

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

March 28, 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 Louise Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Roderick Renfrew

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the March 28, 2018 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

2.. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 28, 2018 meeting were approved by the Board.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PANEL

The Board received presentations by a panel including:

Lily Campbell, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, on personal supply kits and disaster plans;

Edgar Ramirez, Service Area Lieutenant for West Hollywood, on the Sheriffs' Communication Center;

Sinan Khan, L.A. County Office of Emergency Management, on the County's Emergency Survival Guide and the pamphlet for people living with disabilities;

Jorge Anaya, L.A. County Office of Emergency Management, on Alert LA County's multilingual messaging;

And Richard Pope, L.A. City's Department of Disability ADA Coordinator, on sign language interpreting.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Board received a presentation on the outreach subcommittee's recommendations and was asked to vote and approve the recommendations. The subcommittee recommended presence at the Kings Road and Palm/Larrabee National Night Out events, using leftover giveaways, developing games with an educational/informational component, partnering with a nonprofit, and having social service and transportation information available to community members. The subcommittee also recommended that Board member Dore request permission from the Neighborhood Watch Captains to participate at their chosen events. Board member Nash made a motion to approve the recommendations with an amendment; to replace the Palm/Larrabee location with the Gateway. The Board voted and approved the recommendations with the amendment.

Stephanie Harker, resident, during Public Comment, suggested that the Board consider attending the block party in the Poinsettia area.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff gave updates on the following:

- Staff responded to questions raised at the last meeting regarding statistics of senior fraud. Staff reported that 1 in 5 seniors are victims of financial fraud; and 51% of fraud is committed by strangers and 34% by family or friends. The crime is underreported and for every one report received, 23 are not reported. The West Hollywood Sherriff's Station informed staff that they receive 4 to 5 reports of senior fraud per year.
- The City Clerk informed the staff that study sessions can be called by the Board but need to address specific issues. A study session item can be placed on the agenda and it must pertain to a specific topic.
- Staff reported on the request that sign language interpreters be present at every Council meeting. The City Clerk forwarded the request to the Council Subcommittee and they stated that Council will not be placing this item on the agenda, because 1) the current policy is in compliance with the law and 2) fiscal responsibility.
- Staff read Hernan Molina's responses to questions from the Board regarding specific legislation and general trends.

Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke under Public Comment. She suggested that the Board push harder for ASL at Council meetings because the voice to text transcription is not accurate.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Harker, resident, announced progress on Hart Park at the last Council meeting, and reported that Costa Hawkins law on rent control may be repealed.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Danny Hang was sorry to miss the last meeting, and is glad to be back.

David Nash reported that the white on white transcription on the screen at Council meetings is difficult to read by the visually-impaired.

Louise Smith announced that the County Commission on Disabilities will be holding a Family Museum fundraiser for which she purchased twenty tickets and invited the Board to attend on April 11 from 4-7 PM. They will also be holding a fact-finding session on LGBT persons with disabilities in Long Beach on April 14. Lastly, she suggested that the County Office of Emergency Management be invited to either the Health & Wellness Fair or the Senior Fair.

Mikie Friedman attended the Office of Assemblyman Bloom's lecture on senior scams and found it very informative. She also announced that HR765 would recognize May 15 National Fraud Awareness Day.

Vice-Chair Anny Semonco announced the Women's Leadership Conference at the Shrine which will feature Michelle Obama. She also reported that the latest scam is about subpoenas, and people should inform the FCC if they receive such a call.

Yola Dore attended the Rent Stabilization and Housing Commission meeting where seismic retrofitting was discussed. She will submit a flyer for the next Tenants' Rights Clinic to staff to be distributed at the next meeting. She also attended the Human Services Commission meeting where a substance abuse treatment panel made a presentation. Lastly, she gave an updated on upcoming BeWell WeHo classes.

Chair Joy Freiberg thanked all of the speakers for their presentations. She reminded the public that requests for sign language interpreters must be made at least 48 hours in advance. She recommended that information on scams be included in the materials to be distributed at the National Night Out. She read the agenda for the Public Safety Commission which was discussing isolation and loneliness among seniors. She asked staff for an update on Seniors In Action.

Rick Watts recommended that outreach to the hearing-impaired be made about requesting sign language interpreters at public meetings. He suggested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Carmen Gloria Duran, mother of Mayor Pro Tempore John Duran, who gave a lifetime of service to the community.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:00 PM to its next meeting on **April 25** beginning at **6 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 28th DAY OF MARCH, 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.)