

**MINUTES
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024
6:00 PM**

**PLUMMER PARK, ROOMS 5&6
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90046**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dore called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jeremy Padilla led the Pledge.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Board Member Green, Board Member Leathem,
Board Member Nash, Board Member Schwartz,
Board Member Semonco, Board Member Watts,
Vice-Chair Smith, Chair Dore

Absent: Board Member Mann

Also Present: Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program
Administrator, Dee Saunders, Social Services
Specialist, Joyce Britton, Administrative
Specialist

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: *The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the agenda of the April 24, 2024, Disabilities Advisory Board meeting. Motioned by Vice-Chair Smith, seconded by Board Member Green and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cortez Jordan, Aquatics Supervisor at the City of West Hollywood, extended an invitation to the Board to attend Springfest, a community event on Saturday, April 27, from 11am to 2pm at the Aquatics and Recreation Center in West Hollywood.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: *The Disabilities Advisory Board approved minutes of the March 27, 2024, meeting. Motioned by Vice-Chair Smith, seconded by Board Member Schwartz and approved by roll call vote, noting an abstention from Board Member Leathem.*

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Battalion Chief Jeff Swingle of the Los Angeles County Fire Department on emergency preparedness for persons living with a disability. For additional information, please visit <http://ready.lacounty.gov>.

ACTION: Received and discussed. An item of concern for the Board was having a contingency plan such as a registry for people with disabilities in disaster situations.

B. WEHO PRIDE 2024 PARADE PARTICIPATION

ACTION: The Disabilities Advisory Board called for volunteers for members interested in riding on the WeHo Pride Parade float on Sunday, June 2, 2024 and selected Board Member Nash and Board Member Green. They will be entered into a random selection drawing, conducted by the City Clerk.

C. SENIOR HEALTH FAIR

ACTION: The Disabilities Advisory Board called for volunteers for members to host a table at the Older Adults Advisory Board's Senior Health Fair on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 and selected Board Member Green, Board Member Watts and Vice-Chair Smith as volunteers.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. BOARD MEMBER LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

ACTION: The Disabilities Advisory Board assigned liaisons for the City of West Hollywood's Boards and Commissions. Board

Member Leathem volunteered to be the liaison to the Social Justice Advisory Board, and the Business Licensing Commission.

B. UPDATE FROM DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE

ACTION: The Disabilities Advisory Board received an update on Disabilities Awareness Month planning from the subcommittee and discussed potential themes.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Padilla, a resident of Los Angeles, expressed gratitude for the Fire Chief's visit and spoke about his artwork, emphasizing his enjoyment in promoting positive images of people living with disabilities.

7. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice-Chair Smith attended the WeHo 40 event last weekend and praised staff for organizing it and providing excellent giveaways. She noted a strong community turnout and mentioned an upcoming event in late June at West Hollywood Park, emphasizing the importance of board members participating to engage with constituents. Vice-Chair Smith thanked Board Member Green and Chair Dore for attending.

Board Member Nash attended a recent Planning Commission meeting and shared updates, emphasizing the importance of supporting projects for people with disabilities and low incomes. Additionally, he expressed excitement about the upcoming Spring Fest at the Aquatics Center, highlighting its accessibility features and inviting the Board to tour the facility.

Vice-Chair Smith motioned for Board Member Nash to serve as the Disabilities Advisory Board representative at Spring Fest and Chair Dore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Board Member Watts discussed the Older Adults Advisory Board upcoming televised meeting on May 14 in the Council Chambers, and the Health Fair on May 21. He also highlighted an excellent presentation from the Rent Stabilization Division, suggesting a similar presentation for their Board.

*****Board Member Green motioned to extend the meeting by 20 minutes; Board Member Schwartz seconded the motion.***

(Cont'd.) Board Member Watts reported on the City's Legislative Advocacy Day in Sacramento. He highlighted the State's budget deficit and the potential impact on programs for persons with disabilities and the poor. He mentioned meeting with representatives and advocating against cuts that would disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Watts closed with a quote emphasizing the government's moral test in caring for the young, old, sick, needy, and handicapped. He thanked the Board for trusting him to advocate for the disabilities community, emphasizing the importance of joining voices with other cities and organizations to make an impact.

Board Member Semonco shared an important tip regarding medical alerts and internet service providers. She advised individuals with medical alerts to ensure compatibility with their internet service provider to avoid issues in case of disconnection.

Board Member Schwartz announced progress on the Melrose Avenue Streetscape Project. He mentioned walking the entire 1.2-mile street to assess accessibility for people with disabilities. Board Member Schwartz noted a key issue: the sidewalk is not being widened as proposed, posing challenges for wheelchair users navigating around poles.. Board Member Schwartz emphasized that construction should not proceed until the sidewalk issue is resolved to ensure equal access for people with disabilities.

Board Member Leathem acknowledged Denim Day, which recognizes sexual assault survivors of all genders. He highlighted that sexual assault is a major contributor to physical and mental disabilities and wanted to acknowledge this given the significance of the day.

Board Member Green spoke on his attendance to various meetings. He expressed concerns about accessibility in City planning. He recommended supporting AB 2449 to allow people with disabilities to attend meetings remotely and suggested adding the work plan to the agenda regularly for review. He also proposed reviewing the City Council meeting agenda for important community comments that may not be addressed elsewhere. Additionally, he suggested allowing liaisons to submit reports in their absence to keep the board informed.

*****Board Member Green motioned to extend the meeting by 5 minutes; Board Member Schwartz seconded the motion.***

Chair Dore reported on her role as the liaison to Human Services. She mentioned participating in the WeHo 40 event, which was successful but highlighted some accessibility issues. Chair Dore then wished everyone well for any recent holidays and expressed hopes for everyone's health.

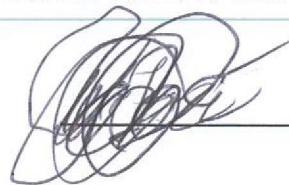
8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff mentioned a Public Safety Meet and Greet on May 1 at 6 pm at Plummer Park. This event is an opportunity to meet with Sheriff's, Fire Department, Block by Block security ambassadors, and Public Safety Commissioners. Additionally, staff highlighted a presentation at the upcoming Public Safety Commission meeting on Monday, May 13th with social services contracted agency, Healthcare in Action.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:25 pm its next meeting which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at Plummer Park Rooms 5 & 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 6th DAY OF JUNE, 2024.



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.)