

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board **September 28, 2016** **ROOMS 5 & 6, PLUMMER PARK**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Tom Demille led the pledge of allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

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

STAFF PRESENT: David Giugni and Derek Murray

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for the September 28, 2016 meeting was approved with consensus of the Board.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting were approved with consensus of the Board.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Gasca spoke about the Senior Masquerade Ball.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The Disabilities Advisory Board received an overview of the Board's upcoming strategic planning session with Diane Burbie, Managing Principal, of the Aspire Group.

B. PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Board received an update on pending legislative items that pertain to pharmaceutical pricing.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. SUBCOMMITTEE FOR DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The Board received an update from the Disabilities Awareness Month subcommittee and unanimously approved their recommendations for the Health & Wellness Fair and the Disability Service Awards and televised meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerome Boyce spoke about the high cost of pharmaceuticals, specifically mentioning HIV medication.

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

Tom Demille suggested that a letter be sent to local businesses encouraging them to provide jobs for people living with disabilities. He reported that he continues to distribute Social Services guides to the buildings operated by the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation. He requested that people living with disabilities and seniors have low cost access to the City's bike share program. Lastly, he suggested that there be more enforcement to ensure that parking spaces are only used by people who are disabled.

Michael Wojtkielewicz requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of a champion of underrepresented sectors of society, Stanley Sheimbaum, Ed Edelman, as well as Paul Lee, the disabled child who died after being left unattended on a schoolbus, and Victor Guhansky, a recently-deceased tenant at WHCHC Sierra Bonita Apartments. He spoke about the Annual Congress and Hart Park. He asked if contact was made to the recipients of the Disability Service Awards; and staff has received confirmations for two of the four awards, and will continue to pursue the other two. He said that he will email a video from Channel 7 of a disabled couple trapped in their apartment due to a broken elevator.

Vice-Chair Dietrich suggested a field trip to the Westside Center for Independent Living. Derek Murray stated that WCIL will have an info table at the upcoming Health & Wellness Fair.

Jim Chud suggested that a presentation by nutrition programs be agendized and the Board unanimously approved this future agenda item

Rick Watts asked that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of the ex-president of Israel, Shimon Peres, and all paralympians. He also spoke about voter registration.

Anny Semonco reported on a) Women's Equality Day, b) the Senior Advisory Board meeting where activities at the West Hollywood Library were announced, c) pop-ups by the Arts Council, d) Geri-Fit strength and balance training classes, and e) the upcoming Public Meeting of the Transportation Commission regarding MTA.

Chair Dore asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former Senior Advisory Board member and veteran Efim Kutz. She suggested that a video of the Board be made for the October televised meeting; staff will check with the Public Information Office. Derek Murray will collect photographs for a montage.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff made several announcements:

- Jewish Vocational Services' WeHo Works (formerly WHEST) may be the appropriate agency to create a letter to be sent to businesses to request employment of people with disabilities.
- The Board's Strategic Planning Session with Diane Burbie will be held on December 14 from 5-8 PM in Room 5 of Plummer Park.
- Mindfulness workshops will be help by APLA Health & Wellness on first and third Wednesdays from 7-8:30 PM, and by the National Council of Jewish Women on Thursday evenings between Sept. 29 – November 17.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm in memory of Ed Edelman, Stanley Sheinbaum, Paul Lee, Efin Kutz, Shimon Peres, Alexis Arquette, Victor Guhansky, and all paralympians. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 6 PM in Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 28th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.



YOLA DORE,
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.)