

MINUTES
OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024
2:00 PM

WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Allendorfer called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Board Member Carrel
Board Member Dixon
Board Member Leroy
Board Member Schemanski
Board Member Sutton
Board Member Walkup
Vice Chair Holguin
Chair Allendorfer

Absent: Board Member Hollingsworth

ALSO

PRESENT: Francisco Gomez, Acting Strategic Initiatives Supervisor
Becca Lubin, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator
Joyce Britton, Recording Secretary, Administrative Specialist IV

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Wendy Goldman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda for the meeting on November 20, 2024. Noting the omission of Item 2C.

ACTION: Approved the agenda of Wednesday, November 20, 2024.
Motion by Vice Chair Holguin, seconded by Board Member Dixon and approved by roll call vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2024, Older Adult Advisory Board meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of Wednesday, October 23rd. **Motion by Board Member Dixon, seconded by Board Member Carrel and approved by roll call vote.**

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendy Goldman, West Hollywood resident and Cynthia-Sunset Neighborhood Watch captain, emphasized the need for action on safety issues like earthquake preparedness, pedestrian safety, and transportation. She encouraged collaborative meetings between boards commissions to address shared concerns.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. JFS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER ACTIVITIES UPDATE

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

ACTION: Received presentation.

B. NCJW|LA RENTAL ASSISTANCE PRESENTATION

Rachel Resnick, Chief Program Officer, provided a presentation on rental assistance and other work of NCJW|LA.

During the discussion, Rachel Resnick responded to questions from the Board and provided details about the National Council of Jewish Women's Rental Assistance Program, including its support for tenants at risk of homelessness and its four-month annual assistance cap. She emphasized the challenges of maintaining housing due to affordability and shared donation opportunities through their retail store, which helps fund additional assistance programs.

ACTION: Received presentation and discussed.

C. LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER SENIOR PROGRAM UPDATE

Michael McFadden, Assistant Director of Senior Services, will provide an update on the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Senior Services Program.

ACTION: This item was tabled.

D. WEST HOLLYWOOD BUS PASS PROGRAM UPDATE

Amy Valdepena, Human Services Specialist, presented on the West Hollywood Bus Pass Program for older adults and people living with disabilities.

Board members discussed cost differences between the West Hollywood program and other Metro programs.

ACTION: Received presentation.

3. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff updated the Board on the date and format of the December meeting, which will take place on December 18th at 2 PM and be followed by a Board Member luncheon.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Watts announced that the Disabilities Advisory Board will hold a combined November-December meeting on December 11 at Plummer Park, Rooms 5 and 6, encouraging attendance to discuss shared concerns. He also requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of Patrick Ryan Blood, a former Disability Advisory Board member, and Gary Davis, a community member and supporter of the AIDS Life Cycle, both of whom recently passed away.

5. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Board Member Walkup announced that the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will hold a Sugar Plum Fairies concert on December 14th and 15th.

Board Member Schemanski reminded everyone about the West Hollywood Day and State of the Community Celebration taking place on November 21.

Board Member Leroy shared thoughts on the book *Unclaimed*, which explores abandonment and hope in Los Angeles and highlights the county's annual burial of unclaimed individuals. He also highlighted an exhibition at the Hammer Museum featuring Ron Finley, an artist and activist in South Central LA, who transformed unused public spaces into urban gardens to address food deserts. Leroy praised Finley's work as an inspiring example of community impact.

Board Member Carrel thanked attendees and guests for sharing valuable information to support older adults and the community. She noted that Michael McFadden from the LGBTQ Center couldn't attend but encouraged the board to visit their Senior Center offers activities like support groups, free or low-cost lunches, and Mahjong Fridays. She celebrated her one-year anniversary on the board, expressing gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to serve. Board Member Carrel emphasized the importance of having conversations about end-of-life care and ensuring individuals receive respect and sacred passage when they pass.

Chair Allendorfer supported the idea of coordinating more meetings with the Disabilities Advisory Board to address shared city concerns, including safety and crime. He highlighted his completion of the Civic Leadership Academy, thanked the board for a productive year of discussions, and expressed gratitude for Board Member Carrel's contributions to the holiday season. He also expressed appreciation for the City Council's review of the Disability and Older Adults

Advisory Board minutes, noting it's encouraging that council members take the time to consider board member comments.

Vice Chair Holguin acknowledged Transgender Remembrance Day and the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Older Adults Advisory Board adjourned at 3:11 pm in memory of Patrick Ryan Blood and Gary Davis to its next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room at West Hollywood City Hall, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 18th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.



JOHN ALLENDORFER
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.)