

**WEST HOLLYWOOD SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, February 25, 2015
Community Room, West Hollywood Library
625 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

Rick Watts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Members absent: Barbara Krupa and Rita Norton

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. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairwoman Pat Dixon stated the procedure.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

F. ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

Chairwoman Pat Dixon moved to adjourn in memory of the three students who were recently murdered in North Carolina. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Larry Block, Disabilities Advisory Board member, spoke on behalf of a senior who arrived a little late and spoke next.

Norma Sandler, resident, has two pets and feels that the allowance of non-seniors to have three pets in their domiciles is prejudicial. She recommended that the West Hollywood Animal Task Force be brought back.

Rick Watts, Chair of the Disabilities Advisory Board, recommended that the Senior Advisory Board co-sponsor a screening of "I'll Be Me", a documentary about Glen Campbell's struggle with Alzheimers Disease.

IV. ITEMS FROM SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Nancy Desser, Activities Director at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center, announced upcoming trips, monthly lectures, and cultural excursions.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. "I'LL BE ME" CO-SPONSORSHIP

Corey Roskin presented details for a possible screening of this documentary during Senior Month, with joint sponsorship by the DAB and SAB, at an approximate cost of \$2,000. The SAB unanimously approved co-sponsorship.

Sophia Gelman advocated for bringing back a day program like Partners for people with Alzheimers and other disabilities.

B. SENIOR MONTH

Corey Roskin outlined plans for Senior Month this May which will include the May 19th Senior Health Fair from 9 AM – 1 PM, with a focus on health screenings; the Senior Month awards ceremony during the televised SAB meeting on May 27th in Council Chambers, with entertainment and refreshments; the screening of "I'll Be Me"; plus lectures and other activities.

C. AGING IN PLACE STRATEGIC PLANNING

Leslie Isenberg reiterated the basic plan for the City's Aging in Place initiative, to enable seniors to stay in their homes comfortably and safely. She asked for each Board member to state their priorities for this effort.

Esther Baum said that assistance with cooking and cleaning were priorities, and suggested having a facility that provides food service and a recreation room.

Sophia Gelman suggested that making life interesting and being involved in projects was a priority.

Richard Blons raised health issues as key.

Chairwoman Pat Dixon commented on the challenges for people who live on the second floor and have laundry facilities on the first floor. She spoke about the benefits of volunteering. She would like to see outlets to "feed our minds", like Santa Monica's Emeritus College which offers free classes, and freezing the rent when people stop working.

Vice Chair Bernice Levin commented on the need for more support for people who live in buildings that have been “Ellised”. She expressed concerns about the needs of people who are no longer able to work or volunteer.

Lee Walkup stated that he remains employed full-time and is active in the community. He suggested that the City could hold a census to find out who is in need of assistance where Aging in Place is concerned.

Public Comment:

Rick Watts prioritized preserving housing stock, assisting seniors with meals and cleaning, and making use of the huge talent pool of seniors in the community.

Marcy Norton spoke to the roadblocks that people face who don’t know where to go for help, and urged the City to do outreach to find out who the seniors are who are aging in place.

Leslie suggested that there be an overview of social services that the City offers, and there was agreement to place this on next month’s agenda.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Vice Chair Bernice Levin shared a calendar from Cedars-Sinai Hospital.

Esther Baum raised a criticism of the unhealthy Senior Valentine Dance refreshments, and suggested that in the future low-sugar and low-salt foods be served for the diabetic seniors who attend.

Lee Walkup reported on the upcoming Rainbow Key Awards that the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board is hosting. He also reminded everyone of the March 3rd elections. He announced that Maya Angelou will have a Forever Stamp issued on her behalf, and on March 27th in the Council Chambers, there will be a screening of “When Bette Met Mae”.

Chairwoman Pat Dixon announced a candidates’ forum tonight at 6 PM at Plummer Park.

VII. ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

Corey Roskin reported that Rita Norton is staying at Country Villa. He also made the following announcements: a free film called “How to Die in Oregon” will be shown at 6:30 PM on March 24th at Council Chambers; the Abilities Expo will be held March 6-8 at the Convention Center; Dial-a-Ride will provide transportation to the polls; and the Beverly Press has a monthly Senior Page.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Norma Sandler, resident, suggested that an exchange of volunteer services be implemented, where for example, a handyman offers services in exchange for cleaning services.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 in memory of the three students recently murdered in North Carolina. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25 at 2:00pm in the Community Room at the West Hollywood Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Dixon', written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson – Pat Dixon