

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – AUGUST 14, 2014**  
**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. **ROLL CALL**

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa at 7:08 pm, Thursday, August 14, 2014, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo,  
Enrique Reveles, Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg, Ruth Tittle,  
Jeffrey Waack, Laura Wise

Not Present: None

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Jeff Book, staff liaison.

B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by A. Lee Walkup.

C. **REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**

Staff reported the agenda had been posted as required.

D. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved on a motion by Enrique Reveles, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg.

E. **MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2014**

The minutes of the June 12, 2014, meeting were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Laura Wise.

F. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Enrique Reveles asked that the meeting be adjourned in celebration of Ivy Bottini's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, which is tomorrow.

Jeffrey Waack asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Ramon Estrada, who died August 4 from injuries consistent with a beating, which occurred on July 7, while he was on the way home after visiting a West Hollywood bar. The case is being investigated as a homicide.

Jeffrey Waack asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Brian Higgins of San Francisco, who died August 13 from injuries consistent with a beating, which occurred near the corner of Duboce and Church streets, and is also being

investigated as a homicide.

Elisabeth Sandberg asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Robin Williams, the Oscar-winning actor and entertainer, who died August 11.

Ivy Bottini asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Lauren Bacall, legendary performer of screen and stage, who died August 12.

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Lancelotti, owner and CEO of Seniors Helping Seniors, West Los Angeles, introduced himself and his business, and distributed brochures about the program.

A. Lee Walkup wished Ivy Bottini a happy birthday; spoke about events in the clash between residents and police in Ferguson, MO; invited members to the city-sponsored literary event being held on Sept. 27 at the Library and in West Hollywood Park; noted the proposal of an ice rink over the winter holidays; and said the LA Gay Men's Chorus will be performing Sept. 12-14 at the Hollywood Bowl, as part of the "Simpsons Take the Bowl!" program.

Carlos Sosa of C.I.T.Y.x1 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year of requesting support from the City for his group's pre-Thanksgiving meal, and asked the Advisory Board to recommend that the City Council support the program again this year.

Heidi Shink, member of the Planning Commission, congratulated Amy Ruskin and Robert Gamboa on their year as co-chairs of the Advisory Board; spoke about a new Neighborhood Watch group beginning at 1010 N. Curson on Sept. 16; wished happy birthday to Ivy Bottini; and spoke about being attentive to those around us who may be suffering.

Chris Clarkin, member of Public Safety Commission, spoke about the Santa Monica Boulevard safety ambassador program, and about the Gibson GuitarTown project and event being planned by the Sunset Strip Business Association, who have invited the Advisory Board to attend.

## III. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the Noir-themed literary event happening on Sept. 27.

Robert Gamboa said that both the Video Project committee and the Addiction, Recovery and Sexual Health (ARSH) committee will be meeting soon.

## IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. JEWISH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF LOS ANGELES

Hillel Wasserman of Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles spoke about the agency's outreach to the LGBT community, and noted they have been active for 100 years. He introduced Jobe Lawson, a 24-year veteran of the program, who spoke about the experience of being a younger brother at one point, and now serving as a big brother. Hillel Wasserman invited interested parties to talk with him about serving. A gourmet honey tasting event is planned for Gelson's in

West Hollywood.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the experience of being a Big Sister shortly after she moved to the United States.

B. RAINBOW KEY

Advisory Board members reviewed the recent Rainbow Key event, held in June at Fiesta Hall, and expressed positive reactions about the sequence of events in selecting honorees, about the high quality of planning by the co-chairs, about the diversity of recipients, and about the City's quick response when the original location at the Council Chambers became impossible due to a power outage.

Ivy Bottini asked for an item to be placed on the next agenda to discuss the mission of the Rainbow Key awards in honoring people for their lifetime of service to the community, vis-à-vis encouraging younger people who have done good work over a shorter period of time. She asked whether this should continue as one program or be divided into separate programs. There was no objection to placing this on the agenda.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. MEMORIES AND IMAGES

Members were reminded of the City Clerk's request for memories and images of the City's history, to be included in various ways as part of the Congress of Boards and Commissions in October 2014. Elisabeth Sandberg has previously submitted the idea of using a photograph of the decorated utility boxes, to emphasize creativity. Enrique Reveles spoke about the Rainbow Key program as an important element in pride and memory. Ivy Bottini and others spoke about using the names of Rainbow Key recipients. Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the Advisory Board's role in outreach to transgender people, which led over time to the creation of the Transgender Advisory Board. She also spoke about the City's commitment to the Dyke March as an element of historical importance.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for Female Co-Chair for the 2014-15 term. Ruth Tittle nominated Laura Wise. Robert Gamboa nominated Ruth Tittle, who declined. In the absence of further nominations, Ivy Bottini moved to close nominations and declare Laura Wise elected. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa, and unanimously approved.

The floor was opened for nominations for Male Co-Chair for the 2014-15 term. Ruth Tittle nominated Enrique Reveles. Laura Wise nominated Matt Palazzolo, who declined. In the absence of further nominations, Ivy Bottini moved to close nominations and declare Enrique Reveles elected. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and unanimously approved.

Robert Gamboa and Amy Ruskin said it had been a pleasure to serve as co-chairs for the last year. They felt a lot has been accomplished, and there is much more to do in the future. Both were thanked and congratulated by Advisory Board members.

Ivy Bottini asked that the next agenda contain consideration of asking the City Council to permit two-year terms for the co-chairs. There was no objection.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items placed on the next agenda included: (1) Request for support for the Thanksgiving event of C.I.T.Y.x1; (2) Consideration of mission of Rainbow Key with regard to honoring people for a lifetime of service, and/or honoring people at an earlier time in their lives; and (3) Consideration of asking the City Council to allow two-year terms for the co-chairs.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Block spoke about the Advisory Board's accomplishments this year, and about the Disability Service Awards. He recommended an item regarding why the City spends a large amount of money on the LA PRIDE event even though CSW has major corporate sponsors. He is also interested in the PRIDE parade becoming a nationally televised event.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm in celebration of Ivy Bottini's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday; and in memory of Ramon Estrada, Brian Higgins, Robin Williams, and Lauren Bacall.

Everyone present sang "Happy Birthday!" to Ivy Bottini, who will perform a new one-woman show, "A Life of Love and Laughter," at the Renberg Theatre tomorrow, Aug. 15, at 8 pm, as a benefit for the senior program at The Village.

Signed,

  
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Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair

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Amy Ruskin, Co-Chair