

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

July 27, 2016

WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL

FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joy Freiberg led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Tom Demille, Suzanne Dietrich, Yola Dore, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith, Rick Watts and Michael Wojtkielewicz

ABSENT: Jim Chud

STAFF PRESENT: Derek Murray and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the July 27, 2016 meeting was approved with consensus of the Board.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 22, 2016 meeting were approved with consensus with one amendment from Joy Freiberg.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

The Board received a presentation from Helen Lewis and Elinor Szekunda of the Exceptional Children's Foundation which provides services for children and adults who are living with developmental, learning, and emotional disabilities. In addition to running the Kayne Eras Center for special education, they partner with PAWS/LA to deliver pet food to clients.

B. REVIEW OF DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS

Melissa Crowder, Assistant City Clerk, addressed questions from the Board about their bylaws. She also announced the next Board and Commission Congress will take place on a Saturday (date to be announced), with more trainings, and will include more discussion on bylaws.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. FOLLOW UP ON VOTER MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN

The Office of the City Clerk will be co-hosting pop-ups with the Board. People will be able to sign up for a voter mobilization effort to increase voter turnout among the disabled community.

B. REPORT FROM PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Board received a report from the fifth meeting of the Pharmaceutical Pricing Town Hall subcommittee. The Center for Healthcare Rights and the LA LGBT Center are confirmed as panelists. In case other invited panelists aren't able to attend, back-up panelists were chosen. Also, the Board recommended service providers to participate in the Action Center. Chair Smith made a motion to approve the subcommittee recommendations, Yola Dore seconded the motion and there was consensus of the Board.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE FOR DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The subcommittee selected videos to show at the Service Awards, made recommendations for the reception, and recommended having three new banners created (previous year's awardees for nonprofit and individual awards, and one for Stephen Hawking). Chair Smith made a motion to approve the subcommittee's recommendations, Louise Smith seconded the motion, and there was consensus from the Board.

9. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Yola Dore was unanimously elected as Chair and Suzanne Dietrich was elected as Vice-Chair by a majority of votes, with one abstention.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

11. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Smith thanked the Board and staff for all their ideas and hard work. She made a motion to agendize City accessibility. It was seconded by Michael Wojtkielewicz, and there was consensus from the Board. Derek Murray will agendize accessibility issues as part of the upcoming strategic planning session.

Yola Dore thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and said that the Board's participation is needed for a successful year.

Suzanne Dietrich thanked the Board for electing her and said that she hopes she does a good job. She said that a bench is needed at one of the Cityline stops. She also asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Muriel Schoichet who was a long-time activist and member of the Senior Advisory Board.

Tom Demille reported that he met with the West Hollywood Community Housing Coalition and proposed that Social Services guides be distributed to their buildings. He also suggested that audible crosswalks be agendized. Rick Watts made an amendment that the Board receive an update on accessible pedestrian signals. Vice-Chair Dietrich seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Joy Freiberg said that Louise Smith was an amazing Chair and thanked her for her assistance.

Michael Wojtkielewicz raised the issue of a misprint in the City Calendar that listed the Board meeting in Plummer Park. He spoke of issues surrounding accessibility and air quality in the current meeting space in City Hall, and accessibility issues at the previous meetings of the Disability Advisory Board and Human Services Commission. Derek Murray will agendize accessibility issues as part of the upcoming strategic planning session. Michael thanked Congressman Adam Schiff, the Mayor, and staff who supported H.R. 2646 – Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

Anny Semonco attended the Women's Advisory Board's panel with Pakistani women that addressed distorted media images of this population. She also spoke about accessible pedestrian signals that were found to be expensive for installation and upkeep.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray made several announcements:

- a) Disabilities Award nominations are now open until August 12. The Board will choose the 2016 awardees at the August meeting.
- b) The Health and Wellness event will take place on October 18th.
- c) The Southern California Men's Group will offer the meningitis vaccine on July 29th from 9 AM – 3 PM.
- d) July 28th is World Hepatitis Day to draw attention to the fact that 4,000 people die every day from hepatitis, 1.4 million every year, and to work to end this epidemic.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Yola Dore made the motion to adjourn; Suzanne Dietrich seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm in memory of the victims of the massacre in a facility for people with disabilities in Japan and Muriel Schoichet (former Senior Advisory Board member). The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 6 PM in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. West Hollywood, 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 27th
DAY OF JULY, 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.)