

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL TELEVISED MEETING**  
**OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**  
**2:00 PM**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**625 N. SAN VICENTE BLVD.**  
**WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dixon Called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Present: Board Member Carrel, Board Member Leroy, Board Member Schemanski, Board Member Sutton, Board Member Walkup, Vice-Chair Allendorfer, Chair Dixon

Absent: Board Member Hollingsworth

Also Present: Becca Lubin, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator, Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator, Joyce Britton, Administrative Specialist

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Barbara Meltzer led the Pledge.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** *The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda for the meeting on May 14, 2024. Motioned by Vice-Chair Allendorfer, seconded by Board Member Walkup and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** *The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2024, Older Adult Advisory Board meeting. Motioned by Board Member Carrel, seconded by Board Member Holguin and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

**E. BOARDMEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**ACTION:** Members of the Older Adults Advisory Board introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their time on the Board.

Board Member Sutton expressed her deep connection to the City and her passion for activism, citing her involvement in the Older Adults Advisory Board as particularly meaningful. Board Member Sutton thanked her fellow board members for their inspiration and recognized the City staff for their dedication.

Board Member Walkup expressed his enthusiasm for serving on the Older Adults Advisory Board. He emphasized his pride in being both a board member and a resident of West Hollywood, emphasizing the collective effort to improve the city.

Board Member Carrel expressed her honor in being a new member of the board, highlighting her extensive experience in older adult care for diverse populations. She mentioned her long-time residency in West Hollywood and expressed her desire to continue offering support and care to the community.

Board Member Holguin shared his history with West Hollywood and admiration for the City's growth. He expressed a desire to make a difference, particularly for older adults who he feels are sometimes overlooked. He praised the city council and staff for their efforts in providing opportunities and services for residents of all ages and expressed gratitude for the chance to be of service to the community.

Board Member Leroy, a 30-year resident of West Hollywood, emphasized the importance of community involvement, echoing the Board's sentiments. He stressed the value of actively participating in the City, highlighting the importance of making a positive impact in any way possible.

Board Member Schemanski, a new member of the Board, expressed his mission to listen, educate, and inspire older adults in West Hollywood, thanking the board for the opportunity to serve.

Vice-Chair Allendorfer shared his journey of community activism, including his involvement in the Older Adult Advisory Board since 2015 his role in creating the Seniors in Action program. He emphasized the importance of addressing the challenges of aging in place and encouraged others to engage in West Hollywood.

Chair Dixon shared her journey of community involvement, highlighting her time on the Board and her initial introduction to City Council meetings in West Hollywood, which inspired her activism. She expressed gratitude for the activists she has met along the way and emphasized the challenges of aging and the importance of the resources available in West Hollywood. Chair Dixon concluded by expressing her pride in her fellow board members and her excitement for the future.

## **F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Nickle shared heartfelt anecdotes about Older Adult Award honorees, Steve Martin and Mikie Friedman, both of whom have been instrumental in community activism in West Hollywood. George also praised Steve's ongoing commitment to the city and its residents, highlighting his past roles as council member and mayor. He described Mikie as someone who loves West Hollywood deeply, willing to speak up when necessary but also quick to support positive actions. George expressed gratitude for having such dedicated and caring individuals as friends and community members.

Louise Smith expressed gratitude to the Board for their work and welcomed new members. She mentioned serving on the Disabilities Advisory Board, working with Vice-Chair Allendorfer to promote aging in place initiatives. Louise congratulated award winners and expressed pride in the board's accomplishments and thanked them for the opportunity to speak.

Yola Dore, a resident of West Hollywood for over 30 years, commended the Board for their collaborative efforts. She expressed gratitude for the Board's ability to bring people together and create possibilities for the community. Yola praised the honorees and commended their work and the board's recognition of their efforts.

Karen Eyres, a resident of West Hollywood and liaison from the Human Services Commission, expressed gratitude for the Board's work. She commended the Board for using their experiences to guide the City's future, emphasizing the importance of older adults in shaping the City's direction. Karen congratulated the honorees of the Older Adults Awards and invited the Board to attend the Human Services Commission meeting, where Mental Health Awareness Month would be discussed.

Rick Watts, a resident of West Hollywood, congratulated the awardees' highlighting their contributions to the City. He acknowledged the Board's activism and its impact on the City and emphasized the importance of working together to address inequities.

Lauren Meister, a Councilmember and long-time resident of West Hollywood, expressed gratitude for the Board's advocacy for older adults. She commended the honorees and thanked the board for their service and dedication to making West Hollywood a better place.

William West Seegmiller expressed his intention to become more involved in the future and shared his appreciation for older mentors who have guided him through various challenges. He commended Steve Martin and Mikie Friedman and thanked the Board for honoring exemplary members of the community.

Stephanie Harker expressed gratitude for the Older Adults Advisory Board's work, acknowledging the commitment required to attend monthly meetings

and its value to both younger and older adults in the community. She congratulated the honorees and thanked the Board for recognizing Steve and Mikie's contributions.

Cathy Blaivas thanked the Older Adults Advisory Board for their work and acknowledged their efforts in making life easier for many in the community. She commended the Board's choice to recognize Mikie and Steve and thanked the Board for their service to the community.

Vice-Mayor Byers expressed gratitude for being part of the celebration and thanked and congratulated the honorees. She emphasized the importance of passion in driving community and thanked the honorees for their ongoing commitment and dedication. Vice-Mayor Byers concluded by thanking everyone for their participation in the celebration.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2024 OLDER ADULT AWARDS PRESENTATION TO MYRA "MIKIE" FRIEDMAN AND STEVE MARTIN**

A presentation was made to this year's Older Adults Month honorees.

**ACTION:** Chair Dixon presented the Older Adults Month Award to Mikie Friedman and Vice-Chair Allendorfer presented the second Older Adults Month Award to Steve Martin.

Mikie Friedman expressed gratitude for receiving the award. She pledged to continue fighting for the safety, comfort, and accessibility of older adults and people with disabilities, emphasizing that their safety should be a top priority for the city. She thanked the audience and promised to continue advocating for their welfare.

Steve Martin expressed gratitude for receiving the award and reflected on his time in West Hollywood, highlighting the community's creativity and diversity. He emphasized the enrichment he has received from his involvement in the City and the friendships he has made. Mr. Martin acknowledged the challenges the City has faced, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and expressed a sense of duty to live life for those who are no longer with us. Mr. Martin thanked the Board and the community for the award and for their support.

### **B. METRO'S ON THE MOVE RIDERS PROGRAM**

Zein Delgado of Los Angeles Metro presented an update on Metro's On the Move Riders Club.

**ACTION:** Received presentation.

### **C. MINDFULNESS MEDITATION**

Allyn Cioban, Jewish Family Service instructor, spoke about the importance

of mindfulness and led a brief meditation.

**ACTION:** The Board participated in a mindfulness exercise.

**D. ITEMS FROM JFS ACTIVITY PROGRAM**

City Staff provided information about recent and upcoming programs sponsored by the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center.

**ACTION:** Received presentation.

**E. UPDATE FROM WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY**

Arpine Eloyan, Library Manager, presented an update on programs of the West Hollywood library.

**ACTION:** Received presentation.

**F. WEST HOLLYWOOD TRANSIT UPDATE**

City Staff provided an update on West Hollywood transit services for older adults.

**ACTION:** Receive presentation.

**3. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

City staff announced an upcoming health fair for older adults on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10 am to 1 pm at Plummer Park, featuring health screenings, vaccinations, lunch, social activities, and giveaways. Staff mentioned that the Human Services Division will also have a table at the Pride street fair.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rick Watts thanked the Chair and members of the Older Adults Advisory Board, especially highlighting Mikie Friedman and Steve Martin for their contributions to making West Hollywood a better place. Mr. Watts expressed gratitude to all Board members for their contributions to the City.

**5. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

Board Member Sutton thanked the Board and congratulated the awardees.

Board Member Walkup mentioned the City's plan to install a Wi-Fi network and expressed interest in hearing an update on the progress of this project. He emphasized the importance of having a reliable Wi-Fi system for both older adults and young people in the City of West Hollywood.

Vice-Chair Allendorfer shared that he will be honored at the County 2024 Older Americans' Recognition Day (OARD) Event. He expressed gratitude for being allowed to represent the City and hopes to continue helping the City progress. He also welcomed new members to their first televised meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Board Member Leroy thanked everyone.

Board Member Schemanski thanked the Board and expressed his gratitude for serving.

Chair Dixon motioned to adjourn in memory of Sam Rubin, an entertainment reporter from Channel 5 and a powerful figure in Los Angeles.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Older Adults Advisory Board adjourned in memory of Sam Rubin at 3:30 PM to its next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the City Hall Community Conference Room.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 26<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF JUNE 2024.



PAT DIXON  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
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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.)*