

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

June 28, 2017

Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Keith Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Tom Demille, Yola Dore, Joy Freiberg, David Nash, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich

STAFF PRESENT: Joan Mithers, Derek Murray, and Kim Patterson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the June 28, 2017 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 24, 2017 meeting were approved by the Board.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jake Weinraub, from the LA LGBT Center's Mental Health Services, announced that individual counseling, group support, and psychiatric services are available through their program.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, expressed concerns about the WeHo Bike Share program and the pharmaceutical drug town hall.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There was none.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Reed Strege and Ben Pomeroy of the Braille Institute gave a presentation about the many free services that are offered, including 85,000 books in their library and the development of a digital book player in an effort to greatly expand their available titles. Keith Williams of the Westside Center for Independent Living spoke of their all-free services and devices, including the C-Pen which can read back and record print.

Stephanie Harker, resident, asked if the City funds the Braille Institute, and suggested that a small office in West Hollywood could facilitate actors volunteering to record audio books for them.

B. RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE DISABILITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Board unanimously moved to receive and approve the Rules and Procedures, in addition to the award nomination form with the suggested re-order of items under Nomination Criteria.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The subcommittee recommended Sheila Kuehl be invited to discuss healthcare at the televised meeting or a community agency, such as the LGBT Center, speak at the meeting if Supervisor Kuehl cannot attend. The subcommittee recommended a keynote address from Hilary Selvin, Executive Director of NCJW/LA and a mix of savory and sweets at the reception.

Staff recommended not having multiple members of the Board playing a dual role at the televised event, as both a Board member and musical entertainment. Staff said that there is a lot of preparation that goes into the televised meeting already and it would be difficult to serve both roles during the meeting.

The Board approved the subcommittee recommendations with a friendly amendment, which is to recommend a speaker from social services discuss available services in the City, if Supervisor Kuehl cannot speak at the meeting.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, expressed concern about the Disabilities Awareness Month subcommittee meetings, and limited services provided by the LA LGBT Center.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There was none.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff announced the following:

- The West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation uses CASP (Certified Access Specialists) for all new housing.
- A study session on universal design will be held toward the end of the year; Diane Burbie could facilitate.
- Public Works plans to renovate the loading area in front of the Palm View apartments in late summer.
- The Board's approved service animal statement was submitted to the City Council subcommittee.
- The bi-annual newsletter will premiere in October.
- Jake Weinraub of LA LGBT Center's Mental Health Services will return to make a presentation in August or September.
- Board elections will be held in July.
- The LA LGBT Center operates under Federal Qualifying Health Care guidelines so they are required to serve everyone.
- A fact sheet about Medicaid caps was distributed.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

7. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Anny Semonco attended the Women's Advisory Board meeting. She asked if California passed single payer, and staff responded that it still needs to pass the State Assembly.

David Nash suggested that Board member comments be limited to two minutes. He also asked if staff could get back to him about pest control. Lastly, he asked about the cost of iPhones and iPads and how costs could be covered.

Joy Freiberg thanked the speakers, and asked for clarification about CASP.

Louise Smith attended an Access meeting where they announced a grant for 170 vans to assist with disabled people getting to work. She also asked about code changes for buildings that house seniors and disabled.

Rick Watts announced that SB562 for universal health passed the State Senate. He also announced that every month a representative from Assemblyman Richard Bloom's office is available at City Hall from Noon to 2 PM. He requested that if Council acts on signage about service animals, the sign should list the Board, in addition to the state and City. He also requested that the elections be moved to the August meeting due to the absence of several Board members in July.

Tom Demille reported that he spoke at the City Council meeting and mentioned

problems with the John Stewart Company. He also said that there is a three-page form for people with disabilities who don't have reasonable accommodation in their buildings.

Chair Dore asked to agendaize the topic of health care in West Hollywood before the October meeting. The motion was approved, with Joy Freiberg and Anny Semonco opposed, and Tom Demille abstaining. She asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Heidi Schroeder.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM in memory of Heidi Schroeder to its next meeting, which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, in Rooms 5&6 of Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 28th
DAY OF JUNE 2017.



YOLA DORE,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



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.)