-intended venues. He also recommended the use of the term "mental hygiene", instead of "disabled".

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood resident who began to lose her hearing at 28 years old, advocated for making the Sennheiser devices available in the Community Room of the West Hollywood Library.

Elizabeth Weeks, Santa Monica resident, spoke about Beauty Bus Foundation which delivers dignity, hope and respite to chronically or terminally ill men, women and children and their caregivers through beauty and grooming services and pampering products. (beautybus.org)

Yola Dore, West Hollywood resident, encouraged people to check out the comprehensive website "disability.gov".

Sam Borelli, Public Safety Commissioner, said that the selection of awardees was great, and especially congratulated Nadia Sutton for her lifetime contributions.

11. REMARKS BY BOARD CHAIR

Board Chair Larry Block, a 25-year resident who lost much of his eyesight several years ago, appealed to the attendees and listening audience for their help, and encouraged their participation, announcing two vacancies on the DAB for interested persons.

12. REMARKS BY BOARDMEMBERS

Suzanne Dietrich announced that October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and as a breast cancer survivor encouraged everyone, both women and men, to get regular mammograms and conduct self-exams.

Michael Arrigo spoke to the often-overlooked hidden disabilities which can be just as challenging as more obvious ones.

Tom DeLorenzo is currently attending Southwest Law School specifically to fight for health care reform, based on the belief that all people need equal health care to live to their fullest potential.

Rick Watts spoke about how the Board is a conduit between City government and the citizenry. He first became personally interested in crosswalk safety several years ago when he was on crutches, and has led the Board in encouraging improvement of crosswalk safety measures.

Jim Chud who is HIV+ and 9 years sober has found life so much richer than it has ever been, as he has been involved in these issues.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni announced that there will be a walk-through of the June Mazer Lesbian Archives on Saturday to address the concern of accessibility , and that there will be an estimate of the cost of renovating the elevator there. He also gave a partial update on the Halloween Carnival, announcing that there will be sheriffs on each block, and if emergency services are needed, they should be informed.

14. MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY DAMIEN GONSALVES

Damien Gonsalves spoke about the loss of his two siblings with genetic diseases at a young age, and then performed two songs.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm in honor of the son of Larry Block's cousin to its next meeting on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.



DAB Chair – Larry Block