

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board March 23, 2016 Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jim Chud, Suzanne Dietrich, Yola Dore, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith, Rick Watts, and Michael Wojtkielewicz.

STAFF PRESENT: Derek Murray and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the March 23, 2016 meeting was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting were approved with an amendment from Suzanne Dietrich. There was one abstention.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Yola Dore was elected as Vice-Chair.

B. PRESENTATION FROM AID FOR AIDS

The Board heard a presentation from Maribel Ulloa from the Alliance for Housing and Healing (Aid for AIDS) about the housing support services offered to low income community members living with HIV/AIDS. She spoke of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's model called Housing First that assists people who are at risk of homelessness.

C. TRANSIT SERVICES EVALUATION

The Board participated in a focus group and transit services evaluation conducted by Abby Woods of Michael Baker International.

D. SELECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE FOR DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The Board selected Jim Chud, Anny Semonco, and Louise Smith for the subcommittee, with Rick Watts as the alternate.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. REPORT FROM PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Smith gave a report from the Pharmaceutical Pricing Subcommittee which is planning a town hall forum on the high cost of pharmaceuticals that will focus on current legislation to curb costs and actions that people can take to advocate for lower costs. The Board discussed possible participant groups and individuals, as well as publicity and goals.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Harrington-Tyrell, resident, spoke about the importance of keeping non-profit organizations within the City limits and the need for more services from the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation.

Nir Zilberman, resident, spoke about issues concerning disabled people, and suggested having banners for "disabled heroes."

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Dore suggested agendizing a campaign for this election year called "Disabled but Able to Vote".

Anny Semonco attended the Manifest Film Festival where she viewed "Wilhemina's War" about the lack of resources for HIV-positive people in Georgia. She also attended the Transportation Commission meeting where there was discussion of the bike share program.

Suzanne Dietrich attended the Senior Advisory Board meeting. She announced that the Senior Health Fair will be held on May 11, the televised meeting will be held on May 25, and Marcy Norton and Victor Omelczenko will be honored for their work. She stated that Senior Fraud Awareness Day will be held on June 24 in Plummer Park. She also announced changes to the Cal-Fresh program.

Rick Watts reported on his week-long fast during which time he gave away meals to the homeless. He also suggested that the Board consider adding more street banners for Disabilities Awareness Month.

Michael Wojtkielewicz thanked Nir Zilberman for his work, as well as the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for allocating money for Hart Park ADA upgrades. He attended the Human Services Commission meeting where the Chair of the DAB gave a presentation. He gave feedback on the Aging in Place report and felt that the term "advocate" is a better term to use than "activist" and stated that the homeless should be included in the document. He raised concerns of ADA non-compliance at the Sierra Bonita Apartments. He would like to agendize this issue and invite Steve Bailey, Manager of Buildings and Safety, and Clara Dale Denson of the West

Hollywood Community Housing Corporation. Lastly, he announced the following events on April 2: Public Facilities Arbor Day; pet vaccinations; and a Walk for Autism in Pasadena.

Chair Smith attended the Human Services Commission meeting where the chairs of all the City's Advisory Boards spoke about similar concerns regarding hunger, homelessness, and housing to further inform the Commission as it begins its RFP process for Social Services.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray announced the following:

Public Hearing on Social Services funding priorities – April 12

Screening of "Liz in September" - March 25

Public Safety community workshop – April 16

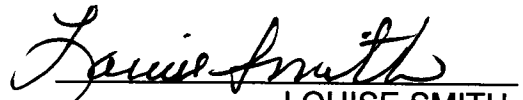
Senior Writing Workshop – April 11

National Women's History Month – March 31

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with best wishes for Rita Norton and in memory of the victims in Belgium, Krishna Birusingh, and Nollie Watts. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 6 PM in Rooms 5 & 6 of the Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 23rd DAY OF MARCH, 2016.



LOUISE SMITH,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



DEREK MURRAY,
STAFF LIAISON

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)