

**MINUTES  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023  
6:00 PM**

**PLUMMER PARK, ROOMS 5&6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90046**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Member Blood led the pledge.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Patrick Blood, Yola Dore, Anny  
Semonco, Louise Smith, Rick Watts

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Dee Saunders, Francisco Gomez, Joyce Britton

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*SUBJECT:* The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the meeting agenda for April 26, 2023.

**ACTION:** Motion by Board Member Blood, seconded by Board Member Dore. **MOTION PASSED.**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*SUBJECT:* Receive and approve minutes of the February 22, 2023 meeting.

**ACTION: Motion by Board Member Dore, seconded by Board Member Blood. MOTION PASSED.**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. COMMUNITY SAFETY PRESENTATION**

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a general update from the Community Safety Department and a presentation on emergency preparedness for people living with disabilities. The Board directed staff to work with the Community Safety Department to obtain emergency preparedness materials for persons living with disabilities from the LA County Supervisors office.

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. SCREENING EVENT OUTREACH DEBRIEF**

The Disabilities Advisory Board provided feedback from their April 15, 2023 outreach at the "Boys Don't Wear Dresses" film screening.

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

None.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cathy Blavis thanked the Board for their work and dedication to persons living with disabilities. She reminded everyone of the importance of having accessibility to public meetings, especially for those aging in place. Lastly, she showed support of a Disabilities Awareness Month idea the Board previously discussed, which is to have council "Live a Day with My Disability."

Stephanie Harker encouraged the Board and general public to continue bringing awareness to the impact scooters and delivery robots have on community members living with disabilities and shared a recent encounter she witnessed where a delivery robot almost caused an accident.

## 7. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Boardmember Dore shared her recent encounters with the delivery robots. She sent Danny Gomez and Tom Demille well wishes and a speedy recovery. She congratulated Boardmember Blood on his Emmy nomination and appointment to the LGBTQ+ Commission. Lastly, Boardmember Dore shared her support for the AB 1620.

Boardmember Smith sent Tom Demille well wishes. She informed everyone of LA County's paratransit funding which will give people the opportunity to have a community member drive them and get reimbursement for mileage. Lastly, Boardmember Smith shared the importance of providing virtual accessibility to public meetings, specifically for persons living with disabilities and directed staff to work with Hernan Molina, Governmental Affairs Liaison, to encourage elected officials to pass a law in support of this.

Boardmember Blood thanked Danny Rivas, Community Safety Director, and Margarita Kustanovich, Emergency Management Coordinator, for their presentation and encouraged the public to make sure they have emergency supplies. He thanked the staff and Board for their support and work as public servants and thanked those who shared during public comment. Boardmember Blood spoke on the importance of providing reasonable accommodations and accessibility to public meetings and directed staff to work with the City Attorney on remaining ADA compliant. Lastly, he shared the recent passing of a federal bill providing funding for home aid assistance for seniors and persons living with disabilities.

Chair Watts thanked Boardmember Blood for his service on the Board. He shared the importance of having a diverse Board to include representation of silent disabilities. Chair Watts encouraged the public to attend other public meetings and write representatives and elected officials to encourage virtual accessibility to meetings. He directed staff to place on a future agenda collaborating with the Senior Advisory Board for the health screening event during Disabilities Awareness Month and creating a subcommittee to begin planning if all vacancies are filled. Lastly, Chair Watts sent thoughts and prayers to Tom Demille and Danny Gomez.

**8. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Dee Saunders, Social Services Specialist, encouraged the Board to reach out to Melissa Crowder, City Clerk, regarding questions or concerns around AB 2449. She also invited the Board to the City's upcoming National Sexual Assault Awareness Month outreach event.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

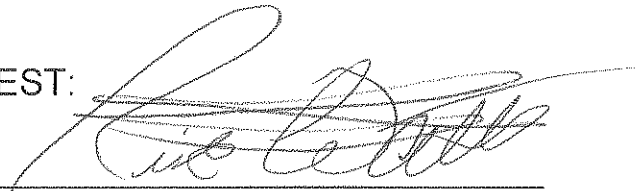
The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:05 pm to its next meeting which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at Plummer Park Rooms 5 & 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 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.)*