

## **CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

### ***Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board February 26, 2020 Rooms 5 & 6, Plummer Park***

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

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

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

Joy Freiberg led the pledge of allegiance.

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

PRESENT: Yola Dore, Joy Freiberg, Danny Hang, David Nash, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith and Rick Watts

ABSENT: Mikie Friedman

STAFF PRESENT: Joan Mithers, Derek Murray and Kim Patterson

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

The agenda for the February 26, 2020 meeting was approved by the Board.

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

Larry Block, Chair of the Public Facilities Commission, invited people to submit nominations for the upcoming City Green Awards. He spoke about the passing of Jeanne Dobrin, and also said that as a partially-sighted person, he has learned about the myriad services that the Braille Institute offers.

Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke about the plans to make Hart Park accessible. She also reiterated the desire to have two screens for real-time captioning at Council Chambers and spoke of accessibility concerns in affordable housing.

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

The minutes of the October 23, 2019 and December 4, 2019 meetings were approved by the Board.

#### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. APPOINTMENT TO THE CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) WORKING GROUP**

Robyn Eason, Senior Sustainability Planner, on the CAAP working group made a presentation to the Disabilities Advisory Board about the City's efforts to

decrease its carbon footprint and requested representatives from the Board to participate in four bi-monthly meetings. Yola Dore volunteered to be the main representative and Joy Freiberg will be the alternate.

**B. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD 2020 WORK PLAN**

The Disabilities Advisory Board discussed the 2020 Work Plan and approved the work plan incorporating changes that were discussed.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. STUDY SESSION ON SIDEWALK ACCESSIBILITY AND CROSSWALK SAFETY**

The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the recommendations on sidewalk accessibility and crosswalk safety that were discussed at the December 4, 2019 Study Session, with Rick Watts voting no on automatic walk signals.

Under Public Comment, Stephanie Harker encouraged Board members to speak up at the March 2, 2020 Council Meeting to oppose the pilot program for the robot delivery system, due to accessibility concerns.

**B. DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS DEBRIEF**

Board members all agreed that the televised Board meeting was successful, especially Boardmember Comments. Some of the Boardmembers suggested including a cultural element, perhaps in lieu of a speaker. The new Disabilities Awareness Month subcommittee will include Louise Smith, Rick Watts, and Yola Dore, with Vice-Chair Semonco as the alternate.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

None.

**6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff made the following announcements:

- applications are available until March 4 for affordable senior housing at the LA LGBT Center;
- next Wednesday, March 4 there will be a Homeless Services Connect Day from 10 AM – 2 PM at West Hollywood Park Auditorium;
- ballots can be dropped off at City Hall or Plummer Park next Tuesday, March 3; and
- there will be a cultural diversity training for businesses on Thursday, March 5 from 12 Noon – 2 PM at Council Chambers.

Lastly, staff congratulated Mikie Friedman for her performance at the Vagina Monologues event.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

David Nash announced that there are accessibility concerns at his building.

Louise Smith attended the Abilities Expo which was well-attended and addressed accessible housing. She attended the Be Well WeHo workshops and wondered if there will be more of them. Lastly, she encouraged people to attend Seniors in Action to engage in the discussions and get involved in the community.

Joy Freiberg asked for an update on the Council Chambers screens. She reported on the Abilities Expo website which she found amazing.

Rick Watts spoke about requalifying for benefits. He also announced the possible filling of the ninth Board slot at the March 2, 2020 Council meeting.

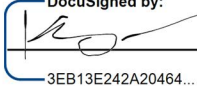
Vice-Chair Semonco attended the Vagina Monologues play where she said Mikie Friedman was brilliant. She raised the issue of accessibility at AirBnBs and major concerts like Coachella. She encouraged everyone to attend the Women's Advisory Board movie nights.

Chair Hang thanked the speakers, audience, and staff for their contributions to the meeting. He is looking forward to the new year with the Board, and he encouraged people to vote on March 3, 2020.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:10 PM to its next meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 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 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

DocuSigned by:  
  
3EB13E242A20464... **DANNY HANG,**  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
**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.)***