

# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

## *Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board May 24, 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

Louise Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

#### B. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Suzanne Dietrich

STAFF PRESENT: David Giugni, Joan Mithers, Derek Murray, Diane Kahn-Epstein and Kim Patterson

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the May 24, 2017 meeting was approved by the Board.

#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 26, 2017 meeting with an amendment were approved by the Board.

#### E. SWEARING-IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Councilmember Lauren Meister swore in David Nash as the newest member of the Board

#### F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Blaivas, resident, congratulated David Nash on his appointment, and also expressed concern about accessibility at Movietown Plaza.

Stephanie Harker, Rent Stabilization Commissioner, reiterated the importance of speaking into the microphone, and encouraged people to call Congress about the new health care proposal. She also asked about any developments with Hart Park.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, also congratulated David Nash, and expressed concerns about progress with agenda items and addressing mental health issues.

## **2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There was none.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. TELEPHONE CHECK-IN PROGRAM**

Staff reported on the current telephone check-in service that the Jewish Family Service's Comprehensive Services Center offers to seniors. Also, Michael Sable, one of the Center's volunteers, spoke about his fulfilling work of staying in contact with the 20 people on their list. Staff also reported on automated telephone check-in programs that are utilized by other municipalities and housed in public safety agencies.

Louise Smith recommended that a marketing plan be implemented to inform the community about the JFS program in order to increase the current service. Anny Semenco stated that the marketing also include information about volunteer opportunities in order to increase the number of volunteers for the program Joy Freiberg recommended an automated program for senior and disabled persons who are homebound.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, requested that background analysis be made accessible to audience members. He also suggested that the tele-check program serve people with mental health issues, and not only physical ones. Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke to the importance of tele-check programs in helping to alleviate loneliness, and asked how fellow citizens can find out about the program. Julia Wallace, Inglewood resident, expressed appreciation about learning about the tele-check program, and will share it with the 50+ program at the LA LGBT Center where she works.

The Board unanimously approved a motion (1) to recommend Joy Freiberg to go to the Public Safety Commission on behalf of the Board to speak at public comment about check-in programs; (2) and to ask Social Services staff to work with Jewish Family Services to promote the existing check-in service as well as volunteer opportunities.

### **B. LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS**

Board members volunteered to be liaisons for the following Boards and Commissions:

Art & Cultural Affairs Commission – Louise Smith

Human Services Commission – Yola Dore, Rick Watts

Planning Commission – Tom Demille, Anny Semenco, Louise Smith

Public Facilities Commission – Tom Demille

Public Safety Commission – Tom Demille, Joy Freiberg

Rent Stabilization Commission – David Nash

Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board – Rick Watts  
Transgender Advisory Board – Rick Watts  
Women’s Advisory Board – Anny Semonco

Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke about her experience on the Rent Stabilization Commission and on accessibility issues.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, expressed concern before the assignments were finalized that no one on the Board was a liaison to the Public Facilities Commission.

#### **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **A. SERVICE ANIMAL AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

The Board discussed a series of talking points that were recorded at the Service Animal Ad-Hoc Subcommittee. The Subcommittee’s talking points included information on the ways non-legitimate service animals are a concern for the Board. They also included input on how to inform the public about service animals by displaying signage in businesses and a public service announcement.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident, expressed concern that the ad hoc meetings were not open to the public. He also strongly opposed working with the Chamber of Commerce due to their seeming lack of concern with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Lastly, he stated that he felt the previous meeting’s presentation by PAWS/LA was inadequate.

Stephanie Harker, resident, suggested that businesses heavily enforce the requirement that service animals display the proper tags.

The Board approved a motion to approve the Subcommittee’s talking points and recommend Rick Watts go to the City Council meeting and speak at public comment on behalf of the Board. The vote was 5-2, with the two objections from Tom Demille and Joy Freiberg.

##### **B. DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

The Board unanimously approved a motion to receive and file the subcommittee report.

#### **5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

There was none.

#### **6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff announced the following:

- Health care update on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act
- Creation of a template for the Board's newsletter
- Health Mindfulness Awareness classes through AIDS Project Los Angeles
- Success of the Senior Health Fair
- June is HIV Prevention Month
- Due to staffing changes at WCIL, the co-sponsorship efforts with the Westside Center for Independent Living will be delayed.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

## **7. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Anny Semonco attended the Women's Leadership Conference, as well as the opening of Movietown Plaza.

Louise Smith concurred that the ADA enforces minimum requirements.

Rick Watts attended the Autism Rocks concert, and a state delegates conference in Sacramento.

Tom Demille requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Jerome Boyce who passed away on Saturday.

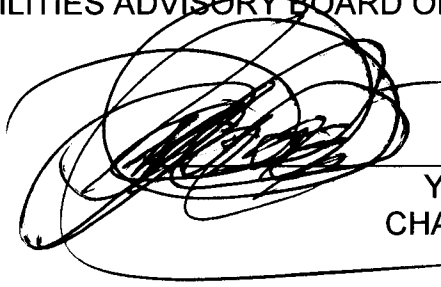
David Nash would like to know why over 100 people turned down the Movietown Plaza apartment. Also he would like to know what the accessibility requirements are for cleared space on sidewalks.

Chair Dore requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of all those who died in Manchester, England. She also moved to agenda future presentations from service providers on mental health and low-vision, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

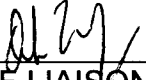
The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM in memory of those who died in Manchester, England and of resident Jerome Boyce to its next meeting, which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, in Rooms 5&6 of Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2017.



YOLA DORE,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.)***