

**WEST HOLLYWOOD SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, May 23, 2018  
West Hollywood Council Chambers  
625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Allendorfer at 2 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Barbara Meltzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members present: John Allendorfer, Esther Baum, Sophia Gelman, Bernice Levin, William McNeeley, Joy Nuell, and Lee Walkup

Members absent: Pat Dixon and Michael Hollingsworth

Staff present: Leslie Isenberg, Corey Roskin and Kim Patterson

4. ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

Lee Walkup moved to adjourn in memory of the ten people who died in the high school in Santa Fe, Texas, and the others who were injured.

Chair John Allendorfer moved to adjourn in memory of his brother CJ Allendorfer.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

7. BOARDMEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMENTS

All members have been thankful for the opportunity to serve on the Board, and encouraged the audience to participate in the City's many activities. In addition, they added the following highlights:

Sophia Gelman has been excited as a doctor to help the Jewish community. She also enjoys the writing class and her writings have been published.

Joy Nuell has been a docent at the zoo and LACMA, and serves on the Friends of the West Hollywood Library Board.

Lee Walkup has been with the Gay Men's Chorus for 29 years and is very politically active.

William McNeeley hails from New York and has helped with Pride events since the original Stonewall parade, and has volunteered with AIDS Project LA.

Esther Baum has volunteered in many capacities in the City.

Vice-Chair Bernice Levin worked at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center and was the host of the cable TV show, Senior Buzz.

Chair John Allendorfer served on the first Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, was editor of APLA's Optimist, and is proud to have helped develop Seniors in Action and the Senior/Youth Video Project.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marina Berkman, Director of the Comprehensive Services Center, congratulated the Board on their very successful Senior Month. She also congratulated Senior Month awardee Raisa Aguf. She encouraged everyone to utilize the Center's services and activities where the goal is Aging in Place.

Louise Smith, liaison from the Disabilities Advisory Board, congratulated the Board for their successful year and Senior Month. She also extended the DAB's congratulations to Raisa Aguf.

Shannon Louis, one of the newest deputies in Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, introduced herself to the SAB.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. SENIOR AWARD PRESENTATION TO RAISA AGUF

Mayor John Duran presented Raisa Aguf with the 2018 Senior Month Award. He and Councilmembers John Heilman, Lindsey Horvath and Lauren Meister, thanked the Board for their excellent work, and congratulated Raisa Aguf on her well-deserved award. Melissa Kaufler from Assemblymember Richard Bloom's office also presented Raisa with a certificate of appreciation.

Ms. Aguf spoke about how honored she was to receive the award, as well as to live in West Hollywood for the past 38 years.

B. SENIOR MONTH UPDATE AND OVERVIEW

Leslie Isenberg reported on this year's successful Senior Month, including the Senior Health Fair which provided a wide variety of services and screenings. She also spoke about the inaugural Seniors in Action event where a diverse group of 20 attendees gathered to view and discuss a TED Talk; participate in a group art project; and discuss their interests, skills and talents. This is the first in a series of six gatherings which will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 PM in the West Hollywood Library Community Room.

Leslie also reported that prior to the televised SAB meeting there was a Metro Transit Pop-Up to familiarize seniors with public transit options. She also announced the upcoming WeHo Reads/Lesbian Speakers Series event with historian Lillian Faderman entitled "Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death" (May 30 at 7 PM in Council Chambers).

#### C. SENIOR STORIES WEHO

Johanna Pick was unable to attend, so Board Chair Allendorfer read the introduction by Kim Dower, City Poet Laureate of West Hollywood, from the 2018 publication.

#### D. ITEMS FROM SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Nancy Desser, Activities Coordinator from the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center, announced the June calendar. She also spoke about how much she has enjoyed working with the Board, as she transfers to another center. She introduced Valentina Aleksandrova who will be the new coordinator. Mandi Carpenter who oversees six Senior Centers, including West Hollywood's, also thanked the Board for their work. Valentina introduced herself and looks forward to working together.

#### E. WEST HOLLYWOOD'S AGING IN PLACE INITIATIVE

The Board debuted the third of a series of videos that have been made to publicize the variety of social services available to West Hollywood community members. This one highlighted the work of attorney Alla Chasnick at Bet Tzedek Legal Services.

#### F. SENIOR STORIES WEHO

Sofiya Gelman read "I Sing a Song to Retired Russian Doctors" from the 2018 "Senior Stories WeHo" publication.

#### G. SENIOR/YOUTH VIDEO PROJECT

Producer Tyler Stanley introduced the Senior/Youth Video Project, an oral history project and collaboration between youth from the City's Teen Center and members of the Senior Advisory Board. The video was debuted and featured most of the Senior Advisory Board members.

#### 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

#### 12. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Esther Baum encouraged everyone to be active to make the City the best it can be. She also spoke about the need for more studio apartments with lower rent.

Joy Nuell raised ongoing concern about spiraling rent and affordable housing, especially for seniors.

Lee Walkup urged everyone to enjoy the City, agreed with Joy Nuell about the rising rents, and thanked Louise Smith for attending. He announced that the Disabilities Advisory Board will meet at Plummer Park in Rooms 5 & 6 for their

monthly meeting at 6 PM.

William McNeeley invited everyone to utilize the West Hollywood Library. He thanked the staff for their hard work. He also suggested fixing the apps that create traffic interruptions in the residential areas

Vice-Chair Bernice Levin thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and cordially invited those watching at home to attend future meetings.

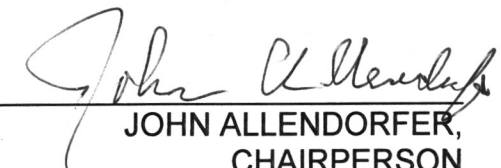
Chair John Allendorfer thanked staff for their great support and the Board for "being on fire". He was honored that the Mayor and City Councilmembers attended the SAB meeting, and agreed with the Mayor's comment that lower rents are a high priority. He encouraged seniors to participate in the Pride activities throughout the month of June.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items to report.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Senior Advisory Board adjourned in memory of the people who died or were injured in the high school in Santa Fe, Texas, and in memory of CJ Allendorfer, at 3:45 PM to its next meeting on **Wednesday, June 27, 2018** beginning at **2 PM** in the **Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. West Hollywood, CA 90069.**

  
JOHN ALLENDORFER,  
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.)***