

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
DRAFTED MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026
6:00 PM
PLUMMER PARK - ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Nash called the meeting to order at 6:04pm and Boardmember Smith read the Land Acknowledgement.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Boardmember Dore

Boardmember Green

Boardmember Semonco (*arrived at 6:08 pm*)

Boardmember Watts

Vice-Chair Leathem (*arrived at 6:14 pm*)

Chair Nash

ABSENT: Boardmember Smith

ALSO Isaac Arredondo, Social Services Program Administrator

PRESENT: Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator

Amy Valdepeña, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

- A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Boardmember Green, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Disabilities Advisory Board is requested to approve the meeting agenda for February 25, 2026.

ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended, moving Item 4.A before Item 3.A. Motion made by Boardmember Green and seconded by Boardmember Dore. Approved by roll call vote, noting the absence of Boardmember Smith, Boardmember Semonco, and Vice-Chair Leathem.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Disabilities Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026, meeting.

ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 28, 2026, by Boardmember Dore and seconded by Boardmemeber Green and approved by roll call vote, noting the absence of Boardmember Smith, Boardmember Semonco, Vice-Chair Leathem.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

DAN MORIIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Raised concerns about emergency readiness, particularly for residents with disabilities. He urged the City to consider adopting an ordinance requiring residential buildings to implement clear emergency evacuation plans for disabled residents.

LEE WALKUP, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Newly designated liaison from the Older Adults Advisory Board to the Disabilities Advisory Board. He highlighted the shared interests between both boards and expressed his hope that working together will strengthen their collective voice with City Council. He also noted upcoming community events, including the City’s Pride celebration in June and the Older Adults Health Fair in May.

STEPHEN POST, WEST HOLLYWOOD – A member of the Public Safety Commission, shared that while the Commission does not currently have a designated Disabilities Advisory Board liaison, he is happy to serve as a point of contact in the interim. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between commissions, particularly on issues such as emergency evacuation planning, street and sidewalk safety, and mental health response services.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. 2026 DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

The Disabilities Advisory Board will receive the updated assigned liaisons to the City of West Hollywood’s Boards and Commissions.

ACTION: Approved the Disabilities Advisory Board liaison assignments for the 2026 calendar year. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. 2026 DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD WORKPLAN

The Disabilities Advisory Board received the proposed 2026 Work Plan. In discussing the 2026 Work Plan, Board Members discussed reinforcing accessibility within the 2026 Work Plan, particularly under emergency preparedness. While accessibility is already the overarching focus, members recommended making it more action-oriented by prioritizing evacuation access in multi-story buildings, increasing coordination with other boards and commissions, and incorporating programs such as CERT and Neighborhood Watch. Additional comments included educating residents about first-floor accommodation rights, encouraging landlords to develop evacuation plans, improving first responder awareness of residents with disabilities, and expanding outreach on emergency preparedness resources, especially for low-income residents.

ACTION: Approved the Disabilities Advisory Board 2026 Work Plan. Motioned by Chair Nash and seconded by Vice-Chair Leathem and approved by roll call vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

The Disabilities Advisory Board received an update from staff members Christian Vasquez, Tamar Fuhrer, and Michelle Liberman on the City's public transportation programs, including Cityline, Dial-A-Ride/TLC, The PickUp, the On-Call Transportation Subsidy Program, and the Bus Pass Subsidy Program. Staff also provided information on recent improvements to the Bus Pass Subsidy Program, particularly enhancements to the TAP card reloading process.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DAN MORIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Expressed support for the City's transportation programs and shared concerns about the \$100 monthly limit for the Ambiance On-Call Program, noting it can be quickly exhausted. He encouraged the City to seek greater value for riders and suggested promoting LA Access as an additional regional transportation option.

DAN WENTZEL, WEST HOLLYWOOD – Liaison from the Transportation and Mobility Commission, invited Board members to attend Metro's Westside/Central Service Council meetings and highlighted the upcoming Vision Zero dashboard. He also shared that Metro is conducting a first-of-its-kind survey to better serve neurodivergent riders and encouraged community participation.

During discussion of the City's Public Transportation Programs, Board Members shared appreciation for programs like Ambiance and Dial-A-Ride. They asked about possibly coordinating the City's bus pass subsidy with Metro's LIFE low-income program and whether the current Ambiance subsidy amounts keep up with rising ride costs. Members also requested updates on the Metro K Line station decision and supported advocating for the four-stop option. Concerns were raised about limited evening service hours, especially on City Council and board meeting nights, and how that affects residents with disabilities who rely on City transportation. Additional comments included challenges with medical trip scheduling, wheelchair securement practices, and the importance of continued outreach and program review.

ACTION: Receive presentation and provided feedback.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT: None.

6. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

BOARDMEMBER GREEN - Reported on his outreach to several City boards and commissions and emphasized the value of strengthening collaboration across groups. He also shared highlights from the Sacramento trip, including meetings with Assemblymembers and LGBTQ Caucus representatives, and noted legislation adding suicide prevention resources to student IDs.

Additionally, he expressed concerns about the accessibility of the proposed community health hub location at the Abbey and encouraged outreach to City Council ahead of its consideration.

Boardmember Watts- Requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Dane Soprano, and Jesse Jackson. He reflected on the importance of inclusion and accessibility, referencing a 2015 White House moment highlighting direct communication with a Deafblind advocate, and encouraged civic engagement and voting.

Boardmember Dore - Shared that the Human Services Commission received CPR training from the American Heart Association and described it as an excellent presentation. She also suggested that the Board explore ways to participate in or support the LA28 Paralympic Games, noting it will be the first time Los Angeles hosts the Paralympics, and recommended placing the item on a future agenda for discussion

Chair Nash - Announced a free screening of Join the Club at City Council Chambers, a documentary about the medical marijuana movement and Proposition 215, and encouraged attendance. He shared his involvement in 1990s advocacy efforts in San Francisco and thanked Board Member Green for filling in during his recent surgery, noting he is recovering well.

Boardmember Semonco - Requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Phyllis Cotto, a former member of the Disabilities Advisory Board.

7. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Isaac Arredondo announced that in recognition of National Women's History Month, the City of West Hollywood and the Women's Advisory Board will host a free Women's Health Symposium on Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Plummer Park Community Center.

Staff also shared a save-the-date for the City's Annual Congress of Commissions and Advisory Boards, themed "Celebrating Acts of Kindness and Community Impact," which will take place on Tuesday, March 24, at 6 p.m. at the West Hollywood Library Auto Court.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in memory of Dane Soprano, Phyllis Cotto, and Jesse Jackson at 7:46pm to its next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 6:00 pm at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Rooms 5 & 6, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Notice: Written materials distributed to the Disabilities Advisory Board within 72 hours of this meeting are available for public inspection immediately upon distribution at the Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California, 90069, during normal business hours. They will also be available for inspection at the staff liaison's table during the Advisory Board meeting.

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