



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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025  
6:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Board Member Dore  
Board Member Leathem  
Board Member Nash  
Board Member Schwartz  
Board Member Semonco  
Board Member Watts  
Vice Chair Mann  
Chair Smith

**Absent:** Board Member Green

**ALSO PRESENT:** Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator  
Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator  
Isaac Arredondo, Social Services Program Administrator  
Joyce Britton, Recording Secretary, Administrative Specialist IV

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Board Member Schwartz led the pledge.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the agenda of the February 26, 2025, Disabilities Advisory Board meeting. Motioned by Board Member Dore, seconded by Vice Chair Mann and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Joseph Green**, West Hollywood resident, shared that since the last Disabilities Advisory Board meeting, he attended the Social Justice Advisory Board meeting on January 28, the Disabilities Fair at the Center on January 30, and the West Hollywood LGBTQ+ Advisory Board meeting on February 13, noting that the February Transgender Advisory Board meeting was canceled.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**6.A. POSTING OF AGENDA:**

*The agenda for the regular meeting of Wednesday, February 26, 2025, was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the Sheriff's Station, the West Hollywood Library, and the Aquatic and Recreation Center (ARC) on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.*

**ACTION:** Received and filed.

**6.B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the minutes of the prior Board meeting.*

**ACTION: Motioned by Vice Chair Mann, seconded by Board Member Leathem and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.A. EQUITABLE BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (EBPS) POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

*The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Long Range Planning staff on an overview of the Equitable Building Performance Standards.*

**ACTION:** Board members shared feedback and expressed concerns about the potential financial burden on landlords, the likelihood of rent increases, and the possibility of rent-controlled landlords choosing to "Ellis" their buildings due to rising costs. To address these issues, board members suggested additional outreach to affected landlords and proposed offering rebates or alternative measures to help offset the financial impact. Board members also thanked staff for having in-person and virtual office hours and encouraged the city to hold town hall meetings to notify residents and landlords and make signage that could be posted through the affected buildings. Members also highlighted that Condominium buildings could be affected and should be included as part of the outreach as HOA fees tend to skyrocket.

**8.B. HART PARK PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS DESIGN UPDATE**

*The Disabilities Advisory Board received an update on the general approach and disabilities-related upgrades as part of the Phase 1 Hart Park Improvements Project and provide input on the schematic design.*

**ACTION:** The Board highlighted the importance of accessibility throughout, recommending secure grounding materials to prevent slipping, especially for wheelchair users in wet conditions. They also suggested incorporating a tactile map at the entrance, marking stair edges with durable materials, and adding a connecting path between the small and large dog parks. Additional requests included more benches and avoiding seating designs that deter people experiencing homelessness, as these can also negatively impact individuals with disabilities. The board further recommended clear signage for restrooms and park amenities, along with a non-toxic water feature for dogs. While some members supported sensory elements like audio-activated art for tranquility, concerns were raised about potential overstimulation from surrounding traffic noise. Lastly, the board expressed interest in further community outreach and meetings and looks forward to staying updated on the project's progress.

**\*\*\*Chair Smith motioned to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.**

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**10. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.

## 11. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Staff noted that transportation has been arranged for participation in the Abilities Expo on Friday, March 7th, and will follow up to confirm attendance from board members.

Staff will follow up with the City Clerk to clarify the procedural process for addressing accessibility concerns regarding handicap parking spaces and will bring the item back to a future agenda for further discussion.

Staff from Long Range Planning shared details about the annual Community and Educational Awareness Symposium, focusing on "Healthy City by Design." The event will explore strategies to enhance health and wellness at urban and building scales, featuring experts on how space design impacts physical and emotional well-being. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 12, with confirmation to follow.

Maribel Ulloa announced that this would be her final meeting as the Disabilities Advisory Board liaison, as she transitions to the Older Adults Advisory Board. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work with the board and for the rewarding experience of collaborating on events and witnessing the meaningful work being done. Maribel invited members to stay in touch via email and thanked them for their support.

Staff provided a reminder about the upcoming Human Services Commission public hearing on social services priorities, scheduled for April 8 at 5:30 PM in the City Council chambers.

## 12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Kenneth Jones** spoke on behalf of the Social Justice Advisory Board, he provided details about an upcoming Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 21, at West Hollywood Park from 11 AM to 5 PM, and invited all to attend. He also highlighted Joseph Green's contributions at the last Social Justice Advisory Board meeting and encouraged continued input from the community.

## 13. ITEMS FROM BOARD AND LIAISON REPORTS:

**Board Member Leathem** expressed gratitude to the staff and thanked Maribel for her efforts, and reported no updates from the Business Licensing Commission.

**Board Member Semonco** thanked staff and mentioned her inability to attend the Women's Advisory Board due to lack of quorum.

**Board Member Watts** urged attendance at the March 3 City Council meeting to discuss proposed changes to boards and commissions, noting that reduced meeting frequency could hinder advocacy for people with disabilities as there are increasing needs among elderly residents. He attended the Disability Health Fair at the LGBT Center, and requested Alzheimer's resources for a community member.

**Board Member Nash** requested to present an accessibility issue to the Council regarding the required number of disabled parking spaces in City lots, specifically at the ARC, and motioned for it to be added as a future discussion item on the agenda. Chair Smith seconded the motion, and approved by roll call vote.

**Board Member Dore** shared her involvement with the Human Services Commission, reaffirming her commitment to attend meetings and providing updates on the Disability Advisory Board's

work, including emergency preparedness and multilingual RFP resources. She also announced she will receive the Her Story Award from the Women’s Advisory Board on March 13 from 7–8 p.m. in the Doheny Room, inviting everyone to attend.

**Vice Chair Mann** requested that next month's agenda include an updated review of liaison assignments for the year. They raised concerns about virtual accessibility for boards and commissions, highlighting challenges attending the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meetings, as they are the assigned liaison for that board. Additionally, they expressed frustration with the timing of the proposed boards and commissions item on the March 3rd Council agenda, which did not allow for input from the boards. Vice-Chair Mann also encouraged participation in the upcoming March 3rd Council meeting to provide feedback on the item.

**\*\*\*Vice Chair Mann motioned to extend the meeting by five minutes.**

**Chair Smith** represented the DAB at the Public Safety meeting, where she highlighted the DAB's priority of developing a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan during public comment. She also attended a disability health fair at the LGBTQ Center on behalf of the County Commission on Disability, where issues related to individuals with multiple medical conditions navigating the healthcare system without sufficient advocacy were discussed. Chair Smith noted the delays in care and recommended exploring volunteer advocacy solutions utilizing healthcare expertise. Additionally, she announced a county-hosted cerebral palsy webinar scheduled for March 20 and will share the flyer with staff once available.

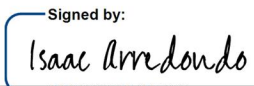
**\*\*\*Vice Chair Mann motioned to extend the meeting by three minutes.**

**Board Member Schwartz** thanked staff for the 2025 DAB work plan.

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:23 pm to its regular meeting which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 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 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

Signed by:  
  
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1838802801850158  
LOUISE SMITH,  
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.)*