

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 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 Enrique Reveles at 7:04 pm, Thursday, November 13, 2014, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Ruth Tittle, Jeffrey Waack, and Laura Wise.

Not Present: Matt Palazzolo.

Due to the resignation of Amy Ruskin, the Advisory Board currently has nine members. 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 Jeffrey Waack.

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 Robert Gamboa, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg.

E. **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2014**

The minutes of the October 9, 2014, meeting were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Ruth Tittle.

F. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

There was a request to adjourn in celebration of Kansas having marriage equality, and in recognition of the passing of Jimmy Palmieri's dog Lilly.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lee Walkup, liaison from Senior Advisory Board (SAB), said Mayor D'Amico will be filling the direct appointment that is open due to the resignation of Amy Ruskin. He spoke about World AIDS Day; holiday concerts by the Gay Men's Chorus; Council's increase in funding for the sober New Year's Eve event; and health fairs.

Mike Gerle introduced himself as a candidate for City Council. He is a City employee who has worked in Info. Technology, the City Manager's Division, and Special Events, as well as organizing Tribe, the gay men's discussion group sponsored by the City. He spoke about developing ways to get together as a culture outside of bars and clubs.

### III. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

Jeffrey Waack said that he and Elisabeth Sandberg participated on behalf of LGAB in an arts project review panel for the 2015 One City One Pride Arts Festival.

### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. WERLE BUILDING

Helen Collins of the City's Facilities Division introduced John Silber and Michael Cecconi of IDS Group, architects who are working with the City on improving the Werle Building at 626 N. Robertson Blvd., for safety, usability, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They presented pictures of two options for locating a new elevator, which could be reached without steps from ground level, and provide access to each level of the building.

Ivy Bottini strongly objected to the plans not including improvement of the patio area outside the Mazer Archives, which she said should be made usable as a space for meetings and gatherings. The presenters said the area was essentially a roof, and the cost of re-building it for use would be very high. Ivy Bottini said the City could afford this cost, and that it has done nothing previously for the lesbian community.

Helen Collins said the Public Facilities Commission will review the plans in December or January, and probably send a recommendation to the City Council.

#### B. WORKPLAN

The Advisory Board reviewed priorities brought forward at their planning session last month, and set the following schedule to consider the items in groups as follows:

December 2014 – Outreach items  
January 2015 – Social Services-related items  
February 2015 – Rainbow Key, consideration of nominations  
March 2015 – Lesbian-related items

Outreach includes: (a) Outreach - Continue interaction with the community through activities and events; (b) Gay and Lesbian History – Provide training in history/herstory of Gay and Lesbian movement for new members, or as a public event that the Advisory Board can attend; (c) Improved Web Presence/WeHo campaign – Improve LGAB's presence on the Internet, within City guidelines; (d) Arts-Oriented Social Night – Provide a non-alcohol/drug social opportunity through arts, chess, or other Activities; (e) QueerFest – cooperate with planning for QueerFest in Silver Lake; (f) Activism – being more pro-active on LGBT issues; (g) Location for Social Activities – Find location (business) for social activities; (h) Literary Events – Participate in City-sponsored literary events such

as the Book Fair and WeHo Reads; are there gaps in what is happening with regard to literature; (i) Traveling Group of Activists – Develop a traveling group of activists who can talk about issues and history of the Gay and Lesbian movement; (j) Community Partnerships – Cooperate with community groups to bring attention and action to important issues.

Social Services-related items include: (a) Domestic Violence – work with Public Safety Commission and staff, One Billion Rising, Trevor Project, and others to communicate importance of this issue; consider new issue of anti-abuse bumper stickers; (b) PrEP, information relating to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis as a means of HIV prevention; (c) Addiction, Recovery and Sexual Health, including cure for hepatitis C; binge drinking; bedbugs; meth recovery; sober sex; and HIV undetectability in sero-discordant relationships; and (d) Aging in Place – work with the Senior Advisory Board on a town hall meeting on topics relating to aging.

Lesbian-related items include Lesbian Space, to identify and assist with providing lesbian space in the city.

The video project will be discussed again. There was discussion of having the video be part of a larger campaign for visitors, and of making a series of short comedy videos. Laura Wise said the City's recent videos about crosswalks were very male and gay-targeted.

The Advisory Board noted that since there are advisory boards designated for the Lesbian and Gay community and the Transgender community, they may consider sponsoring a committee for the Bisexual community, which could lead to a more formal board or task force in the future.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. RAINBOW KEY

The Advisory Board discussed whether to recommend that the Rainbow Key award be divided, so that lifetime achievement and up-and-coming activism would be recognized separately. The Advisory Board also discussed whether to recommend that the Rainbow Key be separated into further categories, based on a person's field of endeavor.

By consensus, the Advisory Board kept this item on its next agenda, and will discuss the mission statement of the Rainbow Key Awards at the next meeting.

### B. TERMS OF CO-CHAIRS

Ivy Bottini said the Advisory Board is a training ground for leadership, and it would be helpful if co-chairs could serve two-year terms, instead of the one-year terms currently in the bylaws. She asked consideration for requesting the City Council to change the terms to two years for this board.

In discussion, there were Advisory Board members who felt the one-year rotation of members as co-chairs was constructive, and that making it two years could mean some members could serve nearly more than 8 years before having an opportunity to be co-chair.

By consensus, the topic was tabled.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ivy Bottini asked what steps the Advisory Board can take to oppose the lack of social space in the proposed plans for the Werle Building. Staff recommended that Advisory Board members speak to their appointing Councilmembers.

Ivy Bottini discussed macular degeneration of eyesight, and vitamins on the market which can slow the development of it.

Robert Gamboa gave huge appreciation and thanks to Amy Ruskin for her service on the Advisory Board, and respect for her decision to focus on her family at this time. He said he attended the Lesbian and Gay Band Association conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL, and that West Hollywood should consider hosting this in a future year. He also spoke about BOOM!, the sober New Year's Eve event.

Ruth Tittle spoke about the Park Expo being held on Nov. 22, with information about park changes.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the LGBT student group at Woodbury University is helping C.I.T.Y.x1, the youth group that provides the pre-Thanksgiving event.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm in celebration of Kansas having marriage equality; in recognition of the passing of Jimmy Palmieri's dog, Lilly; and in appreciation for the service of Amy Ruskin on the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

Signed,

  
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Enrique Reveles, Co-Chair

  
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Laura J. Wise, Co-Chair