

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
TELECONFERENCE MEETING

February 24, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boardmember Hang led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT: Derek Murray, Joan Mithers and Kim Patterson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the February 24, 2021 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eva Angeloff, Arts Grants Coordinator, encouraged the Boardmembers to apply to be panelists for the grant application process. She said no expertise is required, just interest and enthusiasm for the arts. The application is available at www.weho.org/arts, to be completed by the April 30 deadline.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Boardmember Freiberg noted the omission of her Boardmember Comment that the CDC advised the wearing of two masks to protect against COVID-19, as recommended by Dr. Anthony Fauci.

The amended minutes of January 27, 2021 were approved.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS PRESENTATION

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Hernan Molina, the City's Governmental Affairs Liaison on the City's 2021-2022 legislative priorities. He recommended two websites to keep track of ongoing legislation at www.weho.org/legislative and www.CapitolTrack.com, and answered questions

from the Board. Boardmembers Dore and Blood suggested that people with disabilities be added to the City of West Hollywood Legislative Priorities document that lists people who should be treated with respect. Mr. Molina will amend that section.

Stephanie Harker, resident, spoke under Public Comment, about Eastside revitalization under Primary Strategic Goals and amending Vision 2050. She also encouraged an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter at all public meetings.

B. LOS ANGELES COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

The Disabilities Advisory Board received an update from Fernando Morales of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office on COVID 19, with a focus on vaccination efforts and how they have evolved. He also warned against scams; all vaccinations are free so no one should be asked for payment.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray reminded the Board that Bet Tzedek Legal Services is providing rapid response eviction defense and announced that on March 5, there will be a free writer's workshop hosted by APLA Health for older adults living with HIV. Joan Mithers reminded the Board that the City provides transportation to vaccination sites through On-Call Transportation. David Giugni thanked Fernando Morales for his generosity of time and his information. Staff also recognized Boardmember Watts many years of service to the Board and thanked him for his care and advocacy for the community.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Harker, resident, recommended that the City provide closed captioning during Zoom meetings, and suggested that all meetings be shown live on WeHo TV. Lastly, she spoke about an assisted living project that has been approved by Planning, but is being appealed.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Boardmembers thanked the presenters, the Board and the staff for their work. Special thanks were given to Boardmember Watts for his tremendous contributions to both individuals and the community.

Boardmember Blood agreed that ASL should be provided at the meetings. He suggested that page numbers be added to agenda packets. He noted that screen

sharing through Zoom results in small text that is hard to read. He also noted that Fulgent Genetics provided free COVID testing. He noted the recommendation to double-mask, recognizing the 500,000 who have now died from COVID-19. He moved to adjourn in honor of Black History Month, in particular Black advocates who impacted the shape and form of the disability rights movement.

Boardmember Freiberg reminded people to not get scammed by callers asking for payment for COVID-19 vaccines. She also reminded people that those with cognitive disabilities should be on the high-risk list for vaccines.

Boardmember Friedman announced the upcoming virtual Safety and Preparedness Fair on March 7.

Boardmember Hang thanked Boardmember Freiberg for checking in on him regularly during the holidays when he was sick.

Boardmember Nash asked if there could be a follow-up to Walter Davis' presentation about sidewalk accessibility. He expressed concern about the expansion onto sidewalks by restaurants for outdoor dining, and asked about pool opening updates.

Vice-Chair Watts agreed with the closed captioning suggestion. He asked everyone to welcome the new Boardmember who will replace him, and raised that public service is a privilege. He moved to adjourn in memory of the 500,000 people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19, the 2.5 million worldwide, 20,000 in Los Angeles County, and 50,000 in California.

Chair Semonco attended the webinar on scams from Assemblyman Bloom's office and the COVID-19 webinar yesterday. She has participated with Disability Voices United, a grassroots organization promoting community recognition of disabled people for access to the COVID-19 vaccine. She noted that Councilmembers Erickson and Shyne are working to require ASL during Council meetings, so she suggested that people contact Council with their concerns. She moved to adjourn in honor of the Black LGBT community and to Boardmember Watts.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in memory of all who have died from COVID-19 and in honor of Black History Month, in particular Black people with disabilities, and the Black LGBT community, and Boardmember Watts at 8:30 PM to the next teleconference meeting at 6 PM on March 24, 2021.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.



ANNY SEMONCO,
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.)