

**THESE MEETING MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY  
THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**C1**

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

October 9, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

**Call To Order & Roll Call**

Chair Goldhaber called the regular meeting of the Culver City Disability Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 P.M. at the Senior Center.

**Members Present:** Janice Goldhaber, Chair  
Marie Albertson, Member  
Jessica Burnett, Member  
Robin Langman, Member  
Shellena Leftridge, Member  
Yu-Ngok Lo, Member  
Marcy Sookne, Member

**Absent:** Robyn Tenensapf, Vice Chair  
Ketsha Thompson, Member

**Staff Present:** Jill Thomsen, Recreation and Community  
Services Supervisor  
Mike Odunze, Social Services and Disability  
Services Coordinator  
Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community  
Services Coordinator  
Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Sookne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda**

Chair Goldhaber invited public comment.

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, indicated that those who had signed up for public comment were not present or online, and she noted that there would be additional opportunity to provide public comment at the end of the meeting.

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**Presentation**

Item P-1

**Presentation from Culver City Girl Scout Troop #431 Regarding their Planning for, and Participation in, the 2024 Abilities Carnival and Resource Fair**

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, reported that the presenters were unable to attend to provide a presentation and she indicated that re-agendizing the presentation could be discussed during Item A-5.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**Approval of the Minutes for the Disability Advisory Committee Regular Meeting of August 14, 2024**

MOVED BY MEMBER SOOKNE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LO THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2024.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALBERTSON, BURNETT, GOLDHABER, LANGMAN, LEFTRIDGE,  
LO, SOOKNE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: TENENSAPF, THOMPSON

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Item C-2

**Approval of the Minutes for the Disability Advisory Committee  
Special Meeting of September 25, 2024**

MOVED BY MEMBER LO AND SECONDED BY CHAIR GOLDHABER THAT THE  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALBERTSON, BURNETT, GOLDHABER, LANGMAN, LEFTRIDGE,  
LO, SOOKNE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: TENENSAPF, THOMPSON

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**DAC - Receipt and Filing of the Report from Cedars-Sinai  
Regarding Building the Foundation for Disability Inclusion**

Chair Goldhaber introduced the item.

Denise Gallagher, Cedars Sinai, provided background on  
herself and a presentation on building the foundation for  
disability inclusion; noted the mostly internal workforce  
discussion to create a more inclusive environment; discussed  
history of the institution; empowering excellence through  
diversity; ensuring inclusivity of different dimensions of  
identity; strategic areas and goals; employee demographics;

self-identification of disability; national statistics; underreporting; getting a more accurate read; available information; programming and resources; stigma; education; what is included in the definition; funding and grant opportunities; integrating disability into research protocols; enhancing diverse perspectives in research; creation of an internal task force; Employee Resource Groups (ERGs); shared identity; funding to help groups thrive; providing an authentic voice; success and progress; areas for additional improvement; providing a safe space; reluctance to join a Disability ERG; best practices; accessibility audits; focus areas; task force findings; and receipt of the Best Place to work for Disability Inclusion designation.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Gallagher, staff, and Committee Members regarding people who complain about accommodations for the disabled; lack of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance in many states; large organizations that are cutting their DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) programs; institutional core values; appreciation for the work being done and focus on an often overlooked population; disappointment that people do not want to disclose their disabilities; National Disability Awareness Month; the partnership with ArtLifting; people who are not comfortable talking about things; lack of awareness of leaders with disabilities; the need for storytelling and sharing of experiences; creating the right environment for people to talk; fear of retaliation; providing different programming; normalization; behind the scenes accommodation; the Department of Rehabilitation; ensuring that progress is made; providing transitional employment; representation; talent acquisition; hiring goals around people with disabilities; race and gender; ERGs; concern with marginalizing those with disabilities; people who feel they might not qualify; multi-factions under the umbrella of disabilities; physical, developmental, neurological, or social disabilities; increasing attendance; the explanation provided in the call for participation; intersectionality with different groups; appreciation for the presentation and for employee recruitment of diverse individuals; leadership; outreach for medical professionals with disabilities; approaching medical schools to let them know that Cedars is open to doctors or nurses with disabilities; lack of comfort in sharing diagnosis; the need for a movement to destigmatize the concept around ability and disability as professionals; being inclusive at all different levels; Next Generation Programs;

communication with hospitals that are part of the consortium; appreciation for the comment; the multi-faceted issue; the ever-changing community at Cedars Sinai; the long way to go; people who do not feel safe; and appreciation for the presentation and for the insightful comments from the DAC.

MOVED BY MEMBER LEFTRIDGE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LO THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT FROM CEDARS-SINAI REGARDING BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALBERTSON, BURNETT, GOLDBABER, LANGMAN, LEFTRIDGE,  
LO, SOOKNE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: TENENSAPF, THOMPSON

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Item A-2

**DAC - (1) Drafting of Recommendations from Disability Advisory Committee for the Parks Plan; and (2) Authorization of Transmittal of the Recommendations to OLIN, the Parks Plan Consultant**

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, introduced the item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding concern that plans would detrimentally effect accessibility of vans with ramps; slope requirements; materials used to minimize intrusion to the environment; clarification regarding the ten year plan; ensuring that negative impacts to the environment of replacing the wooden ramp from the parking area at Culver Park are minimized; the ability to provide feedback up until November 4 via a form on the Culver City website or by sending an email to staff; the opportunity for individuals to provide feedback as citizens; previous discussion of the item at the last meeting; clarification that installation of a community garden has been included; increased parking for Veterans Park; a suggestion to exceed the recommended number of handicapped parking spaces; adding sensory materials to the parks; and other parks in the area set up for children with neurodiversity differences and disabilities.

Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, read recommendations made by Committee Members at the meeting.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding ensuring ease of access for accessible vans to load and offload easily; the Better Overland project; ADA requirements; concern with materials used for ADA ramps; consideration of elevators; providing data points for the consultant; the ability to access plans from the website and provide comment; providing the ability for people with physical disabilities to commune with nature using the ramp at Culver City Park; ensuring that materials used are sensitive to the environment; clarification that community gardens are already part of the project; adding sensory materials; creating at least one park in the system that is particularly sensitive to children that are neurodiverse to allow participation in normal playground activities modeled after other cities in the area with special needs playgrounds; encouragement to Members to go to the website; plans for a neurodiverse playground at Lindberg Park; and incorporation of feedback.

MOVED BY MEMEBR LO AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LANGMAN THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO OLIN, THE PARKS PLAN CONSULTANT.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALBERTSON, BURNETT, GOLDBABER, LANGMAN, LEFTRIDGE,  
LO, SOOKNE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: TENENSAPF, THOMPSON

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Item A-3

**DAC - (1) Drafting of Letters from the Disability Advisory Committee to Supporters of 2024 Disability Awareness Month; and (2) Authorization of Transmittal of the Letters to the Intended Recipients**

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding support for personalized letters; acknowledging help received; identification of who to send letters to; Members willing to help; monetary contributions; volunteer contributions; creation of a deadline; responsibility for drafting personalized letters; and review and authorization of the letters.

MOVED BY CHAIR GOLDBABER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER SOOKNE THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

1. DESIGNATE DAC MEMBERS, TO DRAFT PERSONALIZED LETTERS FROM THE DAC TO SUPPORTERS OF THE 2024 DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH; AND,

2. AGENDIZE THE REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE PERSONALIZED DRAFTS AT A FUTURE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALBERTSON, BURNETT, GOLDBABER, LANGMAN, LEFTRIDGE,  
LO, SOOKNE

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: TENENSAPF, THOMPSON

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the ability for others to participate in addition to Chair Goldhaber and Member Sookne, and the need to provide letters to staff no later than December 2, 2024.

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Item A-4

**DAC - Receipt and Filing of Updates from the Members of the Disability Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Subcommittees**

Chair Goldhaber introduced the item.

Member Sookne reported printing out pictures of the library display but forgetting to bring them; she encouraged everyone to go look at the display; discussed encouragement for parents to take their children with developmental delays to the Regional Center; books about people with disabilities; providing resources; inclusion of *How to Interact with People with Disabilities* by Sophia Horton; providing facts about people with disabilities; she requested feedback on what she

could do better; discussed the Abilities Carnival on October 6; the number of participants; positive feedback received about the Carnival; providing an event for the whole family; games; appreciation expressed; making a difference in people's lives; and she expressed appreciation to staff.

MOVED BY CHAIR GOLDHABER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER ALBERTSON THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATES FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALBERTSON, BURNETT, GOLDHABER, LANGMAN, LEFTRIDGE,  
LO, SOOKNE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: TENENSAPF, THOMPSON

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Item A-5

**DAC - Receipt and Filing of the Disability Advisory Committee  
2024/2025 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items  
List, With Adjustments, If Any**

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, encouraged everyone to review the dates for the 2025 meetings.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding holidays; a suggestion to add a meeting in September based on the past practice of adding a meeting for the upcoming Abilities Carnival in October; agreement to add a meeting on September 17, 2025; the ability to schedule special meetings; the meeting schedule based on the bylaws; standing items; consensus from all present to agendize a discussion at the February meeting regarding delivery of reports to the City Council; additional opportunities to put things on the calendar; and agreement to incorporate a 10 minute presentation from Member Lo into the item to educate the public about architectural barriers.

MOVED BY CHAIR GOLDHABER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER ALBERTSON THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2024/2025 MEETING CALENDAR AND THE UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS LIST AS AMENDED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALBERTSON, BURNETT, GOLDBABER, LANGMAN, LEFTRIDGE,  
LO, SOOKNE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: TENENSAPF, THOMPSON

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**Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda**

Chair Goldhaber invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

Monica Caris provided background on herself; reported meeting Committee Members at the Carnival; expressed appreciation to the Committee for hosting the Carnival; indicated that she would be providing a more formal presentation at an upcoming meeting; discussed kids that age out of programming; her local program, Bridge OT; funding; the importance of providing inclusive spaces for children to play; commitment to inclusive environments for children and adults; and allowing people to experience community with their family.

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**Items from Disability Advisory Committee Members/Staff**

Member Sookne discussed efforts to draft Girl Scouts with disabilities to volunteer at the Abilities Carnival; setting an example; work ethic; and she agreed to bring the pictures of the library display to the next meeting.

Mike Odunze, Social Services and Disability Services Coordinator, thanked Chair Goldhaber, Members Albertson, Leftridge and Sookne for their assistance with the Carnival; and he noted the importance of the volunteers.

Jill Thomsen, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor, reminded everyone that the proclamation and commendations for Disability Awareness Month would be presented at the October 14 City Council meeting; she encouraged Committee Members to participate; and she discussed parking and arrival time.

Member Leftridge expressed appreciation to Monica Caris for her comments.

Chair Goldhaber thanked staff for their efforts on the Abilities Carnival.

Member Albertson expressed appreciation to Mike Odunze and all who participated in the Abilities Carnival, and she thanked the guest for their presentation.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:18 P.M., the Disability Advisory Committee adjourned to a meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.

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Jesse Roth  
SECRETARY of the Culver City Disability Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

APPROVED

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Janice Goldhaber  
CHAIR of the Disability Advisory Committee,  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

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Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

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Date