

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, 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 7:03 p.m., Thursday, September 12, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

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

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Jeff Book, staff liaison.

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 Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Enrique Reveles.

D. **MINUTES**

1. **MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2013, were approved on a motion by Enrique Reveles, seconded by Ruth Tittle.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Enrique Reveles asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Sue Sexton's outstanding and magnificent service on the Advisory Board, and said she will be sorely missed. Ruth Tittle said that Sue Sexton asked her to communicate that she will miss everyone but hopes to be visiting the meetings again in the future. In recognition that yesterday was the 12th anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of those who died on that day, as well as all military personnel who have died since then.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maria Shtabskaya, member of the Russian Advisory Board, said that Robert Gamboa had attended their last meeting. She wanted to assure members of this board that the

Russian community in West Hollywood does not share the negative sentiments codified in new laws in the Russian Federation on the subject of gay and lesbian rights. She also spoke about a foster family recruitment event being held on October 9.

Lee Walkup, member of the Senior Advisory Board, spoke about Item 2-S on the City Council agenda for Sept. 16, 2013, regarding the City's response to the negative developments on gay rights in Russia, which he said was available on the City website.

### III. INFORMATION FROM CITY CLERK

City Clerk Corey Schaffer provided an overview of how to run an effective meeting, along with information about city procedures and the Brown Act, California's open meetings law. He noted that the Advisory Board is governed by bylaws and Council resolution, and must limit its actions to things that are within its jurisdiction. He reminded members to not represent themselves as speaking for the Board unless they were actually authorized to do so. He reviewed agenda posting and public comment rules, along with the limitation that a quorum of Board members may not meet to discuss matters that are or may be before the Board, except at a duly noticed public meeting.

### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. TRANSGENDER RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Drían Juarez, member of the Transgender Advisory Board, spoke about AB 1121 (Atkins), which would make it easier for transgender people to change their legal identity by removing the requirement for a court order, and permitting issuance of a new (rather than amended) birth certificate. She also spoke about AB 1266 (Ammiano), which the governor has signed, requiring public schools to permit students to participate in activities for, and use facilities for, their gender identity, regardless of the gender indicated on records.

She provided a handout of events for Transgender Awareness Month in November, and noted the flag raising on Nov. 1, march and tree planting at Plummer Park, televised meeting with awards, Job Fair on Nov. 7, Wellness Day on Nov. 16, and the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20, with an event at the Library auto-court. Ruth Tittle recommended inviting Assemblymembers Atkins and Ammiano.

Without objection, Item V. B. was moved up for consideration at this time.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### B. TRANSGENDER EDUCATION DISCUSSION

Robert Gamboa spoke about the possibility of cooperating with the Transgender Advisory Board on a community education event. Drían Juarez said this could probably be included as an event in November, for the awareness month. The Advisory Board voted to proceed with partnering with TAB on an event of this kind, on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Enrique Reveles.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

B. C.I.T.Y.x1 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY EVENT

Carlos Sosa, executive director of C.I.T.Y.x1, presented a request for the City to continue its support of their Thanksgiving holiday event. In response to questions, he said they have spoken with Wells Fargo and others about supporting the event, and that they are applying to become their own 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Ruth Tittle moved to recommend to the City Council that the City allocate \$500 from the Gay & Lesbian programs line item to reimburse food costs for the C.I.T.Y.x1 2013 Thanksgiving event. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

C. UTILITY BOX DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mark Cramer of Install: WeHo discussed their proposal to manage the selection and installation of gay- and lesbian-related art in the form of vinyl coverings for city-owned traffic signal boxes, as a demonstration of the potential for this form of art in the city. Advisory Board members discussed the cost and scale of the proposal, and agreed to continue the item to the Oct. 10, 2013, meeting, so that a proposal that is specific in terms of which boxes would be involved and what the cost per box would be, can be considered.

D. INTERSECTION NAMING

Robert Gamboa reported that the committee considering how to move forward on giving a name to the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente Blvds. recommended that the Advisory Board request that the City Council express its intention to name the intersection, and designate the Advisory Board to conduct public outreach in this regard, including formal meetings to invite possible names and discuss how the name would be memorialized; informal meetings with businesses and others in the area; social media outreach; and a two-question survey to be distributed to people using the intersection. He proposed that the committee collect the information and present it to the Advisory Board, which would then present it to the City Council. This was moved by Ruth Tittle and seconded by Jeffrey Waack.

In public comment, Larry Block said that Capt. Honings from the Sheriff's Department had told him that the flagpole at the Sheriff's Station is city-owned. He recommended raising the Rainbow Flag on that flagpole in the near term, independently of the process to consider naming the intersection.

The recommendation to Council regarding naming and outreach to collect possible names was approved.

E. WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

Elisabeth Sandberg moved that the Advisory Board not program its own area at the West Hollywood Book Fair on Sept. 29, 2013, but participate in next year's event. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

A. RUSSIAN COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Robert Gamboa moved to do a public event with the Russian Advisory Board regarding the City granting asylum to people at risk due to recent legal moves against gay and lesbian people in Russia, and other aspects of how the City can respond to this discrimination. This was seconded by Amy Ruskin.

In discussion, the Advisory Board decided the best way to move forward on this would be to meet jointly with the Russian Advisory Board to discuss how to cooperate on such an event or other projects.

Robert Gamboa moved to amend the motion, by substituting that the Advisory Board would invite the Russian Advisory Board to have a joint meeting. The amendment was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved. The main motion was then approved.

B. Note: Item V.B was covered earlier in the meeting.

C. TWEAKERS PROJECT EVENT

In public comment, Jimmy Palmieri said that the Tweakers Project would like to display an artist's canvas at City Hall, and then at a City Council meeting, to collect signatures from people in support of the recovery community, in recognition of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, which is September. He asked for the Board's endorsement of the display. The Tweakers Project would approach city management about how to carry out the display.

Robert Gamboa moved to endorse this event. This was seconded by Ruth Tittle and approved.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Elisabeth Sandberg said The Lesbian Center is holding an event on Oct. 12 at a home in Hancock Park, with further information on Facebook.

Robert Gamboa said the Video Project is moving forward, and may be working with the theme that 'West Hollywood Is Legendary'; that the group interested in doing a New Year's Eve event for the recovery community is considering using The Lot; and Rob Bergstein was sworn in as a member of the Human Services Commission, where long-time member Mark Zangrando is leaving to move to San Diego. He extended an invitation from Luciano Costa and the SoCal Social Club to their Sept. 18 event in Santa Monica, with further information on their website. He said he would be out of town for the next meeting, on Oct. 10.

Robert Gamboa thanked Sue Sexton for her extraordinary service as a member of the Advisory Board, and said her work had benefited every person in the community.

Amy Ruskin said the adoption of her son Benjamin became final this week.

The Advisory Board congratulated Elisabeth Sandberg and Astrid Virding on their recent marriage.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jeffrey Waack moved to place the topic of asking Council to raise the Rainbow Flag on the flagpole near the Sheriff's Station on the next agenda. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and approved with four in favor, none opposed, and two, Elisabeth Sandberg and Enrique Reveles, abstaining.

The Advisory Board placed the item about cooperation with the Transgender Advisory Board on its next agenda.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reminded members that the congress of boards and commissions will be held Monday, Oct. 14, at 6 pm, in the Council Chambers.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm in honor of Sue Sexton's outstanding service as an Advisory Board member, and in memory of those who died in the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and members of the armed forces who have died since then.

*Signed,*

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*Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair*

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*Amy Ruskin, Co-Chair*