

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2012**  
**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 Elisabeth Sandberg at 7:03 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Lucas John, Shawn Mimbs, Andrew Oldershaw,  
Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg,  
Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle.

A quorum was present at all times. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was also present. Council Deputy Michelle Rex was also present.

B. POSTING OF AGENDA

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as posted.

D. MINUTES

The minutes of the Feb. 9, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion by Enrique Reveles, seconded by Ruth Tittle, with Ivy Bottini abstaining.

E. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Elisabeth Sandberg requested that the meeting be adjourned in recognition of International Women's Day.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jimmy Palmieri, Human Services Commissioner, spoke about the most recent Human Services Commission meeting. The commission is hearing presentations from social service agencies about current challenges due to the economy and changes in funding levels.

Genevieve Morrill, president of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, discussed Pride Month activities as well as the background of the proposal for a business improvement district on Santa Monica Blvd. from La Cienega to Doheny. The proposal is being

developed to determine fair cost levels.

Andrew Campbell spoke about the L.A. Women's International Film Festival, to be held March 24-29 at the West Hollywood Library, and about this year's The Big Read, which will be studying Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451."

Heidi Shink, Human Services Commissioner, spoke about the lesbian discussion group which is being formed as a counterpart to Tribe.

Dan Berkowitz, co-chair of the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights, said they have received a small grant to produce this year's festival, and for the last several years have received additional support from the Lesbian & Gay Programs line item, with the support of the Advisory Board

### III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

#### A. ADDICTION, RECOVERY AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Andrew Oldershaw shared their planned first-phase survey of providers at the last meeting, and there were no additional comments. They are seeking the most efficient way to get the survey into the hands of providers. The second-phase community survey is being developed. There was discussion on how to reach community members to gather information.

#### B. MARKETING TASK FORCE

Lucas John spoke about possibly developing a video illustrating where it gets better – by speaking to gay elected officials, partners, and others. Matt Palazzolo said this could help with keeping West Hollywood a home and destination for young LGBT people, as well as being effective for awareness of the Advisory Board. Staff will check with the City about ability to collect email addresses of people interested in receiving information from the board

The Advisory Board agreed to create a task force on the video project, on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Ivy Bottini.

#### C. RAINBOW KEY

Lucas John reported on possible Rainbow Key recipients recommended by the public and task force members, and about research into venues and the type of event that will be held this year. The task force is finalizing recommendations and will present them at the next meeting.

#### D. OTHER TASK FORCES

Sue Sexton said the group working on a joint meeting with the Transgender Advisory Board has met twice, and are looking at a time in the second half of June, with an agenda of a Trans 101 workshop and discussion of issues affecting the transgender community, joint issues such as employment, and dialogue about how to work together. The date of Wednesday, June 27, was

presented as a possible time for this meeting.

On a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Enrique Reveles, the Advisory Board decided to hold a second meeting in June 2012, for the purpose of a joint meeting with the Transgender Advisory Board.

Matt Palazzolo spoke about planning for CSW parade participation, and about the Book Fair. Sue Sexton spoke about the Women's Leadership Conference. Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about researching a permanent space for lesbians in the city.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. ONE CITY / ONE PRIDE

Andrew Campbell presented information on events planned for June. There has been no joint task force between the Advisory Board and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission this year, but a calendar building on those developed in previous years is being recommended. He spoke particularly about the Jean Cocteau event, a pop-up art event, a Marlon Riggs film screening, Outfest, and OutLaugh.

The Advisory Board placed on its next agenda to adopt budget requests with regard to its June events and activities.

Dan Berkowitz said he would be requesting \$1,000 from lesbian and gay program funding for the play reading festival being done again this year. They have received \$1,000 from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, which covers less than half of the costs. The events are planned for June 18 (short plays) and June 23 (full length play). He said there had been about 50 submissions this year. Lucas John said it may be possible to hold down costs of using the Celebration Theatre for this event. The Advisory Board placed funding of the play reading festival on its next agenda.

Staff distributed information on mandatory planning meetings for Pride parade participants. On a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Ivy Bottini, the Board voted to participate in the parade, with Shawn Mimbs abstaining. Members said they would know by the next meeting whether they can volunteer to participate and help organize the board's participation.

##### B. HUMAN RIGHTS TRIANGLE AND MEMORIAL WALK

Shawn Mimbs spoke about possible improvements to the Human Rights Triangle and Memorial Walk, two areas that are designated for LGBT visibility. There are discussions with Steve Campbell, the city's buildings and facilities manager, about an initial step of improved lighting for safety, and flags for identification.

Shawn Mimbs moved to ask the Public Facilities Commission to form a joint task force on improvements to these areas, and at Sue Sexton's suggestion, this was expanded to include the Transgender Advisory Board as well. This was

seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved, with Lucas John voting nay. Lucas John recommended speaking to City Council now about improved lighting and flag visibility, with the task force considering greater improvements after that.

C. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Ben Coleman spoke about the proposed Santa Monica Blvd. business improvement district, which has been trying to build momentum among business owners and community members. The next discussion is on March 19. Ben Coleman said that benefits would include enhanced safety as well as marketing impact. Ivy Bottini expressed concern about branding the western end of Santa Monica Blvd. for more attention the eastern end.

Matt Palazzolo moved to support the mission of having a business improvement district on Santa Monica Boulevard, from La Cienega to Doheny. This was seconded by Lucas John and approved, with Ivy Bottini abstaining.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. GATEWAY SIGNAGE

Shawn Mimbs said he spoke at Council on Monday, and the Council unanimously approved a task force on Gateway signage for the City. He said those wishing to be on the task force should contact the Council. This item was continued to the next meeting.

B. MISSION STATEMENT

Andrew Oldershaw said there had been no additional feedback since the last meeting, so thoughts will be compiled for the next meeting. The item was continued until then.

C. WORKPLAN

This item was continued to the next meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Lucas John asked whether City staff was still preparing a list of events and costs, as requested by Mayor Duran, and staff said this was being finalized and should be presented at an upcoming Council meeting.

Ruth Tittle spoke about Sample Saturday, an event coming up on March 24. She also spoke about the controversy regarding the R rating given to "Bully" by the MPAA.

Sue Sexton spoke about a Health Access and homelessness event on March 26, and about a Trans Men empowerment group meeting at APLA on March 24.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the Ann Bannon event being held by the Mazer Archives on March 25, and about the Friends of the Library book sale on March 31.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said a group planning the city's activity for Harvey Milk Day is being formed, with the co-chairs invited to participate. Shawn Mimbs will substitute for Elisabeth Sandberg, who may be away at that time.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. in honor of International Women's Day.

*Signed:*

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*Elisabeth Sandberg, Co-Chair*

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*Matt Palazzolo, Co-Chair*