

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2013
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Amy Ruskin at 7:05 p.m., Thursday, August 8, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg, Ruth Tittle, Jeffrey Waack
Not Present: Ivy Bottini, Sue Sexton

A quorum was present at all times. Matt Palazzolo joined the meeting in progress. Also present were Jeff Book, staff liaison; Council Deputy Michelle Rex, Andrew Campbell, and Michael Che.

II. INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER

Staff administered the oath of office to Jeffrey Waack as a new appointee to the Advisory Board. He was declared installed, and welcomed by the Advisory Board members.

III. AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Staff reported that the agenda had been posted at City Hall and other locations as required.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Without objection, Item VI. A. was moved up to follow Public Comment.

C. MINUTES

1. MEETING OF JULY 11, 2013

The minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2013, were approved on a motion by Enrique Reveles, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, with Jeffrey Waack abstaining.

D. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Ruth Tittle requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of two men who died in apparently homophobic attacks in Russia: Vladislav Tornovoi, 23, of Volgograd, and a 39-year-old man on the Kamchatka Peninsula, whose name was not immediately available. Matt Palazzolo requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of a Russian youth who reportedly died after being kidnapped, bullied, and tortured. Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of David Fackrell, a longtime volunteer for the Tweakers Project; in support to citizens and visitors to Russia who are being subjected to that country's anti-gay laws; and in memory of Chloe, Sue Sexton's dog, who passed away this week.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Che spoke about a new exhibit at the Library, regarding historic billboards of the Sunset Strip.

A. Lee Walkup spoke about LGBT rights and Russia, which is scheduled to host the Winter Olympic Games in the city of Sochi, Feb. 7-23, 2014, and the possibility of moving the Games to an alternative site, such as Vancouver.

Mark Cramer and Laura Watts of INSTALL:WeHo thanked the Advisory Board for its support of their project this year, and spoke about the utility box project. They are proposing two artists to move forward with the project, and provided a handout.

Carlos Sosa, executive director of C.I.T.Y.x1 youth group, thanked the Advisory Board for its support of their Thanksgiving events in previous years, and asked the Board to consider supporting the 2013 event with a recommendation for \$1,000 (as reimbursement for food costs), an increase from the \$500 recommended in other years.

Brenda Simmons, Institute for Public Strategies, said their organization is funded by the County to conduct substance abuse prevention in West Hollywood, and that they are seeking to plan a sober New Year's Eve party as part of creating structures of community that do not involve alcohol or drugs.

Larry Block said he was also concerned with LGBT issues in Russia, and that the focus should be on rights rather than alcohol. He said he preferred that gay athletes openly participate in the Olympic Games, which are not far away.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY STUDY

Daphne Dennis provided an overview of the Community Study which was completed recently as part of the process of determining social services contracts for the period beginning October 1, 2013. There was a mailed random survey, supplemented by additional survey information from volunteers, census data, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and statistical analysis. The Human Services Commission reviewed the study and the city's social services needs, and have recommended about \$4.2 million in contracts, which will be considered by City Council soon.

V. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Book Fair – Elisabeth Sandberg said she will speak with Matt Palazzolo about planning for the Sept. 29 event. She said the canopy on the park grounds was better than last year's placement inside the library.

Christopher Street West – No report at this time.

Intersection – Robert Gamboa said the group interested in naming the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards met this month and reviewed the various city policies for naming things. He said they will be speaking with the Public Facilities Commission and inviting the Transgender Advisory Board to participate. He said they are considering a town hall meeting for public input, as well as the possibility of an overhead feature to mark the intersection, along with plaques on all four corners to emphasize local and national LGBT history.

Chaz Bono – Amy Ruskin said that Sue Sexton had prepared a first draft of a letter of apology to Chaz Bono, which was edited with additional thoughts from herself and Robert Gamboa. Robert Gamboa read the text of the proposed letter to the meeting. Ruth Tittle moved, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, to approve the sending of this letter. This was approved, with Elisabeth Sandberg abstaining.

Outreach – Robert Gamboa said the group working on outreach ideas had four major topics: (1) CSW, through beginning an annual discussion, after Pride events, to report back to the Advisory Board on how the event went, and can be improved; (2) "Transgender 101" training for the Board and the community at large, possibly in partnership with the Transgender Advisory Board; (3) Outreach to lesbians, possibly in partnership with the Lesbian Visibility Committee; and (4) Russian community, regarding how to be proactive, working with the Russian Advisory Board. He said he plans to attend the Russian Advisory Board on August 20.

Utility Boxes – Elisabeth Sandberg said she met with Andrew Campbell and Jeff Book to discuss proceeding with this project, and that Andrew had introduced the idea to the organizers of INSTALL:WeHo, who were very interested. INSTALL:WeHo is proposing two artists as a pilot project, with the suggested location being three utility boxes at Santa Monica and San Vicente boulevards. They proposed a budget of \$6,000 for the project.

Video Project – Robert Gamboa said the group is working on ideas and that Visit West Hollywood, the former convention and marketing bureau, has become very involved with the project, which may develop into part of the 30th anniversary celebration of cityhood.

Human Services Liaison – Robert Gamboa said recommendations from the Human Services Commission regarding social services contracts will go before the Council on August 19.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, continued

B. BOARD BOOKS

Staff presented Board Members with binders containing bylaws, mission statement, member contacts, Robert's Rules basics, and related information, and reviewed current policies with regard to committees, public comment, and other aspects of board service.

C. RAINBOW KEY

Continuing an item carried over from the last meeting, the Advisory Board took the following actions with regard to recommendations to City Council on the Rainbow Key Awards. The first six items were with regard to recommendations from staff, based on comments from the City Council.

1. **Five Awards** -- Enrique Reveles moved to recommend that there be five awards each year. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo. Amy Ruskin recommended that gender parity be considered. Matt Palazzolo moved to amend the recommendation to include the intention of achieving gender parity, which was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg. The amendment and main motion were approved.

2. **Presence in Person** – Enrique Reveles moved to recommend that presence in person not be a mandatory condition for receiving the award. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

3. **Designate criteria for nature of contribution, local impact, and scale of contribution** – Ruth Tittle moved to recommend that nomination forms request information about the nature of the nominee's contribution, local impact, and scale of contribution. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved.

4. **Categories** – Matt Palazzolo moved to recommend that categories for awards be established. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles. Matt Palazzolo moved to amend the motion to clarify that these would not be strict categories, but to be listed on nomination forms to prompt people to consider submitting nominees in these areas. This amendment was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved. Robert Gamboa moved to include arts, literature, humanitarian, sports, medicine, armed services, and other fields of contributions. This amendment was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved. The motion was then approved overall.

5. **Expand outreach** – Matt Palazzolo moved to expand outreach for nominations through social media and other means. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

6. **March presentation to Council** – Ruth Tittle moved to set March as the time to present recommendations to Council, to provide time for them to consider the nominations before the awards in June. This was seconded by Jeff Waack and approved.

7. **Committee selection** – Robert Gamboa moved that instead of appointing a committee to consider Rainbow Key nominations and make recommendations to

the Advisory Board, that the entire Board discuss and make decisions together with regard to which nominees to recommend to City Council. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

8. **Production** – The Advisory Board discussed whether to include a recommendation regarding who would produce the awards program itself each year, and decided to consider this on a year by year basis, depending on the interests and availability of Board members and people with producing skill.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. NEW YEAR'S EVE

Robert Gamboa discussed the possibility of a New Year's Eve event for the recovery community. Enrique Reveles moved to support the idea in principle. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ruth Tittle spoke about the Buff N Cut event, planned for August 17.

Robert Gamboa thanked the City Council for approving the resolution recommended by the Advisory Board regarding the Pride resolution by the mayor of Porterville, and for approving the resolution regarding Vladimir Putin and gay rights in Russia. He said there is so much opportunity for the Board, and challenged board members to maximize their efforts in the community.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Matt Palazzolo moved to place consideration of a recommendation regarding the C.I.T.Y.x1 Thanksgiving event on the next agenda. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

Without objection, consideration of recommending funding for the Utility Box project was placed on the next agenda.

Ruth Tittle spoke about inviting a representative from the Transgender Advisory Board to speak about transgender rights issues, such as AB 1266, regarding school programs. Elisabeth Sandberg moved to include this on an upcoming agenda. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

IX. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed copies of the Rent Stabilization annual report, and spoke about the Women's Equality Day event featuring Helen Reddy.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Block thanked the Advisory Board for including him on the group considering how to proceed to seek naming of the Santa Monica/San Vicente intersection. He said the

New Year's Eve event could include the disability community also.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm, in memory of Vladislav Tornovoi, 23, of Volgograd, and a 39-year-old man on the Kamchatka Peninsula, whose name was not immediately available, both of whom died in attacks apparently based on sexual orientation; in memory of a Russian youth who reportedly died after being kidnapped, bullied, and tortured; in memory of David Fackrell, a longtime volunteer for the Tweakers Project; in support to citizens and visitors to Russia who are being subjected to that country's anti-gay laws; and in memory of Chloe the dog, who lived with Sue Sexton.

Signed,

Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair

Amy Ruskin, Co-Chair

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