

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

March 26, 2014

Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jim Chud called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

John Santiago led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Michael Arrigo, Larry Block, Jim Chud, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith, and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Marco Colantonio, Suzanne Dietrich and Thomas Delorenzo

STAFF PRESENT: David Giugni and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for March 26, 2014 was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Hernan Molina gave an update of the legislative work of the City, including the review bills that may impact the City and introducing amendments which reflect Vision 2020.

B. TRANSGENDER 101

Drian Juarez of the LA Gay & Lesbian Center's Transgender Economic Empowerment Project gave a presentation about how to be an ally of the transgender community and encouraging the use of trans-neutral language. She addressed many question from the DAB, and though there is injustice at every turn, she felt that California is one of the best states for transgender people.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2014 WORK PLAN

The DAB discussed adding more activities to Disability Awareness Month, and collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and other groups. A subcommittee

consisting of Louise Smith, Anny Semonco, Jim Chud and Rick Watts (Larry Block, alternate) will meet to finalize the Work Plan, and present it to the DAB.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Affordable Living for the Aging will have openings for a 17-unit building, so interested parties should fill in an application.

There will be a City Budget Fair on April 2 at 5 PM at Plummer Park.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

11. BOARDMEMBERS COMMENTS/ LIAISON UPDATES

Rick Watts reported that the sidewalk on Westmount above Santa Monica Blvd. is inaccessible for wheelchair users. He reminded people that he will be on a fast for Easter/Passover, and encouraged others to donate to food banks or charities.

Michael Arrigo brought buttons for everyone from the Abilities Expo. He said he is researching wheelchair basketball for October.

Anny Semonco commented that the Abilities Expo has only one representative for the blind and is mainly a trade show. It's great if you need gadgets for everyday life. She also went to the Diversity Job Fair, where there were 20 employers for minorities and people living with disabilities.

12. BOARD REPRESENTATIVE TO REPORT TO COUNCIL

Louise Smith will report to Council.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm in honor of Michael Valentino to its next meeting (jointly with the Senior Advisory Board) on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, 90069.


DAB Chair, Jim Chud