

**SPECIAL TELEVISED MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022
6:00 PM**

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Watts called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in memory of Michael Arrigo.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Lee Walkup led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Patrick Blood, Yola Dore, Mikie Friedman, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith, David Nash, Rick Watts

ABSENT: Danny Gomez

STAFF: Leslie Isenberg, Joan Mithers, Derek Murray, Dee Saunders, Joyce Britton, Becca Lubin

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Disabilities Advisory Board is approved the agenda of Wednesday, October 26, 2022.

ACTION: Motion by Board Member Blood, seconded by Vice Chair Nash MOTION PASSED.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Walkup, liaison from the Senior Advisory Board, shared Veteran resources with the Board.

Danny Hang thanked the Board for their advocacy for persons living with disabilities and congratulated the recipients of this year's Disability Service Awards. Lastly, Danny thanked Joan Mithers, Social Services Program Administrator, for her service to the City and wished her well on her retirement.

Stephanie Harker thanked the Board for their services to the disabled community and the citizens of West Hollywood. She congratulated the recipients of the Service Awards.

Wendy Arnold thanked the Board and Council for all the work they do for the City of West Hollywood. Wendy thanked the Board for honoring Dena Saur Bowman, Disability Service Award recipient.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ACHIEVEMENTS

Disabilities Advisory Board members reviewed Board accomplishments for the year.

Board member Semonco spoke about educational reference presentations focused on services and information affecting people living with disabilities. She welcomed audience and members of City Council.

Board Member Smith congratulated all award recipients and reflected on her involvement with the Board, including former Board members who have passed on. Board member Smith highlighted some of the health screenings and special events and expressed her gratitude.

Chair Watts recognized some of the health screenings. He introduced Mayor Lauren Meister, who gave the proclamation from the City Council in recognition of Disabilities Awareness Month.

B. 2022 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The Disabilities Advisory Board Members presented the 2022 Disability Service Awards:

Business Award: Pavilions West Hollywood

Nonprofit Award: West Hollywood Comprehensive Service Center/JFSLA

Media Award: Paulo Murillo

Lovedy Brydon Differently Abled Individual Award:
Dena Saur Bowman (1974-2022)

4. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff requested the Disabilities Advisory Board's consensus to schedule a special meeting on November 16, 2022 to discuss gender-neutral multi-stall restrooms and city OUT Zones. The Special Zoom meeting will be in lieu of the scheduled December 7, 2022 meeting. The Board unanimously voted for the special meeting by consensus.

Joan Mithers, Program Administrator, congratulated the honorees and also the Board for another productive and meaningful year. She thanked the previous Chair and the newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mayor Meister thanked Joan for her service and congratulated her on her retirement.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: PERSEVERANCE, SECURITY AND HOPE

Board Member Blood reflected on a quote about perseverance and expressed how much the Board inspires him with their passion for advocacy for persons living with disabilities. He briefly reflected on his time serving as Chair and how he looks forward to the meetings each month. He thanked the City Council for their recognition of people living with disabilities.

Board Member Dore spoke about the times that they have to persevere over the past few years and how the Board continues to advocate for persons living with disabilities. Board member Dore thanked Joan and the rest of the staff for all their support.

Board Member Friedman spoke about her experience living with a disability congratulated all the award recipients. She also thanked the staff and highlighted Joan Mithers' contributions. Board member Friedman wished the Board a safe, secure holiday season and New Year.

Board Member Semonco spoke about some challenges she faced. She thanked the transportation department and the Social Services Division staff for their assistance with connecting her to services.

Board Member Smith spoke of her experience on the Board and how they come together and persevere. She thanked the staff for their support and wished Joan well in her retirement. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve with them.

Vice-Chair Nash thanked the Disability Service Award recipients and acknowledged Social Services staff members who are retired. He encouraged anyone to engage with City staff because they are very supportive and helpful.

Chair Watts thanked the Disability Service Award recipients for their service. He thanked Mayor Meister and Councilman D'Amico for their years of service and for joining in the evening honoring the award recipients. Chair Watts also thanked the staff for their hard work and recognized Joan Mithers and David Giugni for their years of service. Lastly, he expressed how humbled he was to serve alongside his colleagues.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in honor of Michael Arrigo, Dena Saur and all other honorees to its next special meeting which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 25th DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.



RICK WATTS,
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.)