

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MAY 9, 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 Andrew Oldershaw at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 9, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Robert Gamboa, Andrew Oldershaw, Enrique Reveles, Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton

Not Present: Shawn Mimbs, Matt Palazzolo, Ruth Tittle

A quorum was present at all times. Michael Che, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, and Jeff Book, staff liaison, were also present. Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, joined the meeting in progress.

B. **REPORT ON 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 on a motion by Ivy Bottini, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg.

D. **MINUTES**

1. **MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of April 11, 2013, were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Ivy Bottini.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Enrique Reveles asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of all mothers, since Sunday, May 12, 2013, is Mother's Day.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Stephanie Harker spoke in support of historical designation for Great Hall/Long Hall in Plummer Park. She said that the building was a weekly meeting place for ACT UP for 10 years, and that surviving members of the group would like it to be preserved. She said there are plans to amend the application for historical designation to note its role in

LGBT history. She said the City Council had voted 4 to 1 to oppose the designation, and asked for the Advisory Board's support for it.

Michael Che spoke about One City One Pride, and the Living in Limbo photography exhibit which has been installed at the West Hollywood Library. He distributed a list of One City One Pride events, and said a fold-out map is being prepared.

III. SUBCOMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Elisabeth Sandberg said she is working on the Book Fair with Matt Palazzolo, and on the Utility Box project with Shawn Mimbs. She spoke to City Council this week about plans for The Lesbian Center.

Robert Gamboa spoke about working with Christopher Street West on the sober zone for this year's Pride Festival; about the possibility that the Addiction Recovery and Sexual Health (ARSH) subcommittee could continue its work as part of the community advisory board for the Institute for Public Strategies.

Robert Gamboa spoke about community members joining the subcommittee on the tourism/marketing video, and about initial ideas for a "Project Toto" theme, representing West Hollywood as the Oz to which Dorothy comes. Ivy Bottini said the planning group for the video needs to include more women. Sue Sexton said the theme of Dorothy in Oz does not resonate with her.

Robert Gamboa said the outreach subcommittee is considering asking Advisory Board members to hold community events in groups of two, seeking to have at least 20 members of the public at each.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board would like to continue its dialogue with this board. She said CSW will have a large art and heritage component this year.

Robert Gamboa said the proposed letter of appreciation to President Obama had been edited and was ready to send.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. LETTER TO CAPTAIN FRASER

The Advisory Board supported sending a letter of appreciation to Capt. Kelley Fraser of the L.A. Sheriff's Department, who has been promoted and will no longer be the captain for West Hollywood. Staff will prepare a draft.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY 2013

Staff distributed a memo from Dan Berkowitz, asking Advisory Board members to contact him to volunteer for roles in the Rainbow Key event. The event is to be held Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at Council Chambers, with a red carpet welcome at 7:30 p.m., and program at 8 p.m.

B. SCHEDULING DISCUSSION ON RAINBOW KEY

Staff said that at its most recent meeting, the City Council approved the Advisory Board's recommendations for 2013 Rainbow Key honorees and plans for the June 11 event, and directed the Advisory Board to come back to City Council in a few months with proposed criteria for future awards, and a timeline that would present them with recommendations earlier in the year.

Elizabeth Savage said that staff would prepare a packet of information on other awards given for outstanding work in the gay and lesbian community, and the criteria used to determine these. She said discussion should be scheduled so that an item with criteria can go back to Council by September 2013.

Ivy Bottini said she felt the Board is being required to do this because some Council members objected to the recommendation of Torie Osborn, and that Council should state its own criteria for the awards. Elisabeth Sandberg said it would be helpful if Council gave more information about what they were looking for with regard to the awards.

C. WORKPLAN

The draft workplan was approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Enrique Reveles, with the item on the tourism/marketing video being renamed as the digital project, and the target for the 2014 Rainbow Key recommendations being set in March 2014.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Robert Gamboa said How to Survive a Plague will be at the Pacific Design Center on June 12, sponsored by APLA.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Lesbian Center will have a table at Long Beach Pride. She also asked for the meeting to be adjourned in recognition of The Palms announcing it would be closing soon.

Ivy Bottini spoke about years of effort to create equality regarding gender and orientation, and about how much has not yet been achieved.

Andrew Oldershaw said he will be traveling in June, and will not be here for Pride weekend, or the week before it.

The Board determined that since a number of its members are participating in the Parade through other groups, it would ride the City trolley rather than seek to have its own entry this year.

Robert Gamboa asked Board members to help locate people who can carry rainbow colors along with the band in the parade.

Sue Sexton said the Mayor's Reception for CSW will be Wednesday, June 5, at the

Mondrian. Also, Ivy Bottini is being honored with the Melissa Etheridge Award at the Dyke March.

Ivy Bottini asked if the Advisory Board wanted to put the topic of historical designation of Great Hall/Long Hall on its agenda. There was no objection from the board. Elizabeth Savage said staff would provide further information.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Elizabeth Savage spoke about her background as she begins service as the Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm, in recognition of the upcoming closure of The Palms bar; in honor of all mothers, due to Mother's Day; and in memory of Brett Shaad.

Signed,

Sue Sexton, Co-Chair

Andrew Oldershaw, Co-Chair