

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

April 26, 2017

Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Steve Wayland led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Savage, Joan Mithers, Derek Murray and Kim Patterson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the April 26, 2017 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting were approved by the Board.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Nash, resident, with low vision, expressed appreciation to the City for funding the Westside Center for Independent Living which has been very helpful with his needs. He said the Dayle McIntosh Center for the Disabled has helped him purchase assistive devices.

Stephanie Harker, resident, expressed concern that Hart Park is inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a report on the first meeting of the Disabilities Awareness Month Subcommittee which is planning the annual Health and Wellness Event and Service Awards.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. SERVICE ANIMAL PRESENTATION

Steve Wayland, Program Director of PAWS/LA, gave a presentation about

service animals and emotional support animals, including some of the different laws regarding public accommodation and housing. He reiterated that an animal must be well-behaved and under control by its guardian. Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, expressed concern about legal issues and accessibility at Hart Park.

B. SERVICE ANIMAL DISCUSSION

ACTION: Motion by Louise Smith, seconded by Rick Watts, to form an ad-hoc subcommittee to discuss ways to educate the community about service animals, and approved, with one objection from Joy Freiberg. **The subcommittee will bring their recommendations to the May meeting for approval.** Louise Smith, Rick Watts, and Chairperson Dore will be on the subcommittee, with Vice-Chair Dietrich as the alternate. Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, suggested inviting business owners to discuss these issues.

C. AGING IN PLACE, AARP, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AND WELLNESS AT ANY AGE

Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, gave a report on the City's Aging in Place programs and initiatives which are part of both the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization's Global Network. The City has contracted with Partners in Care Foundation and through Recreation Services is implementing the "be Well WeHo" initiative. A series of evidence based classes, designed to help adults reach individual wellness goals are being offered at Plummer Park in May and June. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a trainer for memory classes, they can contact Ms. Savage. She invited everyone to attend the May 1st City Council meeting where there will be a reception at 5:30 PM celebrating the first year's anniversary of the City's Aging in Place initiative. Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, raised several items, including making printed materials available to the public along with the agenda, wellness of companion animals, and rent increases at Sierra Bonita Apartments.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

5. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray asked for volunteers to staff the Disabilities Advisory Board information table at the May 17 Senior Health Fair at Plummer Park.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, said he didn't attend the March Board meeting because he didn't receive a packet. He announced that in addition to today being Denim Day, it is also Autism Awareness Day. He also thanked Stephanie Harker and Cathy Blaivas for their continued efforts on the needs of people with disabilities.

7. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Demille asked City staff to request West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC) residents to come to future meetings.

Vice-Chair Dietrich expressed criticism of the John Stewart Company's management of WHCHC buildings.

Rick Watts raised the following:

- a) Thanks to those who donated during his annual Easter fast.
- b) Adjourn in memory of Gilbert Butler who created the rainbow flag.
- c) Autism Rocks fundraiser on April 28 at 7 PM at Universal CityWalk.
- d) Wanted the board to discuss the John Stewart Company at future meetings.
- e) Update on his health issues.

Louise Smith congratulated Cathy Blaivas and Stephanie Harker for receiving the Green Award. She thanked Michael Wojtkielewicz and Jim Chud for their service on the Board.

Joy Freiberg thanked Steve Wayland and Elizabeth Savage for their presentations, and Michael Wojtkielewicz for his service on the Board.

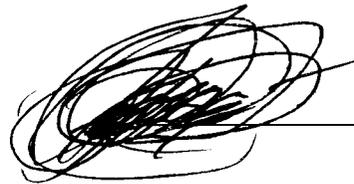
Anny Semonco announced the Women's Leadership Conference May 12-14, and the Movietown Plaza Open House on May 3.

Chairperson Dore thanked Boardmember Semonco for her reports.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM in memory of Gilbert Butler to its next meeting, which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, May 24, 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 26th DAY OF APRIL 2017.



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.)