



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024
6:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING
DRAFTED MINUTES

PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Boardmember Dore
Boardmember Green
Boardmember Leathem *arrived at 6:10pm*
Boardmember Nash
Boardmember Schwartz *arrived at 6:10pm*
Boardmember Semonco
Boardmember Watts
Vice Chair Mann
Chair Smith

Absent: None

ALSO Dee Saunders, Social Services Specialist

PRESENT: Isaac Arredondo, Social Services Program Administrator
Amy Valdepeña, Recording Secretary, Human Services Specialist

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Boardmember Green led the pledge.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

WENDY GOLDMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD- Shared issues, such as pedestrian safety, scooters, bus stop signage, and problematic intersections—specifically mentioning La Cienega and Sunset. Goldman also emphasized challenges in getting traffic studies and red curb installations approved, despite repeated requests following several collisions. Goldman also expressed the need for improved ADA compliance in city facilities. With an upcoming election, she urged stronger advocacy efforts. Additionally, she proposed quarterly special meetings to better coordinate efforts across all boards and commissions and called for forming a coalition to achieve more impactful results.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD- Voiced concerns about pipeline installations on Gardner and Fountain, affecting disabled and senior residents, particularly on the East Side. She questioned why the city's initiatives seem to disregard these communities, noting that the combination of bike lanes, sidewalks, and other projects could create obstacles for those with mobility issues. She urged the city to genuinely listen to these concerns, keep the issue in focus, and reconsider one-lane traffic on Fountain. Additionally, it was highlighted that residents on Gardner now face safety concerns due to the need to park farther from their homes.

CATHY BLAIVAS, WEST HOLLYWOOD- Informed the Board that the addition of bike lanes on Fountain Ave is the issue. Which would reduce traffic lanes from two in each direction to one, this change could eliminate 150 to 200 parking spaces.

Cathy expressed concerns about being accused of spreading misinformation while advocating for the community, emphasizing that their statistics were based on initial staff reports. She noted that meaningful outreach and significant public input were lacking.

When asked about community notification, City Transportation staff confirmed multiple times that residents had not been informed. She also informed the Board, despite concerns, the Vista Gardner Concept plan was passed by a majority. Cathy is aiming to alert as many people as possible about the impending changes.

ZEKIAH N. WRIGHT, WEST HOLLYWOOD- Thanked the Board for providing resources to the community, enabling better care for the disabled. They expressed excitement about the upcoming Health Fair on October 1, 2024.

They also supported the forming a coalition among board members and emphasized the importance of electing representatives who genuinely listen to constituents. Zekiah noted the ongoing complaints about the robots and scooters, which had persisted for four years, and suggested suspending the program until all affected parties could discuss viable solutions.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR:

6.A. POSTING OF AGENDA:

SUBJECT: The agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the Sheriff's Station, and at the West Hollywood Library on Thursday, September 19, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, with the amendment of tabling Item 8.B. **Motioned by Boardmember Dore and seconded by Boardmember Green and approved by roll call vote.** Noting that Boardmember Leathem and Boardmember Schwartz were not in attendance.

6.B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the prior Council meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of August 28, 2024. **Motioned by Vice Chair Mann and seconded by Boardmember Dore** and approved by roll call vote.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

8.A. CITY PROJECTS UPDATE:

The Older Adult Advisory Board received an update from Ric Abramson, Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager, and provided an update on City Projects.

Boardmembers thanked Ric Abramson and followed up with a few questions and comments.

ACTION: Received and discussed.

- 8.B. UPDATE ON AB 2449 AND COMMISSIONS/BOARDS ACCESSIBLE IN REAL-TIME.**
SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board will receive an update from the City Clerk on AB 2449 and Commissions/Boards meeting accessibility.

ACTION: ****Item 8.B is tabled to the next meeting****

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

9.A. UPDATE FROM DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE:

SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board received an update on Disabilities Awareness Month planning from the subcommittee. They discussed the order of which Boardmembers will present for each honoree, as well as duties and flow of the Health & Wellness Event and lastly, decided on a keynote speaker.

ACTION: A motion to have two Boardmembers comment after each award and the final comment by Chair Smith. The motioned was then amended that all Subcommittee updates be given followed by updates from Staff. Motion failed.

ACTION: A motion to have Boardmember comments interspersed throughout the Service Award Presentation, and approved by roll call vote.

ACTION: A motion to move forward with keynote speaker Steven Simon and approved by roll call vote.

ACTION: The Board agreed to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.

9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

None.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Isaac Arredondo shared that the City of West Hollywood will be hosting a Mobility Expo.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

13. ITEMS FROM BOARD AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Boardmember Green- Informed the Board that he attended the City Council meeting and made a public comment at 11:45 PM. He also shared that could not attend the Transgender Advisory Board meeting, but he submitted a written comment to keep them informed. He also participated in the most recent LGBTQ+ Commission meeting.

Boardmember Schwartz- Reported his attendance at the City Council meeting, where he found the DAB award presentation very beautiful. He noted he had no updates from the Transportation Commission or the Rent Stabilization Commission.

Boardmember Leathem- Reported he was not able to attend the Business Licensing Commission Meeting due to work obligations.

Boardmember Watts- Boardmember Watts shared that the AIDS Walk is scheduled for October 13, 2024, and noted that this would be its last year. He encouraged support for participants in these events. He informed the Board that he attended the Older Adult Advisory Board meeting

that afternoon, where the Coalition for Economic Survival presented information about their weekly tenants' legal clinics on Wednesdays at 6 PM and Saturdays at 10 AM. He requested flyers for the DAB Event and Health Fair to distribute in apartment buildings. Boardmember Watts also shared the passing of Steven Walker, a Canadian gay artist, and praised his remarkable work.

Boardmember Semonco- Informed the Board she was not able to attend the last Women's Advisory Board meeting, due to date switch, but is planning to attend the next meeting and excited to see them at the event.

Vice Chair Mann- Vice Chair Mann adjourned in memory of William Monroe Wicker Scott Sr., their grandfather, who recently passed. They shared he was long-time cancer survivor, he was chronically ill and worked as a psychiatrist, advancing access to alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment options.

Boardmember Nash- Expressed his appreciation to the committee and staff on helping with interspersed comments this year for the Services Awards.

Boardmember Dore- Informed the Board that several people were doing cancer fundraisers and expressed excitement about a phenomenal event at Hamburger Mary's. She encouraged others to join as she praised the owner for supporting the community. She also shared that she attended the September Human Services Commission meeting, and said it was a great meeting.

Chair Smith- Expressed gratitude to the subcommittee for their excellent work and staff for their efforts in pulling everything together. She also expressed excitement for a successful October.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:08 pm to its special televised meeting which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at West Hollywood City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.