

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board

May 22, 2019

Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boardmember Anny Semonco led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joy Freiberg, Mikie Friedman, Danny Hang, David Nash, Anny Semonco and Louise Smith

ABSENT: Yola Dore and Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Joan Mithers, Derek Murray and Kim Patterson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the May 22, 2019 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberlee Marsh, Jewish Family Service Disability Specialist, introduced herself and the services JFS offers.

Cathy Blaivas, resident, explained that she decided not to reapply for the Historic Preservation Commission, in part because of her hearing disability, and difficulties with the head sets in rooms 5 & 6 and in Council Chambers. She has discussed this issue with Helen Collins and understands that improvements will be made.

Stephanie Harker, resident, echoed Cathy Blaivas comments, and pointed out that there is a volume button on the wall in the back of Rooms 5 & 6. She also raised concern about Hart Park, and hopes the new contract will resolve the accessibility issues.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 24, 2019 meeting were approved by the Board.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Hernan Molina, the City's Governmental Affairs Liaison on the City's legislative affairs priorities and the 2020 Census. He gave an overview of the process and timetable for legislation, and pointed out key concerns of housing and homelessness, in particular as they relate to mental health.

B. DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Vice-Chair Freiberg shared the subcommittee's recommendations for Disabilities Awareness Month activities. The Board adjusted the theme to be Pride in Our Abilities, and unanimously approved the recommendations as amended.

Under Public Comment, Stephanie Harker offered an idea for the theme and suggested that outreach at National Night Out be in a location more central to City residents.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff made the following announcements:

- City Council reappointed some members at the last meeting, and will make other appointments on June 17th.
- The City float in the Pride Parade on June 9 will seat the Chair of the DAB. Staff will inquire about questions that the Board had.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Louise Smith encouraged Board members to attend the next County Commission on Disabilities meeting where they will give out scholarships for which they raised funds. She also commended Chair Friedman on the poem that she read at the Senior Advisory Board's televised meeting earlier in the day.

Anny Semonco enjoyed attending the Women's Leadership Conference on May 11.

David Nash would like to add to the Disabilities Awareness Month theme "overcoming obstacles and mastering technology".

Danny Hang congratulated the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore.

Vice-Chair Freiberg thanked Hernan Molina for his presentation and hopes that he will return for an update. She reported that she spoke to Christopher Street West which will set up a designated accessible area at Pride and have hired Accessible Festivals to assist. She asked that the head sets in Rooms 5 & 6 and in the Council Chambers be checked, and staff will follow up.

Chair Friedman also attended the Women's Leadership Conference, as well as the Senior Health Fair. In addition she emailed Councilmember Meister in support of Senior Advisory Boardmember Esther Baum's request to lower the annual rental cap increase from 4% to 2%. Lastly, she thanked the Public Works Division for the rapid response from Code Compliance in moving electric scooters from blocking the sidewalk.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:30 PM in honor of Mayor D'Amico and Mayor ProTempore Horvath to its next meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 beginning at 6 PM in Rooms 5 & 6 at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 22nd DAY OF MAY, 2019.


MIKIE FRIEDMAN,
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.)