

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

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY, COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**  
**625 N. SAN VICENTE BLVD.**  
**WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dore called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Member Nash led the Pledge.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Board Member Leathem

Also Present: Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program  
Administrator, Derek Murray, Acting Social  
Services Supervisor, Joyce Britton,  
Administrative Specialist

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** *The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the agenda of the June 6, 2024, Disabilities Advisory Board meeting. Motioned by Vice-Chair Smith, seconded by Board Member Nash and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Eichman, a business owner in West Hollywood and chair of the City's Transportation and Mobility Commission, announced that the commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month

at 6:30 PM at City Hall. He invited the board and the public to attend and share any transportation or mobility concerns during the public comment period. Mr. Eichman highlighted ongoing issues with scooters, personal delivery devices, and bicyclists on sidewalks, and encouraged communication through him, commission meetings, or city staff to address any additional concerns.

## 2. CONSENT CALENDAR

### A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**ACTION:** *The Disabilities Advisory Board approved minutes of the April 24, 2024, meeting.* **Motioned by Chair Dore, seconded by Board Member Schwartz and approved by roll call vote.**

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### A. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PRESENTATION

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation from Kira Mintz of Maple Counseling on the mental health services available to West Hollywood community members.

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

## 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. BOARD MEMBER LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

**ACTION:** Finalized liaison assignments to Boards and Commissions assigning Board Member Mann as liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission and alternate to the Transgender Advisory Board.

### B. UPDATE FROM DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE

The Disabilities Advisory Board received an update on Disabilities Awareness Month planning from the subcommittee.

**ACTION:** The Board adopted by consensus the theme: "Accessibility Reigns: Using Our Voices to Rise Together".

**\*\*\*Board Member Semonco arrived at 6:37 PM.**

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

None.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**7. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Vice-Chair Smith attended the Public Safety Commission meeting, the Mishka Festival, and the LA County Commission on Disabilities. Vice-chair invited the Disabilities Advisory Board to attend National Night Out, her neighborhood is planning an event.

Board Member Semonco attended the Older Adults Health Fair and the Mishka Festival and shared she has no update to provide as the Women's Advisory Board was canceled due to a lack of quorum.

Board Member Mann expressed a concern about preparing for the summer heat. She inquired about the City's resources for preventing heat stroke and information about County cooling stations and support for disabled residents in apartments without proper cooling resource.

Board Member Schwartz provided an update on the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Steering Committee. He shared his experience with the West Hollywood City Civic Leadership Academy.

Board Member Watts attended the Older Adults Advisory Board meeting and the Older Adults Health Fair, noting parking issues. He mentioned the AIDS/LifeCycle event and the 43rd anniversary of Dr. Michael Gottlieb's report on HIV/AIDS, reflecting on its impact and the ongoing need for resources and awareness and emphasized the importance of support for long-term survivors. He expressed concerns about accessibility at the City Pride parade and discussed the need for compliance with Assembly Bill 2449, suggesting the Board might consider becoming a commission to meet legal requirements for virtual participation.

Board Member Nash reported that the Planning Commission is considering a deal for the City to occupy the Sterling Building for \$1 per year in exchange for allowing a billboard on top. At the recent Pride event, Board Member Nash criticized the accessibility of the parade

floats and the congestion caused by businesses encroaching on sidewalks.

Board Member Green suggested discussing West Hollywood Pride and best practices, including the organization of contracted agencies' booths to improve accessibility and flow. He also recommended permanently modifying the agenda to include liaison reports and legislative updates. He advocated for involving the Transgender Advisory Board, LGBTQ+ Commission, and other advisory boards in the planning of the DAB health fair. He attended various meetings, including the Public Safety Committee, Older Adults Advisory Board, and a Council meeting.

Chair Dore motioned to adjourn in honor of Marty Meister, the father of Council member Meister, and Sam Rubin, a prominent entertainment anchor from KTLA Channel Five known for his dedication to raising money for the MS Society. Chair Dore expressed concern over the lack of awareness about PrEP and PEP among volunteers during Pride, stressing the ongoing need for education and advocacy.

**8. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff thanked Vice-Chair Smith, Board Member Watts, and Board Member Semonco for their involvement in the Older Adults Health Fair on May 21, highlighting its success. Staff also reported on the Human Services Division's presence at Pride, where they distributed social service guides, harm reduction materials, and small toys for children. They thanked Board Member Green for volunteering at the booth. Lastly, staff informed the Board that the mid-year report on Social Service contracts would be presented at the next Human Services Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 11th.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in memory of Marty Meister and Sam Rubin at 7:38 PM to its next meeting which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 26, 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 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2024.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dore", is written over a horizontal line.

YOLA DORE,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
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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.)*