

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 10, 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 7:07 p.m., Thursday, October 10, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

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

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

B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Matt Palazzolo.

C. **REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**

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

D. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

E. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of September 12, 2013, were approved on a motion by Ruth Tittle, with Ivy Bottini and Matt Palazzolo abstaining.

F. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Matt Palazzolo asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Jadin Bell, 15, and Joe Bell, 48, both of La Grande, OR. Jadin Bell died in February by suicide resulting in part from bullying. His father, Joe, had begun a cross-country journey to raise awareness about bullying, and died when he was hit by a truck while walking on the shoulder of U.S. Route 40 east of Colorado Springs, CO.

Staff asked that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of Lennis Giugni, mother of Social Services Supervisor David Giugni.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UTILITY BOX DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Following up on previous presentations and discussion about a demonstration project to wrap utility boxes with art, Mark Cramer, creator and co-founder of INSTALL:WeHo, presented a proposal for wrapping two boxes, to be known as "Project U," to highlight utility and community unity, at a cost of \$3,000.

Ivy Bottini moved to recommend that City Council proceed with the Utility Box Demonstration Project. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo.

Elisabeth Sandberg moved an amendment to include a recommendation that \$3,000 be allocated for this project from the Gay & Lesbian Programs line item, and that the two boxes be gay and lesbian themed. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved, with Ruth Tittle abstaining.

Matt Palazzolo moved an amendment to designate the utility boxes near Gelson's (Santa Monica Blvd. at Kings Road) and Raffi's Jewelers (Santa Monica Blvd. at La Cienega Blvd.) as the preferred location. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved, with Ruth Tittle abstaining.

The motion as a whole was then approved, with Ruth Tittle abstaining.

B. SOBER NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Amy Ruskin moved to table this item to the next (Nov.14) meeting. This was seconded by Ruth Tittle and approved.

C. JOINT MEETING WITH RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board discussed its plans to hold a joint meeting with the Russian Advisory Board, and designated Robert Gamboa and Jeffrey Waack to work with the Russian Advisory Board to plan the event. Ivy Bottini said the last joint meeting, which was held several years ago, was too tightly controlled, and didn't provide participants a real opportunity to discuss and interact. She said the set-up of that earlier meeting, with board members at a long table, did not facilitate discussion.

D. COMMUNITY EVENT WITH TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board named Matt Palazzolo as liaison to work with the Transgender Advisory Board in planning the joint community education event.

E. VIDEO PROJECT

Matt Palazzolo reported on behalf of the committee that has been working on a video project, which is now considering a short video in preparation for the City's 30th anniversary. Matt Palazzolo moved, and Ivy Bottini seconded, to recommend to the City Council that they approve the Advisory Board pursuing this project. This motion was unanimously approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

Council Deputy Michelle Rex said Mayor Pro Tempore John D'Amico sent regrets and was speaking to a forum on the cure for HIV. She said the City spends more than \$400,000 in support for the Christopher Street West event in June each year, and urged support for the Advisory Board holding a public forum to solicit what the community thinks about the event.

Ivy Bottini moved to hold a public forum, which was seconded by Ruth Tittle. Matt Palazzolo said he would be uncomfortable sponsoring the forum unless CSW was involved. Michelle Rex said the Mayor Pro Tempore has spoken with Rodney Scott from CSW and asked him to participate.

In response to a question from Amy Ruskin about what major concerns the community may have, Michelle Rex noted that the same had been raised in the report of a joint task force in 2005: relevance of the parade, lack of creativity, quality of the grand marshals, cost of the festival, quality of entertainment, and the overall caliber of the experience.

The motion was approved, with Matt Palazzolo abstaining.

V. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Elisabeth Sandberg said The Lesbian Center is having its premiere fundraising event in Hancock Park, and will be presenting an award to Sheila Kuehl.

Amy Ruskin reported that Robert Gamboa had asked for a report on the City Council action on the intersection naming item. Staff said that the Council had voted by 4 to 1 on Oct. 7 to table the item, and that the tape of councilmember comments was on the City website.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

On behalf of Robert Gamboa, Amy Ruskin requested that sponsoring an LGBT Movie Night at Plummer Park be on the next agenda. There was no objection.

On behalf of Robert Gamboa, Amy Ruskin requested that sponsoring a Vaseline Alley Celebration in cooperation with AIDS Healthcare Foundation be on the next agenda. There was no objection.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reported that Mayor Abbe Land has appointed Laura J. Wise to the Advisory Board. She will be sworn in at the November meeting.

Capt. Gary Honings of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station is planning to attend the December meeting to introduce himself.

A. FLAG PLACEMENTS

Staff reported that the topic of display of governmental and non-governmental flags on public property was under consideration.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm in memory of Joe Bell, Jadin Bell, and Lennis Giugni.

Signed,

Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair

Amy Ruskin, Co-Chair