

# **CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

## ***Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board February 28, 2018 Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park***

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

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

#### **A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Boardmember David Nash led the pledge of allegiance.

#### **B. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Yola Dore, Joy Freiberg, Mikie Friedman, David Nash, Roderick Renfrew, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Danny Hang

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

#### **C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for the February 28, 2018 meeting was approved by the Board.

#### **D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke about the work of the Board, City of Los Angeles contacts regarding access at Hart Park, and sign language interpreters for City Council meetings.

Cathy Blaivas, resident, also thanked the Board for their efforts. She spoke about sign language interpreters for City Council meetings, accessibility at affordable housing buildings and about the community gardens.

Sam Borrelli, liaison from the Human Services Commission, spoke about sign language interpreters for City Council meetings. He also encouraged the Board to let people know about the many services available in the City. He passed out the Social Services guide and highlighted the availability of one-time grants for rental assistance.

### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting were approved by the Board.

### **3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES RELATED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Board watched a video presentation from Hernan Molina, the City's Governmental Affairs Liaison regarding the City's advocacy and legislative affairs program. They raised questions that the staff will present to Mr. Molina for his response.

#### **B. HOMELESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS**

The Board received a presentation by David Giugni, Social Services Division Manager, on the Homeless Needs Assessment and Demographic Survey which provides community-based information on the needs, characteristics and conditions facing individuals who are homeless in West Hollywood. He also answered questions from the Board about this pressing issue.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

The Board received the report from the Outreach Subcommittee and approved the recommendation to participate in National Night Out as the Board's outreach activity.

### **5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

None.

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

Staff made the following announcements:

- The sexual harassment training can be taken on-line or on Friday at City Hall;
- For City Council meetings, as well as the DAB, sign language interpretation and other requests for special accommodations, must be made at least 48 hours in advance;
- The March agenda will include a panel on emergency preparedness;
- The April agenda will include a presentation on mental health services;
- The Board should start thinking about ideas for the Spring newsletter;
- Per David Giugni's presentation, a portion of this year's Social Services reallocated funds is for a pilot program for an HIV/AIDS specialist to join the homeless outreach teams;
- The County Commission on Disabilities is interested in holding a listening session in West Hollywood to learn more about the LGBTQ community. They may work with the LA LGBT Center;
- APLA Health offers mental health services to both HIV+ and non-HIV+ clients, free of charge. Anyone who is interested should call Lydia Szamraj at 213.201.1621. There are also weekly mindfulness classes offered at Plummer Park.

Flyers were distributed for new BeWell WeHo classes, and the new homeless referral cards will be brought to the next Board meeting.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

**8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Louise Smith announced the March 7 Mindfulness class at Plummer Park. She attended the County Commission on Disabilities which addressed issues of homelessness and transportation. They will hold a fundraiser in the Spring in Downtown LA.

Mikie Friedman announced that a friend of hers has a theater group that performs a skit about stopping senior scams.

David Nash said that his recent experiences in a wheelchair gave him insights on accessibility issues. He also spoke about the need to speed up the time it takes to rehab units when they are vacated.

Vice-Chair Anny Semonco attended the Women's Advisory Board which is preparing for the Women's Leadership Conference in May and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the WAB, as part of Women's History Month. She said that for the long City Council meetings the cost for real-time captioning may be prohibitive, but she is in favor of making sign language interpretation available.

Yola Dore attended the Human Services Commission meeting where they addressed education and communication on housing for the homeless. She also attended the Rent Stabilization and Housing Commission meeting which addressed tenant habitability and buy-out agreements. She requested that the City Council address sign language interpretation, and suggested that that topic be included on a future agenda.

Chair Joy Freiberg thanked Hernan Molina and David Giugni for their presentations. She asked how senior fraud affects West Hollywood residents; Derek Murray will report back at the March meeting under Staff Comments.


**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:00 PM to its next meeting on **March 28** beginning at **6 PM** in **Rooms 5 & 6 of Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.**

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON  
THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.

  
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JOY FREIBERG,  
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.)***