

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

April 25, 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: Joy Freiberg, Mikie Friedman, David Nash, Roderick Renfrew, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Yola Dore and Danny Hang

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the April 25, 2018 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Barrett, APLA Health & Wellness Homeless Outreach Specialist, introduced himself to the Board and asked people to contact him if they know or meet people who are homeless and want assistance.

Karen Eyres, Chair of the Women's Advisory Board, announced that today is Denim Day for sexual violence awareness; May 5 & 6 will be the Women's Leadership Conference, held jointly this year with the United State of Women; and May 15 will be the 25th anniversary of the Women's Advisory Board which will present a panel, "From Riot Grrrls to Nasty Women!".

Stephanie Harker, resident, was glad to see the ASL interpreters at the meeting, and hoped the Board would encourage Council to have signers at all of their meetings. She was also pleased to see the mental health panel on the agenda. Lastly, she announced the Older Adult Transportation "Pop Up" with LA Metro on May 23 from noon – 2 PM at Council Chambers.

2.. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. WEHO SMART CITY INITIATIVE

Kate Mayerson, Innovation Analyst, gave a presentation to the Board about the Smart City Strategic Plan to improve services and infrastructure through technology. She announced that prototype bus shelters will be installed in the summer which will provide real-time arrival screens and audio announcements, enhanced seating and lighting, phone chargers, and more.

B. OVERVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

Contracted social service providers gave a presentation to the Board on the free mental health services available to West Hollywood community members. Representatives from the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Mental Health Services Program, APLA's Behavioral Health Program and Being Alive discussed their programs as well as successes and challenges in reaching out to people with disabilities in West Hollywood. Derek Murray mentioned that the National Council of Jewish Women and Saban Community Clinic are also contracted to provide mental health services to West Hollywood. Services are available to everyone regardless of sexual orientation, HIV status, gender, or religious affiliation.

The Board discussed how they and the City can increase community awareness of these services. Suggestions included providing free ad space at the smart bus shelters, public access TV, and bulletin boards.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Kings Road National Night Out event, one of two event locations where the Board planned to participate, was cancelled. The Board voted to add a second outreach location to replace Kings Road, in addition to the Gateway. The subcommittee will bring a recommendation for the second location to the next meeting.

B. SPRING NEWSLETTER

The Board made several suggestions for the newsletter, including adding LA Alert, an RSVP for the Senior Health Fair lunch, relevant websites, and to change the Emergency Preparedness article into an easier to read format incorporating a checklist. The checklist could also be made into a handout for National Night Out.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff passed out a sign-up sheet for participation at the DAB table at the Senior Health Fair. They also gave an update on Social Services contracts: this is the mid-point for the contract year so Program Administrators Leslie Isenberg, Joan Mithers, and Derek Murray are reviewing quarterly reports to keep tabs on services provided. In addition, they drew attention to the email from Hernan Molina about HR620 (sent out in early April), including tips on how to get involved. Lastly, staff reminded the Board that elections for Chair and Vice-Chair will be held in July.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

David Nash thanked staff for the large-font agenda packets, and encouraged the City to become state-of-the-art in digital platforms.

Louise Smith announced that the Senior Month Awards will be presented at the Senior Advisory Board's televised meeting on May 23 in Council Chambers. She and Rick Watts attended several County Commission on Disabilities events, including the first focus group on LGBT needs in Long Beach.

Vice-Chair Anny Semonco will attend the Women's Advisory Board event on April 26. She will also download the app to view the Planning Commission's video agenda.

Rick Watts moved to adjourn the meeting in memory of Barbara Bush.

Roderick Renfrew seconded the motion.

Mikie Friedman announced that the WeHo Arts has created four lovely micro-parks throughout the City.

Chair Joy Freiberg thanked all of the speakers for their presentations and the interpreters for their diligent work.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in memory of Barbara Bush at 7:45 PM to its next meeting on **May 23, 2018** 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 25th DAY OF APRIL, 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.)