

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
June 24, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Tom Pavich called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Debra Chodash led the pledge.

**3. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Tom Pavich, Steven Sawyer,  
Anna Swett and Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Rhea and Kim Patterson

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for June 24, 2009 was approved.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for May 27, 2009 were approved.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Michael Arrigo, West Hollywood resident and former DAB member, is now on the Access Services Outreach Subcommittee. He suggested that Mitch Pomerantz, ADA Compliance Officer for this area, be considered as a possible keynote speaker for the DAB televised meeting in October.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Taxi Coupon Program**

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Joyce Rooney, Transportation and Transit Operations Supervisor, about changes to the City's Taxi Coupon Program:

- 1) The new mailing address and phone number is PO Box 74487, LA, CA 90004, 310-981-9303,
- 2) The taxi book value has increased from \$24 to \$28,
- 3) Sticker coupons instead of paper coupons will be used,
- 4) The coupon book is specific to the client,
- 5) Clients do not need to send a self-addressed stamped envelope,
- 6) New clients must complete an application form and provide proof of eligibility.

**B. SOVA Food Pantry**

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Joan Mithers, Program Director of the JFS SOVA Food Program. She outlined the hunger and poverty relief programs offered, including three food pantries, for which they've

seen a 50% increase in demand since last year. They have 16 staff and 200 regular volunteers who serve more than 8,000 people with resources obtained from food drives (37%), food banks, corporate sponsors, and some purchases.

**C. October Televised Meeting**

The Disabilities Advisory Board began discussing the program for the annual televised meeting on October 28, 2009. A subcommittee was formed to make program recommendations for the Board to consider at its next meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The subcommittee members are Suzanne Dietrich, Anna Swett and Rick Watts. Staff will schedule a subcommittee meeting the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. CROSSWALK POLICY**

This item was tabled to the meeting of July 22, 2009.

**9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Craig Rhea shared the following information with the Board:

- A. City Council has not yet filled the one Board vacancy. Councilmember Duran's office has an item on the July 13<sup>th</sup> Council agenda to discuss the make-up of advisory boards, i.e., whether Councilmembers should make direct appointments in addition to having a few at-large appointments.
  
- B. Upcoming DAB Meetings:
  - 7/22/09 – Elections for Chair & Vice Chair; continued discussion of October televised meeting; Barbara Hamaker of the WHCHC regarding the application process for the Sierra Bonita Apartments.
  - 8/26/09 – Craig will be on vacation; the Board may want to consider canceling this meeting.
  - 9/23/09 – Select 2009 Disability Service Award Recipients
  - 10/28/09 – Televised Meeting
  - 12/02/09 – Combined November/December meeting
  
- C. Adjournment in honor of Marcella Meyer at the request of Yola Dore.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Julia Zelenina, a new West Hollywood resident, asked about the Sierra Bonita Apartments, and was directed to the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation.

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES**

Rick Watts raised concern about wheelchair accessibility at West Hollywood Auditorium because of construction; the raised threshold on the north side of the auditorium makes it difficult for wheelchairs to pass.

Suzanne Dietrich reported that the Senior Advisory Board recommended to City Council not to increase rent for stabilized units this year since there have been two decreases in SSI benefits.

Steven Sawyer noted that there are lots of rent negotiations going on these days due to the economy and recommended that people discuss options with their landlords.

Chairperson Pavich reported that MediCal benefits have decreased, and that coverage has been discontinued for some services, including dental, vision, and hearing.

Vice Chair Swett added that there has been a decrease in In-Home Support Services benefits as well.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:58 p.m. in memory of Marcella Meyer to their next meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 6:00pm in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

*Tom Pavich*

---

Chairperson – Tom Pavich