

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 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 Robert Gamboa at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 14, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

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

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Jeff Book, staff liaison. Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, joined the meeting in progress.

B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lucas John.

II. **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER**

Staff administered the oath of office to Laura J. Wise as a new appointee to the Advisory Board. She 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 Ivy Bottini.

C. **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2013, were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, with Ivy Bottini and Robert Gamboa abstaining.

D. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2013

The minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2013, were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, with Enrique Reveles abstaining.

E. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Elisabeth Sandberg asked that the meeting be adjourned in support of transgender people and the Transgender Advisory Board. Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Transportation Security Administration officer Gerardo Hernandez, who was killed in an attack at LAX on Nov. 1, 2013; Marine Staff Sgt. Matthew R. Marsh of Long Beach, who was killed in a bomb-disposal explosion at Camp Pendleton on Nov. 13, 2013; the people of the Philippines, suffering under Typhoon Haiyan (known in the Philippines as Typhoon Yolanda); and in celebration of equal-marriage victories in Hawaii and Illinois. Ivy Bottini asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Gilbert Estrada, who died from injuries incurred by fire at the 2013 West Hollywood Halloween Carnaval.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Walkup said the LA Gay & Lesbian Center is now a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and recipient of a \$650,000 Federal grant for health services; spoke about the documentary "Inequality for All," featuring Robert Reich, and said he is seeking a way for the City to show the film; and issued an invitation to the Holiday Spectacular Festivals of Carols being held by the Gay Men's Chorus on Dec. 14 and 15 at the Alex Theatre in Glendale.

Mike Che, Economic Development and Cultural Affairs Coordinator, said he will be at the December meeting to ask the Advisory Board to name a member to participate in a One City One Pride meeting of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission's Performing Arts Subcommittee, to review applications for projects at the 2014 event. He also spoke about the Bob Mizer and Tom of Finland retrospective sponsored by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and about World AIDS Day.

Casey Kringlen said he is developing a same-sex "Romeo & Juliet" performance in time for Valentine's Day 2014, and wanted to introduce himself and the concept to the City and the members of the Advisory Board.

Brenda Simmons of the Institute for Public Strategies encouraged the Advisory Board to support tonight's request to allocate \$1,000 to the Sober New Year's Eve event being planned by non-profit groups for Dec. 31, 2013.

Larry Block said local businesses are supporting the Sober New Year's Eve event with in-kind contributions, and spoke about Paul Lekakis, vocalist on the 1987 hit "Boom Boom (Let's Go Back to My Room)", as a good entertainer for a local event.

V. REPORTS

A. CSW OPEN FORUM REPORT

Staff distributed copies of the report going to City Council on Nov. 18, 2013, regarding the CSW Open Forum held by the Advisory Board on Oct. 30, 2013. Robert Gamboa thanked Karina Samala, chair of the Transgender Advisory Board, for co-moderating the event with the co-chairs of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

B. PROJECT WITH TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Palazzolo is working on a joint project with the Transgender Advisory Board, for a "Transgender 101 education" public meeting.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SOBER NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Ivy Bottini moved to recommend that City Council allocate \$1,000 from the line item for Gay & Lesbian Programs to support the Sober New Year's Eve event being planned for Dec. 31, 2013, at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved, with Laura Wise abstaining. Ivy Bottini recommended that the organizers look into providing appropriate lighting inside the Auditorium, which she said had no middle setting on its lights.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. VASELINE ALLEY

Lucas John, former Advisory Board member, and Kimberly Seeherman, of Events by Fabulous, said they would like to hold a celebration of Vaseline Alley, the area running between La Jolla and Havenhurst south of Santa Monica Boulevard, which they described as being a core part of gay history and part of the historical culture of West Hollywood. They are making plans for a pop-up two day festival with emphasis on the leather and fetish communities, as an example of the City's commitment to freedom of expression. They envisioned the first event being held during the weekend of the Pride Festival, with the possibility of moving to a different month in the future.

They would like to use the parking area behind the Gold Coast and Out of the Closet (AIDS Healthcare Foundation) buildings, the fire lane between La Jolla and Havenhurst, and the parking area south of the fire lane, for an event with an overall budget of approximately \$50,000.

Mike Gerle, a West Hollywood constituent since 1991, supported the project, saying that the ongoing non-queering of the city was troubling, and that the history of Vaseline Alley should be celebrated instead of being ignored or rewritten to exclude its real role in the gay community's history. He also spoke about the economic development potential of the project.

Elisabeth Sandberg moved to endorse the event in concept. This was seconded by Ivy Bottini and unanimously approved.

Lucas John said that he would return to an upcoming meeting with a breakdown of the proposed budget, and would request that the Advisory Board recommend that the City Council allocate \$1,000 from the Lesbian and Gay Programs line item, to support costs for fencing to assist with privacy and security.

B. LGBT MOVIE NIGHT

Robert Gamboa said the two people proposing this project were not able to proceed with it at this time, so the item was tabled.

C. RAINBOW KEY

The Advisory Board considered a staff report recommending a calendar of events for the 2014 Rainbow Key awards, including opening of nominations on Dec. 2, 2013; closing of nominations on Jan. 31, 2014; review of nominations and recommendations to City Council on Feb. 13, 2014; and submission of the nominations and recommendations at the City Council meeting of March 3, 2014. The awards would then be determined by the City Council, and presented at a date to be determined in June.

Approval of the calendar was moved by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Jeffrey Waack, and approved with Ivy Bottini opposed. Elisabeth Sandberg noted that the agenda for the February 2014 meeting should be limited, because the review of nominations for the awards will take time.

D. JOINT MEETING WITH RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board welcomed Valentina Matiji, vice chair of the Russian Advisory Board. Robert Gamboa said that the Transgender Advisory Board had voted to join the joint meeting that the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board proposed to the Russian Advisory Board. Ivy Bottini moved to support this and make it a meeting of all three boards. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

Ivy Bottini moved to expand the committee working on the joint meeting so that it would consist of Robert Gamboa, Jeffrey Waack, and herself. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

V. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Laura Wise thanked the board members for welcoming her, and they said they were looking forward to working with her on the board.

Elisabeth Sandberg reminded members that the Transgender Day of Remembrance will be held Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 pm in the Auto Court of the Library.

Elisabeth Sandberg said she will speak to the Public Facilities Commission on Dec. 11 regarding the Utility Box project, which is anticipated to go to the City Council on Dec. 16.

Robert Gamboa said he was glad the Advisory Board was reaching out to the community and said he was happy with the progress they were making this year.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no new agenda items proposed at this time.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm in support of transgender people and the Transgender Advisory Board; in memory of Transportation Security Administration officer Gerardo Hernandez, Marine Staff Sgt. Matthew R. Marsh, Gilbert Estrada, and typhoon victims in the Philippines; and in celebration of equal-marriage victories in Hawaii and Illinois.

Signed,

Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair