

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 12, 2023  
6:30 P.M.

**Call To Order & Roll Call**

The regular meeting of the Culver City Disability Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:37 P.M. at the Senior Center.

**Members Present:** Robyn Tenensap, Chair  
Janice Goldhaber, Vice Chair  
Jorge Alvarez, Member  
Dr. Janet Cameron Hoult, Member  
Carmen Ibarra, Member  
Robert Lucero, Member\*  
Marcy Sookne, Member

\*Member Lucero arrived at 6:38 P.M.

**Absent:** Lisette Palley, Member

**Staff Present:** Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager  
Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator,  
Mike Odunze, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator  
Stephanie Davall, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Alvarez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Tenensap invited public comment.

No Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda was received.

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**Receive and File Correspondence**

Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, discussed a letter from the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee distributed to Committee Members.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding discussion of Committee liaisons under subcommittee reports.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**Approval of the Minutes for the Disability Advisory Committee Regular Meeting of February 8, 2023**

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that Lisette Palley is the person who teaches mindfulness, and a request to make a correction on page 2 to indicate that Vice Chair Goldhaber invited public comment rather than Chair Tenensap as had been noted.

MOVED BY MEMBER IBARRA AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR GOLDHABER THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023 AS AMENDED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALVAREZ, GOLDBER, HOULT, IBARRA, SOOKNE  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: PALLEY  
ABSTAIN: LUCERO, TENESAP

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### Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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### Action Items

#### Item A-1

#### **DAC - Receive and Filing of the Report Regarding The Achievable Foundation's Programs and Services**

Michelle Catanzarite M.D., The Achievable Foundation, provided background on the organization and a presentation on programs and services; discussed accessibility; physicians who do not want to deal with issues related to people with disabilities; specialized facilities; and being welcoming and allowing time for people to share their stories.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding availability of services for the visually and/or hearing impaired; areas served; mental health services; wait times to get in; ages served; insurance; specialty and focused clinics; clarification that The Achievable Foundation is the only federally qualified health center in Los Angeles county with a focus on assisting all people with disabilities; and the limited number of homeless individuals served.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR GOLDBER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER SOOKNE THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: CONGRATULATE AND APPRECIATE THE PRESENTATION, AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALVAREZ, GOLDBABER, HOULT, LUCERO, SOOKNE, TENESAP  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: PALLEY  
ABSTAIN: IBARRA

Member Ibarra indicated that she serves as the Chief Executive Officer for The Achievable Foundation and she provided background on her tenure there.

MOVED BY MEMBER ALVAREZ AND SECONDED BY MEMBER SOOKNE THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECEIVE AND FILE THE PRESENTATION FROM THE ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALVAREZ, GOLDBABER, HOULT, IBARRA, LUCERO, SOOKNE, TENESAP  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: PALLEY

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding the importance of hearing from organizations that provide services in the community; presentations scheduled through the end of the year; the Annual Fundraiser for The Achievable Foundation; ways to donate; and the role of Ms. Catanzarite in the organization.

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Item A-2

**DAC - Drafting of Disability Awareness Month Events Plan in October 2023**

Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, introduced the item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding whether to have an in-person event or drive-through event; subcommittee vs. full Committee participation in the Carnival; other options for events; the Autism event; past practices; consideration of repeating events that were done last year and expanding; seasonable thematic staff visits to program participants; participation in the Arts by people with disabilities; the Wheelchair Basketball demonstration;

increasing and enhancing art connections; the Culver Arts Foundation; the Cultural Affairs Commission; increasing involvement with the schools; distribution of Sophia Horton's Disability Etiquette Manual into the schools; providing a chance for discussion; the previous essay contest; raising awareness; putting the library display at the Middle School or the High School; research and planning; execution of ideas; Members Hoult, Lucero, and Sookne agreed to serve on a new subcommittee to focus on Disability Awareness Month in October; clarification on the subcommittee process; communication with outside bodies; timing to receive input; funding from the Exchange Club; support for other types of events in October; containing events to the month of October; timing; moving forward quickly in connecting with schools; potential dates for the Carnival; recruitment of volunteers; subcommittee protocol; the requirement that subcommittees not meet without staff; scheduling; appreciation for the current City Librarian; the Education Foundation; increasing visibility; outreach and publicity; the City Artist Laureate; incorporating disability into existing programs and in art produced for the City; and providing resources to the public.

MOVED BY MEMBER IBARRA AND SECONDED BY MEMBER SOOKNE THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: HOLD THE DISABILITY AWARENESS CARNIVAL INDOORS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023, WITH OCTOBER 15, 2023 AS A BACKUP.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALVAREZ, GOLDBABER, HOULT, IBARRA, LUCERO, SOOKNE,  
TENESAP  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: PALLEY

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding City Clerk direction on subcommittee formation and appointments.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR GOLDBABER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER IBARRA THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: FORM A DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINT MEMBERS HOULT, LUCERO, AND SOOKNE THERETO.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALVAREZ, GOLDBABER, HOULT, IBARRA, LUCERO, SOOKNE,  
TENESAP

NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: PALLEY

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Item A-3

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

Member Hoult indicated that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the Arts By and For the Blind had not been able to meet; discussed grants awarded last year; and arts-connected agencies.

Member Sookne indicated that the Ad Hoc Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Advisory Subcommittee would not meet until November and she asked that suggestions for services for people with disabilities be agendized for the June meeting.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding Committee consensus required to agendize items; understanding the strict guidelines as to where CDBG funds can be spent; information necessary to have a fruitful discussion; subcommittee consideration; auditory traffic signals; curb cuts; giving the money to Public Works to repair sidewalks; the list of locations to be addressed in the City created by Member Hoult and former Member Alex Fisch; prioritization; letting the City Council know that more needs to be done as a City to allow citizens with disabilities to move around safely; shifting priorities; and bringing ideas before the City Council.

Member Alvarez reported on the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Equity Subcommittee; discussed the special bike lane on the south side of Venice Boulevard between Sepulveda and Overland that would interfere with ramps from vans for individuals with disabilities; the inability of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to discuss the matter and ask questions in response to his public comment made as an individual, not as a DAC representative; response to his email to Andrew Maximous; lawsuits upheld by the court for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) violations; jurisdiction over the bike lane; equity; a suggestion to

invite the new Police Chief to address the DAC; naming protocol for subcommittees; difficulty scheduling subcommittee meetings; and the difficulty of communicating with staff.

Chair Tenesap, Vice Chair Goldhaber, and Members Alvarez, Ibarra, and Sookne agreed to agendize consideration of CDBG funds.

MOVED BY MEMBER SOOKNE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER ALVAREZ THAT THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATES FROM THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALVAREZ, GOLDBER, HOULT, IBARRA, LUCERO, SOOKNE,  
TENESAP  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: PALLEY

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

Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, indicated that no public comment had been received.

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

Member Hoult indicated that she had been involved in the founding of the Committee; discussed the sidewalk by the light at the corner of Vets by the Senior Center; lack of action by the Public Works department; changing the length of time allowed to cross the street; the importance of addressing the City Council with concerns in order to be heard; and the charge of the Committee to be the voice for those with disabilities.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding addressing the City Council as an individual vs. speaking on behalf of the DAC; the process to get an item on a City Council agenda; making a personal request of a Council Member to attend a DAC meeting; the need to agendize inviting a Council Member to a DAC meeting; public comment vs.

presentations; proper procedures; City Council processes; how to facilitate dialogue between the Committee and the City Council; letters from the Committee to the City Council; and the ability to speak as an individual at a City Council meeting.

Member Ibarra discussed the survey; sharing the results; and making a report to the City Council with a plan of action.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding survey results as an agenda item for the DAC; distribution of the survey; survey responses received so far; interaction with City government; fulfilling the role of the DAC to represent the community of individuals with disabilities; creation of an identity; the opportunity for the City to engage at a larger level; barriers at every turn; meaningful dialogue; the intent to make a difference; communication methods; the inability to get staff on the phone; contact information for the staff liaison; changes and direction from the City Clerk on how to run meetings; information in the brochure and online; the desire of the Committee to be effective; adding a regular agenda item regarding communication with other entities; allowing staff time to research; information provided during staff updates; Committees as extensions of the City Council; and the work of gathering information from the community and experts in the field to bring information back to help make things better in the City.

Member Ibarra reported having COVID tests to share; discussed the work of The Achievable Foundation to provide vaccines; and she asked whether the process had begun to fill her seat that would be expiring in June.

Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, discussed the annual recruitment process; outreach; the requirement for Members with expiring terms to reapply; and she agreed to forward information to Members and to help with the online application process for those who needed it.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the deadline to apply to serve on Commissions, Boards and Commissions (CBCs).



Member Hoult announced a remembrance for Louise Coffey-Webb at Culver Boulevard and Huron on April 22.

Member Alvarez provided contact information for those wishing to attend zoom meetings of the LAX Disability Advisory Committee on the third Thursday of every month noting it was a good opportunity to see how another organization handles things.

Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, introduced Mike Odunze, Disability and Social Services Coordinator who discussed his duties.

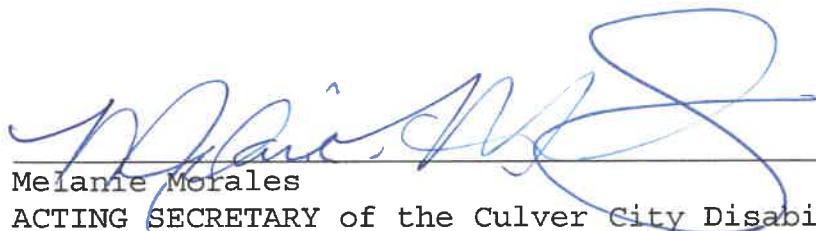
Stephanie Davall, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Special Events Coordinator, discussed her duties.

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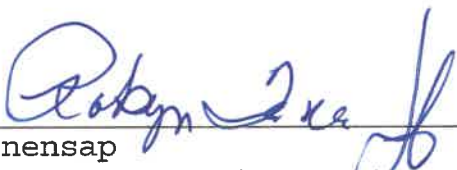
**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:45 P.M., the Disability Advisory Committee adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

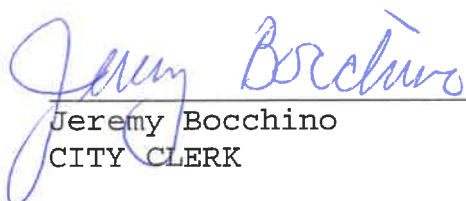
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Morales  
ACTING SECRETARY of the Culver City Disability Advisory  
Committee  
Culver City, California

APPROVED 6/14/2023

  
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Robyn Tenensap  
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