

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board January 24, 2018 Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boardmember Rick Watts led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Yola Dore, Joy Freiberg, Mikie Friedman, Danny Hang, David Nash, Roderick Renfrew, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith and Rick Watts

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the January 24, 2018 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Borrelli, Human Services Commissioner, introduced himself as the new liaison to the Board, and said he looks forward to working with them in 2018.

Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke on several items. She recommends that sign language interpretation be available at every Council meeting; she discussed various matters regarding the Sierra Bonita Apartments; and she read a letter that she wrote to the City regarding access at Hart Park.

Vikee Waltrip, resident, spoke about ASL interpreter service for 911.

Richard Ray, Los Angeles resident, spoke about communication access, 911, and mass notification.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of prior Disabilities Advisory Board Disabilities Advisory Board meetings.

ACTION: Approve the minutes of October 25, 2017 and December 6, 2017.

Motion by Louise Smith, seconded by Yola Dore, and approved.

B. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACCESSIBLE DESIGN FEATURES IN HOUSING

SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board is requested to receive and file Board recommendations on accessible design features in housing.

ACTION: Approve the recommendations. **Motion by Louise Smith, seconded by Yola Dore, and approved.**

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS DEBRIEF

The Board thought that the televised meeting went very well. A highlight for many was the personal video message from Individual Awardee Maria Shriver. Meeting challenges were the acoustics and limited sight lines for all of the Board members at the dais. Several members mentioned that they missed the Braille Children's Choir that had sung at the televised meetings the past two years.

The Board thought that the Health & Wellness Fair was successful, providing much needed screenings and vaccinations. Board members would like to discuss publicity for future Disabilities Awareness Month events to attract more participation.

For next year's events, a subcommittee was selected which includes Anny Semonco, Louise Smith, and Rick Watts, with Mikie Friedman as the alternate.

Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke under Public Comment regarding closed captioning and Maria Shriver's video acceptance of the award.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2017-2018 WORKPLAN REVIEW AND AGENDA ITEM PRIORITIES

Staff reviewed the workplan, acknowledging the items that have been completed. They also led discussion on prioritization of additional agenda items. The Board concluded that their top priorities are legislation, emergency preparedness, and mental health.

An Outreach Event Ad-hoc Subcommittee was selected which includes Yola Dore, Chairperson Joy Freiberg, Danny Hang, and Louise Smith.

Volunteers for liaisons to Boards and Commissions were selected.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reported that Councilmember Meister requested input from the Senior Advisory Board on accessible design features in housing, so Joan Mithers and Derek Murray attended the SAB to share the DAB's Study Session suggestions.

Staff also read a letter from the Sheriff's Department in response to concerns about communication with people who are deaf.

Staff announced that free tax preparation services will be available through the JFS Freda Mohr Center.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Ray, Los Angeles resident, said the meeting was very good, and that emergency preparedness should include several elements, including accessible messaging, 911 mass notification service, and County-wide 911 coordination.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

David Nash obtained information on free cell phones with unlimited text.

Louise Smith attended the County Commission on Disabilities' Subcommittee on LGBT Issues. Boardmember Smith said that the Commission would like to work together with West Hollywood and to let her know if anyone is interested in collaboration.

Roderick Renfrew talked about dental services for community members

Mikie Friedman commented that mental health issues for seniors and the LGBT community are not the same.

Rick Watts announced the annual homeless count in West Hollywood on Thursday. He also reported on the untimely death of activist Matt Palazzolo and asked that the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

Anny Semonco made a motion to agendaize sign language interpreting services at City meetings and asked the staff liaisons to bring a staff report to the Board for discussion. Yola Dore seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Yola Dore wished everyone a happy Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day.

The Board joined Chairperson Freiberg in thanking Richard Ray for his participation and information. They also thanked the staff for their work on the Study Session and Work Plan.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:35 PM to its next meeting on **February 28** beginning at **5 PM in Rooms 5 & 6 of Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.**

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON
THIS 24th DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.



JOY FREIBERG,
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.)