

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

APRIL 28, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Semonco called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Blood led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Danny Gomez

STAFF PRESENT: Derek Murray, Joan Mithers and Kim Patterson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the April 28, 2021 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joy Freiberg, resident, thanked the Board for the education she received during her time with the DAB, and stated that she will carry that knowledge on to the Human Services Commission.

Rick Watts, resident, congratulated Joy Freiberg and stated that her appointment to the Human Services Commission will be beneficial to West Hollywood community members living with disabilities and spoke to the importance of the advisory boards.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 24, 2021 were approved.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. OPULENT MOBILITY EXHIBIT

Rebecca Ehemann, Acting Arts Manager, announced an upcoming exhibit titled *Opulent Mobility*, which reimagines disability and explores issues of bias and accessibility. The exhibit will be held at Plummer Park's Long Hall during Disabilities Awareness Month. She also announced a call for artists for the exhibition.

B. WEST HOLLYWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES CENTER

Marina Berkman, Program Director JFSLA, and Tara Maazel, Mental Health and Disability Specialist at JFSLA, gave an overview of the services that JFSLA provides to older adults and people living with disabilities. They also updated the Board on how services were provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Joan Mithers gave highlights from Public Works on the status of the Disabilities Advisory Board's recommendations for Sidewalk Accessibility and Crosswalk Safety. The full update will be sent to the Board.

Derek Murray informed the board that there will be presentations from the City's mental health providers at the May 11th Human Services Commission.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Boardmembers congratulated Joy Freiberg on her appointment to the Human Services Commission, thanked the presenters, staff and residents who spoke at Public Comment.

Boardmember Blood spoke of informing friends about JFSLA services, and thanked pharmacies for providing vaccinations. He spoke of an incident in East LA where law enforcement shot a person with autism. He encouraged West Hollywood to send the MET Team and not armed deputies to respond to incidents involving people with disabilities. He also spoke of mental health, the Oscars, and a charity event called Color the Spectrum on April 30.

Boardmember Dore was appreciative of presenters who spoke to issues concerning people with disabilities. She also mentioned the Oscars and the movie My Father.

Boardmember Friedman said she was disappointed in the length of time it has taken to re-appoint at-large members. She discussed COVID-19 vaccines and spoke about limiting dogs in grocery stores. She appreciated the presentations that were based on disabilities and reminded the Board of National Senior Fraud Awareness Day on May 15th.

Boardmember Hang reported that the House Natural Resources Committee held a subcommittee hearing on Accessibility for People with Disabilities to National Parks and Public Lands.

Boardmember Nash appreciated the update on Sidewalk Accessibility and Crosswalk Safety. He thanked the City for the stop sign on Palm Avenue and asked about a crosswalk on that street. He was supportive of limiting dogs in grocery stores.

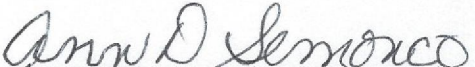
Boardmember Smith reported back from the County Commission on Disabilities about transportation available to vaccination sites and meal delivery through Access services. She stated that Access was resuming two passenger per vehicle capacity. She was supportive of limiting dogs in grocery stores. She encouraged more outreach to the community about the DAB and discussed advocacy for mental health services.

Chair Semonco stated that she attended the Women's Leadership Awards. She discussed closed captioning and said the closed captioning text at City Council meetings needs to be larger.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in honor of Edith Prentiss, Nick Springer at 8:00 PM to the next teleconference meeting at 6 PM on May 26, 2021.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON
THIS 28th DAY OF APRIL, 2021.



ANNY SEMONCO,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Douglas Nguyen
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.)