

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
TELECONFERENCE MEETING

September 23, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Watts led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Patrick Blood and Danny Hang

STAFF PRESENT: Derek Murray, Leslie Isenberg, Doug Nguyen and Kim Patterson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the September 23, 2020 meeting was approved by the Board with the revision to add a 15-minute break between 3A and 3B.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Noemi Torres, Public Facilities Commissioner, thanked the Board for including Item 3A on Hart Park.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 26, 2020 meetings were approved by the Board with the correction that Louise Smith attended the last meeting, but Mikie Friedman did not. There were two abstentions.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. WILLIAM S. HART PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Christina Sarkees, Urban Design and Architecture, and Oscar Johnson, MIG, presented conceptual design plans for site accessibility and amenity upgrades at William S. Hart Park.

Under Public Comment, Stephanie Harker, resident, thanked all involved for this progress, and asked if the report and PowerPoint presentation would be posted on-line.

Also under Public Comment, Sepi Shyne, resident, expressed excitement for these developments.

Third under Public Comment, Joanne Lutz, resident, gave her preferences for the plans.

The Board expressed their preferences for an elevator and AstroTurf to facilitate access to the park, specifically for the dog park.

B. VOTING OPTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk, discussed accessible voting options. Melissa Crowder, Assistant City Clerk, gave a presentation on the various ways that community members can safely vote in the November 3rd election.

Under Public Comment, Stephanie Harker volunteered to deliver ballots for those who have mobility issues.

Also under Public Comment, Sepi Shyne offered voting assistance services through her organization, WeHo Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SELECTION OF 2020 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

This item will be discussed in full at the special Disabilities Advisory Board teleconference meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 6 PM to allow more participation from the public for the nomination process. Derek Murray reviewed the rules for nominations and the decision at the previous Board meeting to select four local heroes -- individuals or groups -- who have provided essential services to people with disabilities during the pandemic.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Harker discussed American Sign Language interpretation at Board and Commission meetings. She also discussed the Progressive Voters Guide.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Yola Dore moved to adjourn the meeting in memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Joy Freiberg suggested that N-95 masks be mailed to residents and encouraged a COVID-19 testing site in West Hollywood.

Mikie Friedman wished everyone a happy holiday and wished Joan Mithers the best during her recovery. She encouraged caution at street crossings and moved to adjourn in memory of Gale Sayers.

David Nash thanked Yola Dore for alerting Board members about COVID-19 in February and asked about the re-opening of the West Hollywood Pool, as well as the crosswalk at Palm Avenue. He said that a priority should be made for people with disabilities when considering park plans.

Vice-Chair Rick Watts noted that Council approved the item recommended by the Board on COVID-19 signage in multi-unit buildings. He also mentioned that he is distributing face coverings to community members.

Chair Semonco shared that she received an email from Patrick Blood and noted that his comments were all covered in the meeting. She also hopes he is doing well.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Gale Sayers at 8:18 PM to a special teleconference meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 beginning at 6 PM.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 23rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.


ANNY SEMONCO,
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.)