

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY**, August 24, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.

***Location: Community Conference Room  
West Hollywood City Hall  
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Councilmember Abbe Land administered the oath of office to newly appointed boardmember Darcine Thomas.

**A. Roll Call:**

Kelly Alexander	Present
Vicki Geis	Present
Lyndia Lowy, Chair	Present
Stephanie Middler, Vice Chair	Present
Rae Mitchell	Present
Marcy Norton	Present
Judith Resell	Absent
Madeleine Rackley,	Present
Jessie Raeder	Present
Heidi Schroeder	Present
Darcine Thomas	Present

Staff: Lisa Belsanti and Larissa Fooks

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of July 26, 2006: Stephanie Middler made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Rae Mitchell, the motion passed unanimously.

**III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Nicole Curran, representing the L.I.F.E. program, spoke about their new program focusing on disaster preparedness. She invited the Board to attend an event they are sponsoring for National Preparedness Month on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. West Hollywood Community Needs Assessment Update**

Daphne Dennis, Social Service Administrator for the City, gave a presentation to the Board about the update report. Highlights included, She gave specific information about women in the City. Suggested working with the Board to develop a monograph that encapsulates information about women.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. BOARD RETREAT FOLLOW-UP**

Staff facilitated a discussion the why members joined, the purpose of the Women's Advisory Board, and who the Board should be trying to reach and ways to do it. ( Summary Notes attached)

**B. Subcommittee Reports**

- 1. Status of Women in West Hollywood** – Madeleine Rackley reported that the Subcommittee had two meetings since last month. The Subcommittee is seeking input regarding the direction of their work. They raised concerns about duplicating the work of the City's Needs Assessment. Should they continue with the report using data from the needs assessment or focus on analyzing the data and making recommendations about programming or work on both. The Board agreed by consensus to direct the subcommittee to continue to develop a report on the status of women in West Hollywood, reaffirming that this report would incorporate information beyond the statistical data generated by the City's Needs Assessment, such as information about women who work in the City, women in leadership, women business owners, etc.

- 2. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Organization for Women-** Jessie Raeder reported. The Subcommittee has meet twice since last month and made recommendations to the Board regarding ways to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NOW:

The Subcommittee proposed to integrate the commemoration into the Board's Annual programming for Women's History Month, such as a commemorative Now Banner, donating the proceeds from the Women In Leadership Awards to NOW, (targeting a specific fund such as one to develop young feminists), and to incorporate the history of NOW into the lobby display. Marcy Norton made a motion to endorse the recommendations of the subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Middler and passed unanimously.

Staff was directed to ask the Mayor' Office about hosting a Human Rights Speakers Series relating to NOW during Women's History Month.

Lisa Belsanti announced that MOCA @ the PDC and NOW are hosting an event for the book fair, honoring women authors and has asked the WAB to co- sponsor. Marcy Norton made a motion for the WAB to co-sponsor the NOW Reception. The motion was seconded by Rae Mitchell and passed unanimously.

**C. Women's Equality Day, Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Lisa Belsanti updated the Board on the City's Pro Choice City Campaign. The kick-off scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

**D. California Commission on the Status of Women Hearings**

Boardmembers discussed participating in Commission hearings about the status of women and girls in California scheduled for September 20, 2006. Individual members expressed interest in attending or submitting written testimony. Madeleine will be attending, Lyndia and Kelly are planning to submit written testimony. Lisa Belsanti stated that she and Councilmember Abbe Land will be attending on behalf of the City.

**VI NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Public Safety Updates**

*No Report.*

**B. Legislative Updates**

**AB 2251 (Leno), *The Online Privacy for Reproductive Health Services Providers, Employees, Volunteers and Patients Act.***

Lyndia Lowy made a motion to recommend that the City Council support AB 2251. The motion was seconded by Marcy Norton and passed unanimously.

**C. Review of Calendar of Events**

The Board discussed rescheduling the November and December meetings of the Board. They agreed by consensus to meet on November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

No reports

**VIII. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

Rae Mitchell

Announced the upcoming plans for the City's Breast Cancer Awareness Month programming. There will be a press conference tentatively on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Breast self-examination shower cards will be distributed at all the City's supermarkets.

Marcy Norton

Suggested that the WAB send condolences to Heather Daims regarding the death of her mother.

Gave a reminder about the upcoming Book Fair on September 17<sup>th</sup>, invited members to stop by the Friends of the Library annual Book and Bake Sale

Lyndia Lowy

Announced fundraising efforts for the marching band at Fairfax High School.

**IX. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF**

None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The Women's Advisory Board adjourned at 9:15 PM their next regularly scheduled Board Meeting on at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 26, 2006 in West Hollywood, CA 90069.

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