

**MINUTES  
OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024  
2:00 PM**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL  
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM  
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dixon Called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Present: Board Member Carrel, Board Member Hollingsworth,  
Board Member Holguin, Board Member Leroy, Board  
Member Sutton, Board Member Walkup, Vice-Chair  
Allendorfer, Chair Dixon

Absent: Board Member Semanski

Also Present: Francisco Gomez, Strategic Initiatives  
Program Administrator, Joyce Britton, Administrative  
Specialist IV

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Marina Goldshteyn led the pledge.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** *The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda for the meeting on July 24, 2024. Motioned by Vice Chair Allendorfer, seconded by Board Member Holguin and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** *The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2024 Older Adult Advisory Board meeting. Motioned by Board Member Carrel, seconded by Board Member Hollingsworth and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Eichman, a West Hollywood resident, expressed gratitude to Chair Dixon for leading the board over the past year, acknowledging the extra work involved. He informed the board about the Transportation

Commission's recent chair and vice chair elections held last Wednesday. Mr. Eichman invited board members to attend their meetings, held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM, and mentioned that public comments can be made without staying for the entire meeting. He announced that the new chair is Commissioner Winnick and the new vice chair is Commissioner Harris, marking the first time the Transportation Commission is led by two women, including a woman of color, which he noted as a historic milestone.

Larry Block, West Hollywood resident, thanked the board for their work and reintroduced himself, mentioning that he is running for city council. Reflecting on his 65 years and recent personal losses, he highlighted the disproportionate city spending on homelessness compared to seniors and people with disabilities, emphasizing their struggles. He invited everyone to his campaign kickoff on August 3 at The New WeHo Town Hall.

Rick Watts, West Hollywood resident, invited everyone to the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at Plummer Park, starting at 6 PM. He emphasized that many issues and concerns overlap between the boards and encouraged attendance. Mr. Watts mentioned the ongoing process of gathering nominees for the October Disability Service Awards, noting that nomination forms are available online and in hard copy at the meeting. He encouraged people to nominate businesses, individuals, or nonprofit groups that have excelled in supporting the disabled community.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The City Clerk's office facilitated the election of the Older Adult Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair.

**ACTION:** The Board elected John Allendorfer (4-3 with one abstention) as Chair and Russell Holguin as Vice-Chair (7-1).

### **B. ITEMS FROM SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM**

Jewish Family Service Staff provided information about recent and upcoming programs sponsored by the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center.

**ACTION:** Received presentation.

### **C. BET TZEDEK PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

The Older Adults Advisory Board received an update on services offered by Bet Tzedek, a City-contracted legal services provider.

**ACTION:** Received presentation.

### **D. LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS SELECTION**

The Older Adults Advisory Board selected members to represent the Board at various City Commission and Advisory Board meetings.

**ACTION:** Assigned Board members to serve as liaisons to City Commissions and Advisory Boards.

**Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission** – Pat Dixon

**Planning Commission** – John Allendorfer

**Public Facilities Commission** – Richard Leroy

**Rent Stabilization Commission** – Pat Dixon

**Transportation Commission** – Wendy Carrel; Russell Holguin; Richard Leroy

**Disabilities Advisory Board** – Lee Walkup

**LGBTQ+ Commission** – Russell Holguin; Lee Walkup

**Women's Advisory Board** – Nadia Sutton

### 3. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff expressed gratitude to Chair Dixon for her service. Staff recognized newly-elected Chair Allendorfer and the new Vice Chair Holguin.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Watts shared the following:

1. Grab Bars Installation: He mentioned that the City of West Hollywood has a program where landlords can be reimbursed for installing grab bars upon request.

2. Safety Concerns for Seniors: Mr. Watts discussed the risks of falls among older adults and people with disabilities, highlighting the importance of having carpeting or other softer flooring to reduce injury.

3. Tribute: He requested that the adjournment motion include a tribute to the late Reverend Jim Lawson, who recently passed away. Lawson was a prominent civil rights leader and a key figure in advancing democratic values.

### 5. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Board Member Sutton emphasized the importance of leveraging individual talents and connections to address issues related to older adults. She encouraged everyone to engage with elected officials and other contacts, not only in Washington but across California, to advocate for decisions that support the employment of older adults.

Board Member Carrel suggested that if the board is interested in inviting HICAP (the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program), they should indicate their interest. The Board expressed unanimous interest.

Board Member Holguin expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and thanked everyone for their vote in electing him as Vice Chair. He noted that his term would start next month.

Board Member Leroy expressed gratitude towards the staff and board members for their hard work. He mentioned saying goodbye to John, Bob Newhart, and Kinky Friedman. Board Member Leroy highlighted that the Hammer Museum, in partnership with UCLA archives, will be showing LGBTQ+ films over the next few weeks. He also shared that the LA County Library offers free events and museum passes through a program called "Common Go," accessible via their portal. Additionally, Board Member Leroy expressed concern about the underutilization of the swimming facilities at ARC and suggested inviting someone from the ARC to discuss this issue.

Board Member Hollingsworth thanked everyone for their service and acknowledged the accomplishments of the year. He suggested inviting someone from the Jewish Family Services Center to speak about the various types of assistance available to seniors, such as help with moving, packing, and finding low-cost movers. He emphasized that many people might not be aware of these resources and that it's important to inform the community about the available support beyond entertainment activities.

Vice Chair Allendorfer thanked Chair Dixon for a great year, appreciating her work and listening to people and guests. He looks forward to working with newly elected Vice Chair Holguin and the Board, acknowledging their great support system. He also thanked the staff. Vice Chair Allendorfer expressed satisfaction that activities on the west side are being pursued, mentioning pickleball for seniors.

Board Member Walkup shared several updates:

1. Spanish Classes: Board Member Walkup will be teaching elementary Spanish at the senior center on a weekly basis, with the schedule to be determined.
2. 40th Anniversary Meeting: A meeting about West Hollywood's future and its 40th anniversary will be held on Zoom from 6 pm to 8 pm on Monday. Registration is required.
3. Rental Issues: Board Member Walkup advised contacting Rent Stabilization or the City of West Hollywood's Code Enforcement Division if needed for issues involving landlords and property maintenance.
4. Metro Extension: Board Member Walkup is interested in receiving an update on the proposed K-Line Metro extension, which could result in Metro Rail service in West Hollywood if implemented.

## 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Older Adults Advisory Board adjourned at 4:07 pm in memory of Reverend Lawson to its next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room at West Hollywood City Hall, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 28<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.



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PAT DIXON  
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.)***