

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2015**  
**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

B. **ROLL CALL**

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:06 pm on Thursday, June 11, 2015, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Beth Bishop, Ivy Bottini, Robert Gamboa, Kate Eggert, Lucas John Junkin, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Laura Wise.

Not Present: Paul Chavez, Ruth Tittle.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were staff liaisons Jeff Book and John Erickson.

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Ivy Bottini.

D. **MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2015**

The minutes of the May 14, 2015, meeting were approved on a motion by Laura Wise, seconded by Matt Palazzolo.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

There were no adjournment requests at this time.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lee Walkup spoke about the Mayor's Pride reception; consideration of a joint LGBT-related project by the Cities of Los Angeles and West Hollywood; certification of the results of the June 2 special election; aspects of the upcoming Pride Festival and Parade; and the Gay Men's Chorus concerts on June 20-21.

Dan Berkowitz, co-chair of the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights (ALAP), spoke about their 7<sup>th</sup> annual LGBT play reading festival, featuring short plays on June 27 and a full-length play on June 28. ALAP is also represented in the Hollywood Fringe Festival, with a play by Dan Berkowitz, featuring Matt Palazzolo.

III. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

There were no reports at this time.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Staff reviewed preparations for the 2015 Rainbow Key Awards, to be held June 18 in Fiesta Hall. Members made plans to introduce the honorees, and confirmed final arrangements for the reception, awards, flowers, and related aspects of the program.

B. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON RAPE

Staff reported that Mayor Lindsey Horvath is planning to speak to the Advisory Board on this subject at its July meeting.

Ivy Bottini said she is helping to organize a community meeting on this subject for July.

C. PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PrEP)

Staff said the City Council agenda for June 15, 2015, includes an item reporting the Advisory Board's recommendation that the City require Social Services agencies which offer HIV testing to provide information on PrEP to those who test negative. The item recommends referring this for consideration by the Human Services Commission, with direction to draft a proposed policy and implementation plan and return to the City Council within 60 days.

Robert Gamboa presented a number of additional ideas regarding City policy and PrEP:

(1) That clinics and HIV services providers within the City of West Hollywood, especially those that receive money from the City, must approve and support the City's efforts to end HIV, including proactive endorsement and education about PrEP;

(2) That the City should write to all medical providers who practice in the City to educate them about PrEP and PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis), and urge them to prescribe these when patients ask for them;

(3) That the City should allocate \$100,000 to assist with financial barriers to accessing PrEP and PEP, and hire a City health coordinator to help navigate financial assistance, and help with linkage to care, in unison with organizations active in the City, because the cost of a lifelong HIV infection is three to four times higher than the cost of lifelong PrEP use;

(4) The City should partner with Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and 24-hour pharmacies to make PEP available, with links to continuous prescriptions to block new infections from taking hold;

(5) That the City should collaborate with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to publicly request the Office of AIDS in the California Department of Public Health to endorse PrEP as a valid tool for HIV Prevention, and ask the Office of AIDS to educate all medical providers across the state, and introduce procedures to require all Emergency Rooms to provide PEP.

Discussion of these items was scheduled for the next meeting.

D. LGBT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FACTORY

Kate Eggert provided information about the National Park Service's LGBTQ Heritage Initiative, and spoke about the history of the Studio One/Factory building that runs from La Peer to Robertson. Formerly the home of Mitchell Camera, the building played a significant role in the development and production of cameras used in both the film industry and the military, and later was the site of a landmark gay disco owned by Scott Forbes.

Ivy Bottini recalled that women were not welcome at the building at that time, and said there was organizing and picketing because women were required to provide three forms of identification and not permitted to wear open-toed shoes.

Kate Eggert said there are plans for development of the property as a hotel and mixed-use site, which will require an Environmental Impact Report. The Advisory Board discussed the history and potential of the site. Enrique Reveles recalled seeing many great performers there over the years. Lucas John said that if The Factory were taken away, there would no longer be a gay venue with a giant dance floor. He asked if the Advisory Board could request that the Environmental Impact Report be routed to the Advisory Board for input. Matt Palazzolo spoke on finding ways to preserve history while also allowing redevelopment of sites. Ivy Bottini said she was tired of the City being sold off piece by piece, and that events occurred at The Factory which moved the gay and lesbian community forward.

Staff said they would look into the possibility of bringing the Environmental Impact Report to the Advisory Board, and report back at the next meeting.

Public Comment: Laura Boccaletti, board member of West Hollywood Preservation Alliance, said that the community should be up in arms about the possible loss of this site. She said that development is the enemy of history, and that organization and action are required to preserve places of historical significance.

Kate Eggert moved to continue the conversation on the next agenda. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved. Lucas John said the Advisory Board should develop a recommendation to the City Council regarding the site.

Ivy Bottini moved that the Advisory Board declare that it wants to see The Factory saved. This was seconded by Kate Eggert, and approved by a vote of 6 to 0, with Lucas John and Matt Palazzolo abstaining.

E. LGBT HISTORY KIOSKS

Kate Eggert moved to postpone this to the next agenda. This was seconded by Laura Wise and approved.

F. LESBIAN SPACE

Kate Eggert moved to postpone this to the next agenda. This was seconded by Laura Wise and approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of New Business.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Lucas John spoke about the item on the June 15 City Council agenda which would eliminate the positions of City Council deputies. He said that he had been able to accomplish a variety of things, including the rainbow crosswalk and the Santa Monica Boulevard Pick-Up shuttle, by working through the deputies, and that the deputy structure was an excellent tool to get things done.

Robert Gamboa spoke about items from the Advisory Board not always going to the City Council as they were intended.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Gamboa moved to place on the next agenda a discussion of naming and honoring the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Robert Gamboa spoke about the #SIZZLE! area planned for the Pride Festival.

Matt Palazzolo spoke about working on a production of The Taming of the Shrew.

Ivy Bottini said it was good to see the Advisory Board being active.

Robert Gamboa spoke about Procter & Gamble's gay-themed Tide commercial, which was not shown in the U.S.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Reid said that he has suggested that San Vicente Boulevard be renamed West Hollywood Way, from Beverly Boulevard to Sunset Boulevard.

Victor Omelczenko thanked board members for their work on behalf of the community. He said the Pride Festival has improved; thanked Kate Eggert for bringing up the historical significance of the Studio One/Factory space; and discussed a City Council

item regarding a historical plaque for Great Hall/Long Hall in Plummer Park. He wished everyone a happy Pride Week, and said he learned a lot from a Pride kickoff event that featured a tour narrated by Stuart Timmons.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm in celebration of the upcoming Pride Month.

Signed,

  
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Enrique Reveles, Co-Chair

  
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Laura J. Wise, Co-Chair