

# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

## *Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board April 27, 2016 Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park*

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jim Chud led the pledge of allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jim Chud, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith, and Michael Wojtkielewicz.

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich, Yola Dore, and Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Derek Murray and Kim Patterson

### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the April 27, 2016 meeting was approved, with the amendment to increase Public Comment to three minutes.

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 23, 2016 meeting were approved.

### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

### 7. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. PRESENTATION FROM INFINITE FLOW

The Board heard and watched a presentation from Marisa Hamamoto from Infinite Flow – A Wheelchair Dance Company. This one-year old company produces performances and provides dance instruction to wheelchair users.

### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. REPORT FROM PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Smith gave a report from the Pharmaceutical Pricing Subcommittee. They are looking at two possible dates for the town hall, either September 14 or September 21 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the Council Chambers. The topics discussed will include a) Medicare's failure to negotiate affordable pharmaceuticals; b) financial assistance for those in need; c) actions consumers can take; and d) current and past legislation. After the event, non-profit advocacy groups will provide information

and answer questions in the lobby. Proposals were made for the moderator; staff will follow-up to see who is available.

## **B. SUBCOMMITTEE FOR DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

The following report was given from the first subcommittee meeting of the year.

- The subcommittee suggests the title of this year's televised event and awards presentation should be *Moving Forward & Giving Back*. The subcommittee suggests that the overall theme of the event should focus on innovations and technology that enhance abilities and improve quality of life.
- The subcommittee recommends showing video clips of different disability innovations throughout the event. These can include videos featuring new technologies such as wheelchairs that climb stairs, stem cell research, brain implants, and prosthetic arms -- also known as bionic arms.
- The subcommittee discussed giveaways for the event and staff gave some options to choose from. The first option is a blinking star that can be clipped onto oneself at night or attach to a walker. The other options include a loud rescue whistle for emergencies and a small flashlight that is bright and takes regular AAA batteries.
- For the buttons, staff gave an option of using a different disabilities icon this year. The icon symbolizes the idea that all people with disabilities can be active and engaged. With the DAB's approval, the suggested symbol on the button is to replace the O in WeHo and be rainbow in color. The subcommittee discussed writing the *Moving Forward and Giving Back* title of the event on the button.
- The subcommittee would like to invite the Johnny Mercer Children's Choir back to the event.
- There was discussion about asking a disabled veterans group to do the Color Guard at the event. Staff will continue to look for a group that can do it.
- The subcommittee would like to bring Rick's step and repeat banner back to this event and bring it into the event so others can see it.
- The subcommittee discussed displaying paintings and having an arts and craft market at the televised event. The subcommittee decided against having a market at the televised event and thought the Health and Wellness Event might be a better fit.
- The subcommittee discussed the possibility of inviting Infinite Flow to the Health and Wellness Event to do a dance demonstration and/or class for participants.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Erickson, of the City's Special Events division, invited the Board to participate free-of-charge to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Leadership Conference on May 6 & 7.

Cathy Blaivis, resident, commended Infinite Flow's presentation and work. She also announced that a friend passed away and left a chair lift which will be donated to anyone who needs it and can pay for its removal. Interested parties can contact Michael Wojtkielewicz.

## **10. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS**

Anny Semonco attended Women's Advisory Board meeting where the Women's Leadership Conference was discussed.

Jim Chud reported on affordable housing advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS. He also raised concern about vermin in the building where he lives, and noted that people living with HIV/AIDS are particularly vulnerable to illness caused by vermin.

Michael Wojtkielewicz added to Jim Chud's comments at the same building, and noted that ivy attracts rats. He announced that today is Denim Day. He also mentioned that April 30 is Prescription Drug Take Back Day, and reported that the Sheriffs have a permanent receptacle for drug disposal, which is much safer than tossing or flushing pharmaceuticals. Lastly, he announced the Pawsapoolooza pet festival which will take place on May 1 at West Hollywood Park.

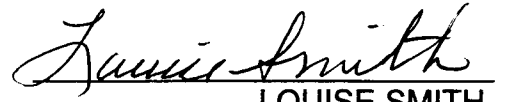
## **11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Derek Murray passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for the Senior Health Fair on May 11. He announced that PrEP street banners are currently on display on Santa Monica Blvd. He handed out direct deposit forms for those on the Board who wish to participate.


## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 6 PM in Rooms 5 & 6 of the Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 27<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF APRIL, 2016.

  
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LOUISE SMITH,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
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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.)***