

# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

## *Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board* **December 14, 2016** *Room 5, Plummer Park*

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dore called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

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

ABSENT: Jim Chud and Louise Smith

STAFF PRESENT: David Giugni, Joan Mithers, Derek Murray and Johanna Flores (intern)

### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for the December 14, 2016 meeting was approved by the Board.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 26, 2016 meeting were approved by the Board, with one abstention from Michael Wojtkielewicz.

### **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

Diane Burbie, Principal Manager of the Aspire Group, facilitated the strategic planning session with the Disabilities Advisory Board.

To start the planning session, Ms. Burbie led the Board in a discussion of their goals and asked them what they would like the Board to focus on in 2017:

- Tom Demille stated that he hopes the most vulnerable in the community get served and recognized
- Chair Dore stated that she hopes the Board can have better communication and continuously learn about the needs of people with disabilities

- Rick Watts said that he would like the Board to be more productive in communication, education, and collaborating with other Boards and Commissions on relevant issues
- Anny Semonco stated that her goal is for the Board to work more collaboratively and to think about the bigger picture, in order to connect the disabled community to social services
- Michael Wojtkielewicz stated that his goal is a work-plan that authentically takes on the purview of the Board
- Joy Freiberg discussed employment and poverty as priority issues, as well as linking the disabled community to social services
- Vice Chair Dietrich discussed affordable housing, health issues such as HIV and Hepatitis C, and accessibility issues as priorities

Ms. Burbie led a discussion on the concerns and issues raised by the Board during the pre-planning interviews, such as the need for the Board to be more influential and more actively engaged with each other. During the strategic planning session, Ms. Burbie discussed the Board's operating procedures and presented procedures for the Board to place an issue on the agenda. She gave an explanation on how issues can be discussed and acted upon by Board members and staff liaisons. She also discussed the timeline regarding the procedure to take an idea, generated by the Board, and turn it into an action. Additionally, she talked about the role of City Advisory Boards and how the Disabilities Advisory Board can provide input to the City Council, as well as other Boards and Commissions.

The Board prioritized issues and voted on the issues they want to focus on as a group. The Board was allowed to vote multiple times on a single issue. The issues were ranked in order of importance, with some issues having an equal number of votes, and they are as follows:

1. Hunger (8 votes)
2. Health Issues, including HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, cancer (5 votes)
2. Affordable Housing (5 votes)
3. Connectivity with Community and Outreach (4 votes)
3. Pharmaceutical Drug Pricing (4 votes)
4. Employment (3 votes)
4. Homelessness (3 votes)
4. Pedestrian Signals (3 votes)
5. Accessibility (2 votes)
5. Mental Health (2 votes)
6. Communication (1 vote)
6. Education (1 vote)
6. Substance Abuse Recovery (1 vote)
7. Disabled Placards (No votes)

In closing, Diane stated that the Board brings important points to the table and urged the Board to having meaningful discussions regarding the Board's priorities. She asked the Board to construct messaging that is succinct and to move issues forward in a sequential manner.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

#### **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **10. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS**

Suzanne Dietrich would like to see each topic addressed during the Board meetings and would like the Board to be more successful and more cohesive.

Tom Demille said that the Board has a whole year ahead of them, and said that he believes all the priorities can be addressed in 2017.

Rick Watts said that there were some issues that might not have been addressed at today's meeting but it doesn't mean the Board cannot discuss them. He thanked Tom for the holiday cards and shared that he has registered for the MLK Day of Service.

Joy Freiberg said that she hopes Board members can follow the recommendations presented by Diane and said that the sequential order of bringing issues forward matters, and aids in getting things done.

Michael Wojtkielewicz asked staff for an update regarding Tom Demille's social services outreach to the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation buildings. He also spoke about the continuation of certain by-laws.

Anny Semonco expressed appreciation for the strategic planning session and would like the Board to apply what was presented during the meeting, in order to get things done. She gave an update from the Aging in Place meeting and the Women's Advisory Board's televised meeting.

Chair Dore said that she wants to encourage better communication, including listening. She thanked the Board, Diane Burbie, and staff for their important work.

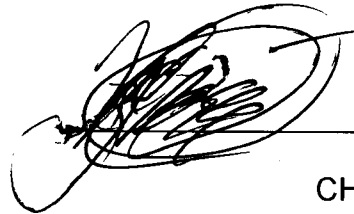
**11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Derek Murray updated the Board on Tom Demille’s social services outreach to the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation buildings. He also stated that Danny Pepper picked up social service guides to distribute to community rooms. He said that staff will forward all Board member requests to share news articles, once a week. He said that iPads are available to check out from the City Clerk’s office if Board members need them for meetings.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned to its next special meeting, which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, in Rooms 5&6 of Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016.



YOLA DORE,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
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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.)***