

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
DRAFTED MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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 6:00pm and Isaac Arredondo read the Land Acknowledgement.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Boardmember Dore
Boardmember Green
Boardmember Semonco
Boardmember Watts
Vice-Chair Leathem (*arrived at 6:09 pm*)
Chair Nash

ABSENT:

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 Watts, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting agenda by Boardmember Green and seconded by Chair Nash and approved by roll call vote. Noting the absence of Vice- Chair Leathem. (Boardmember Dore briefly stepped out but was otherwise in attendance.)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Disabilities Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2026, meeting.

ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 25, 2026, by Boardmember Green and seconded by Chair Nash and approved by roll call vote, noting the abstain from Boardmember Smith and the absence of Vice Chair Leathem. (Boardmember Dore briefly stepped out but was otherwise in attendance.)

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD- Urged the City to pause the Fountain Avenue bike lane project, sharing it may harm seniors and people with disabilities by removing parking. She emphasized that accessibility and ADA needs should take priority over bike infrastructure.

CATHY BLAIVAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD- Spoke on ongoing barriers due to her hearing disability, including broken or unavailable hearing devices and inadequate captioning at City meetings. She shared that the City has not followed through on promised accessibility improvements.

DAN WENTZEL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION LIAISON- Encouraged participation in the K-Line extension decision and supported improving accessibility citywide. He emphasized the importance of public input and collaboration across commissions.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. [LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR YEAR 2 OF THE 2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE](#)

The Disabilities Advisory Board (DAB) received a legislative update from Governmental Affairs Liaison Hernan Molina regarding City positions on 2025–2026 State legislation. Hernan Molina highlighted key priorities, including housing policy changes and limits on local planning authority. The Board discussed accessibility in new housing, concerns about available accessible units, and the effects of short-term rentals on housing supply, along with broader issues such as disability-related legislation and healthcare access. Members emphasized the importance of ongoing State advocacy and expressed appreciation for Hernan Molina’s service.

ACTION: Received presentation.

B. [DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

The Disabilities Advisory Board established a three-member subcommittee, with one alternate, to support planning for Disabilities Awareness Month, including the Disabilities Resource Fair and Disability Service Awards Televised Meeting. Boardmembers Dore, Watts, and Vice-Chair Leathem volunteered, with Boardmember Semonco serving as the alternate.

During Boardmember comments, members raised concerns about sidewalk accessibility, citing obstructions from vehicles, scooters, landscaping, and delivery devices. Additional discussion included emergency preparedness, accessibility improvements in City facilities

such as Council Chambers, and continued coordination with other boards and commissions, along with updates from liaison assignments and recent meetings

ACTION: Receive, discuss and appointed.

5. **EXCLUDED CONSENT:** None.

6. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Boardmember Dore: Shared updates from the Human Services Commission, including a comprehensive report on the unhoused community and related needs. Expressed interest in reviewing the full report with the Board and highlighted an upcoming televised meeting focused on mental health awareness.

Boardmember Green: Requested that the Board's work plan be prioritized on a future agenda to support coordination with other commissions on ADA-related issues. Provided updates from liaison roles, including Juneteenth planning, WeHo Pride, Rainbow Key Awards, and transportation topics such as the K-Line and robo-delivery program. Also promoted community resources, including SEEFest and free Red Cross smoke alarm installations.

Boardmember Smith: Reported on the County Aging and Disabilities Commission meeting, including presentations on extending care beyond age 21 and hearing accessibility. She raised concerns about the lack of ASL interpretation at City meetings and barriers caused by unhoused individuals and sidewalk obstructions, which impact mobility and safety.

Boardmember Semonco: Attended the Women's Advisory Board conference and a recent Congress event, noting both were successful. Reported a sidewalk obstruction caused by a stalled delivery robot, which was resolved after contacting the City. Requested adjournment in memory of former Planning Commission member Barbara Hamburger.

Boardmember Watts: Announced Older Adults Month in May and the upcoming Older Adults Fair, noting that DAB will host a table and need volunteers. Shared updates from the Older Adults Advisory Board and encouraged donations for the Holloway Interim Housing Project. He also emphasized the importance of accessibility and ADA compliance across City services and infrastructure.

Chair Nash: Raised concerns about accessibility barriers, including blocked sidewalks from vehicles, scooters, and landscaping. Highlighted the need for improvements such as larger street signage, faster installation of accessibility features, and upgrades to City facilities including Council Chambers and the pool. Also encouraged community advocacy and participation in upcoming events.

7. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:**

Staff provided updates on upcoming City meetings and events, including the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element community meeting, the Plummer Park Community Open House, the Green Week Symposium, and the Abilities Expo.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:50pm in memory of Barbara Hamaker, former Planning Commissioner for the City of West Hollywood, to its next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 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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