

**WEST HOLLYWOOD SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, January 28, 2015  
Community Room, West Hollywood Library  
624 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Pat Dixon at 2:00 PM.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. ROLL CALL

Members present: Esther Baum, Richard Blons, Pat Dixon, Sophia Gelman, Bernice Levin, Rita Norton, Lee Walkup

Members absent: Barbara Krupa

Staff present: Corey Roskin, Leslie Isenberg, Kim Patterson

C. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Corey Roskin stated that the agenda was posted at all the usual places.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Barbara Meltzer and Steven Davis introduced themselves as the liaisons from the Human Services Commission. They will be working closely on the Aging in Place initiative.

IV. ITEMS FROM SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Nancy Desser, Director of the Senior Center, announced upcoming trips, monthly lectures, and cultural excursions.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. LA WORKS – RSVP PROGRAM

Steve Gratwick introduced the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program which matches seniors 55 years and older with volunteer opportunities in education as well as with veterans and the general homeless population. There is no commitment requirement or fee to participate. An interest list was passed

around for both Board and audience sign-ups in a new chapter based on Cypress Park.

#### B. AGING IN PLACE STRATEGIC PLANNING

Leslie Isenberg gave a presentation about the City's Aging in Place Strategic Plan, a five-year plan with annual updates, to help people remain independent in West Hollywood with community and social service support. There will be a special public meeting in May at which a SAB delegate will participate and report back to the Board. Esther Baum was selected as the delegate and Pat Dixon as the alternate. This item will be placed on the February agenda. Larry Block, Disabilities Advisory Board member, said that he is very interested in this plan, and wants to see seniors get the same types of extensive services that people living with HIV receive.

#### C. SENIOR MONTH

Leslie Isenberg reported on some proposed changes for Senior Month that were discussed at the Senior Month subcommittee meeting with the SAB Chair (Pat) and Vice-Chair (Bernice). In particular there was discussion about 1) providing all the information and screenings at the Senior Health Fair, but without the lunch for a savings of approximately \$5,000, and 2) honoring Seniors at the televised SAB meeting but not hosting the Senior Award Luncheon for a savings of approximately \$10,000. There was approval of both recommendations, especially given the possibility of more screenings at the Health Fair.

### VI. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Esther Baum stated that the Senior Health Fair is crucial for added assistance as people get older, but should be more than a free lunch.

Lee Walkup said he volunteered at the MLK Day of Service. He thought the parade was fantastic but unfortunately had poor media coverage. He also participated in the homeless count and was pleased to report that the VA facility aims to house all veterans. Lastly he reported that the Mormon Church announced that they will renounce Prop 8 and go along with the Supreme Court ruling on gay marriage.

Bernice Levin said she is looking forward to Senior Month, and wants to make sure people feel welcome at all the activities.

Sofia Gelman asked why there is a new Metro bus stop on Gardner but not on Fuller where there are many seniors who find it difficult to walk that extra distance.

Richard Blons asked if there can be get well cards to send to ailing constituents.

VII. ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

Corey Roskin reported that Muriel Schoichet is now living at Garden of Palms. She has resigned from the Board due to the difficulty in attending. A group will present her with a plaque, and all are encouraged to participate to extend appreciation for her 15 years of service on the Board.

He also announced that the Senior Valentine Dance will be held on Feb. 12 at Plummer Park, and that during Senior Mont, the West Hollywood Library is planning three workshops on elder fraud. Lastly, it was announced that a poem by Sofia Gelman can be viewed at [bestnewpoems.com](http://bestnewpoems.com) from Feb. 5-12.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC


Donna Saur, Public Facilities Commissioner, spoke about the need for the CityLine bus drivers to consider the special needs of people with disabilities. Recently the driver wouldn't make a stop closer to her home, in spite of the fact that they had to get Ms. Saur's daughter's electric wheelchair, at that time not powered up, to the stop and into the CityLine. She also suggested that the City redecorate the Senior Lounge at Plummer Park with new chairs and a large screen television.

Marcy Norton, liaison from the Public Safety Commission, spoke about the concerns of Sierra Bonita tenants because AT&T is apparently looking to place a cell phone tower on their building. She said that the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation is receiving \$35,000 for this tower placement, and suggested that the SAB raise it to City Council to hold public hearings about this potential health issue.

There will be a 6 pm meeting in the Target Community Room about a ten-story hotel to be built on Santa Monica Blvd., east of Fairfax.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm in memory of Holocaust victims on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz to the next meeting which will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at 2:00pm in the Community Room at the West Hollywood Library.

  
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Chairperson – Pat Dixon