

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD TELECONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022
2 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nuell at 2:02 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Francisco Gomez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members present: John Allendorfer, Esther Baum, Pat Dixon, David Eichman, Michael Hollingsworth, William McNeeley, Nadia Sutton, Lee Walkup, and Joy Nuell.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: Katie Egan, Francisco Gomez, Leslie Isenberg, Joyce Britton, Becca Lubin

4. ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the January 26, 2022, Senior Advisory Board meeting were approved unanimously by the Board.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Meltzer spoke on the AWE programs at Jewish Family Services.

Patricia Ortega shared information about the City's Needs Assessment survey and encouraged the Board's and the public's participation.

Leslie Isenberg introduced new City Social Services Staff: Joyce Britton (Administrative Specialist IV) and Becca Lubin (Social Services Intern).

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. ITEMS FROM SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM

SUBJECT: The Senior Advisory Board received an update from Jewish Family Service regarding remote programs and classes sponsored by the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center.

Alex Pagan-Mejia, Activities Assistant at Jewish Family Service Los Angeles (JFS), reported on recent and upcoming programming for older adults.

Boardmember Allendorfer spoke about the February Seniors in Action meeting, led by Jewish Family Service.

Boardmember Dixon asked if the improv classes were virtual or in-person. Mr. Pagan-Mejia confirmed that the classes are virtual at this time.

ACTION: Receive and file.

B. JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE PRESENTATION ON NEW TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

SUBJECT: The Senior Advisory Board received a presentation from Alex Pagan-Mejia, Activities Assistant at Jewish Family Service Los Angeles (JFS), focused on the agency's latest innovative program, Tech 4 You. The program is designed to help older adults become better acquainted with new technology.

Alex Pagan-Mejia provided information on the challenges that some Jewish Family Service participants face when interfacing with technology and provided details regarding the support services offered through JFS and the Tech 4 You program.

Chair Nuell asked how community members could get connected to the program. Alex encouraged the Board and older adults in the community to contact JFS to receive assistance.

ACTION: Receive and comment.

C. RENT STABILIZATION AND HOUSING DIVISION UPDATE

SUBJECT: Jonathan Holub, Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager at the City of West Hollywood provided an update on the Division and emergency rent and housing policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jonathan Holub provided background on recent updates to the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance and information on the eviction moratorium, tenant

protections, and rental assistance support for people impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTION: Receive and comment.

D. WEST HOLLYWOOD GUARANTEED INCOME PILOT PROJECT PRESENTATION

SUBJECT: The Senior Advisory Board will receive a presentation from Diane Kahn-Epstein, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator, on the City of West Hollywood's Guaranteed Income Pilot Project for LGBTQIA older adults.

Diane Kahn-Epstein and Rachel Resnick, Chief Program Officer at the National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW), provided background on the City's Guaranteed Income Pilot Project. The City has contracted NCJW to administer the program.

Boardmember Hollingsworth asked about income verification requirements for the program's application. Ms. Resnick explained that applicants can provide various forms of documentation to demonstrate income eligibility, including tax returns, bank statements, and other options.

Boardmember Hollingsworth asked how applicants could submit income verification documents. Ms. Resnick stated that those documents could be submitted online, as well as via email and mail.

Boardmember Hollingsworth asked if the program is likely to be implemented permanently. Ms. Kahn-Epstein stated that it is unknown whether the program will be expanded long-term by the City.

Boardmember Walkup asked whether income requirements are determined by person or by household. Ms. Resnick responded that the income requirements are on a sliding scale based on the number of people in the household and their relationship to each other.

Boardmember Hollingsworth asked if a 2020 tax return could be used to apply for the program if someone had not yet completed their taxes for 2021. Ms. Resnick responded in the affirmative.

ACTION: Receive and comment.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

11. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Boardmember Eichman reported on the most recent Transportation Commission meeting and spoke about the City's pickleball clinic.

Boardmember Allendorfer spoke about the vacant lot at Santa Monica Blvd. and Crescent Heights Blvd. and favored using that space for low-income and affordable housing.

Boardmember Dixon spoke in favor of turning the vacant lot into a park.

Vice-Chair Walkup stated that a new Sheriff's Department building was being considered for the vacant lot.

The Board expressed interest in having a presentation on the vacant lot at a future Senior Advisory Board meeting.

Boardmember Hollingsworth asked about the City's response to crime. Leslie Isenberg stated that questions regarding Public Safety are best addressed to the City's Public Safety Department and the Sheriff's Department.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Katie Egan, Social Services Program Administrator, spoke about the City's Needs Assessment survey and encouraged the Board's and the public's participation.

Leslie Isenberg, Social Services Supervisor, shared the following with the Board:

- The Human Services Commission will receive feedback from City Boards and Commissions regarding social services needs for the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) process at their next meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. John Allendorfer will participate in the meeting as the Senior Advisory Board representative.
- City Council will consider the Los Angeles Community College District Plan for Petition at their next meeting on Monday, March 7, 2022, per the Board's request.
- City Council approved changes to the Senior Advisory Board's bylaws at their December 20, 2021, meeting. Staff shared these changes with the Board in January.
- Leslie will transition out of her role as staff liaison for the Senior Advisory Board starting in April. Francisco Gomez, Transportation Program Administrator, and Katie Egan, Social Services Program Administrator, will remain as staff liaisons, and Joyce Britton will provide administrative support.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Senior Advisory Board adjourned at 3:25 PM to its next teleconference meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, beginning at 2 PM.

DocuSigned by:

Joy Nuell

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JOY NUELL,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

FRANCISCO GOMEZ

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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.)