



# MINUTES

## IRVINE RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

**August 6, 2024**  
**Sweet Shade Ability Center**  
15 Sweet Shade  
Irvine, CA 92606

### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board (Board) was called to order at 6:02 p.m. on August 6, 2024, at Sweet Shade Ability Center, 15 Sweet Shade, Irvine, California; Chair Kim presiding.

### ROLL CALL

Present:	8	Board Member:	Katherine Claxton
		Board Member:	RJ De Rama
		Board Member:	Andrea Drayer
		Board Member:	Tala Fazeli*
		Board Member:	Janie Mulrain
		Board Member:	Pamela Torres**
		Vice Chair:	Liza Krassner
		Chair:	Jennifer Kim

*\*arrived at 6:18 p.m.*

*\*\*arrived at 6:04 p.m.*

### PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETING

Robert Espinosa, Community Services Supervisor, provided instructions on how to participate in the Board meeting for those attending via Zoom or in person.

### INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

### 1. PRESENTATIONS

#### ***1.1 Disability Friendly Community Member Award – Liz Sulack***

This award was presented to Liz Sulack for her impactful service to persons with disabilities in the Irvine Unified School District educational system as an Education Specialist.

## **1.2 Public Benefits**

Board Member Mulrain presented on California's public benefits system including information on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB), Medi-Cal, Cal ABLE, and other programs.

Ahmed Haidary, Community Engagement Supervisor of Orange County Social Services Agency, presented on the agency's In Home Support Services Program (IHSS).

Discussion included: Age requirements and minimum hours for IHSS providers; recruitment process and referrals strategies for caregivers; share of cost; barriers faced for the deaf community with both needing services themselves and those looking to register as caregivers.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

Melida Masri, Irvine resident, made the following public comment via Zoom:

- Reported that an Irvine CONNECT driver became frustrated with a rider who utilized a wheelchair and stated a lowered floor in vehicles would be more advantageous for all riders.
- Advocated that drivers should have proper training for transporting riders with accessibility needs.

"Im", Irvine resident, made the following public comment via Zoom:

- Indicated they had called City Council previously and mentioned lack of accessibility with City website and the information posted being inconsistent.
- Requested improving accessibility with the Access Irvine Mobile App.
- Commented on lack of benches and shade in the community for seniors trying to use transit systems and at community parks.

## **2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **2.1 Staff Announcements**

Supervisor Espinosa provided an update on the Sweet Shade Universal Playground project, stating anticipated completion date of mid to late October.

### **2.2 Board Member Announcements**

Vice Chair Krassner announced transit-oriented development in three focus areas of Irvine near employment and transit centers for the Irvine 2045 General Plan.

Board Member De Rama announced the following:

- Makapo Aquatics is entering five paddlers into the International Va'a Federation World Sprints in Hilo, Hawaii as part of their first ever race for paddlers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Two of the paddlers are participants with Board Member Fazeli's Dreams of America program.

**2.3 Board Subcommittee Reports**

**2.3.1 Community Advocacy and Outreach**

Vice Chair Krassner reported on event planning updates and participating groups in this year’s Irvine Global Village Festival as well as Board Member participation this year.

Chair Kim reported a review of the Disability Services website resource list and requested updates to add other local organizations and resources in Irvine to be added to the list.

**2.3.2 Access and Functional Needs – No report.**

**2.3.3 Special Projects and Collaborations**

Board Member Claxon reported the following:

- Dr. Robin Epstein with UCI Center for Autism will be recognized for her work and presented the Disability Friendly Community Member Award at the next regular meeting.
- Board Members will begin using an online form as part of the nomination process for the Disability Friendly Community Member Award.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**3. BOARD BUSINESS**

**3.1 MINUTES**


**ACTION:**

Moved by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Board Member Fazeli, and unanimously carried by those members present to approve the minutes of a regular meeting of the Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board held on May 7, 2024.

**END OF BOARD BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Board Member De Rama, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 7:36 p.m.

  
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 Brandee Sendziak  
 Community Services Program Coordinator  
 Recording Secretary

  
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 BOARD CHAIR  
 11/12/24  
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 Date Approved