

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, August 25, 2005 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 by Chairperson Madeleine Rackley at 7:10 PM.

A. New Boardmember Vicki Geis was administered the oath of office by Lisa Belsanti.

**B. Roll Call**

Kelly Alexander	Present
Nicole C. Curran	Present
Debra Farmer	Absent
Lyndia Lowy, Vice Chair	Present
Rae Mitchell	Present
Marcy Norton	Present
Judith Resell	Absent
Madeleine Rackley, Chair	Present
Heidi Schroeder	Present
Renee Dake Wilson	Absent

Staff: Lisa Marie Belsanti

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

*Minutes of July 28, 2005: approved by consensus.*

**III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ruth Williams gave an update to the Board about the townhall forum sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and the Women's Advisory Board.

Suzanne Dietrich, Disability Advisory Board member announced that Pam Keevil-Grey will be the new liaison to the WAB from their Board.

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **A. Subcommittee Reports**

Update reports from subcommittees:

###### **1. Status of Women in West Hollywood:**

Madeleine Rackley informed the Board that the report on the *Status of Women in West Hollywood* would be ready for review in before October.

##### **B. Board Liaison Reports**

###### Senior Advisory Board:

Jeff Book from the City's Human Services Department gave a presentation to the Senior Advisory Board regarding various propositions on the state ballot in November. It was suggested that the WAB receive a similar briefing. Lyndia Lowy made a motion in support of having speakers on election issues relating to women. The motion was seconded by Marcy Norton and passed unanimously.

###### Chairs Meeting:

Madeleine Rackley reported that the all boards and commissions were asked to prepare trivia questions pertaining to their body which will be used as "ice breakers" at the Annual Congress of Boards and Commission scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>. She asked Boardmembers to email her with their suggestions.

##### **C. Women's Equality Day, August 26, 2005**

Lisa Belsanti gave an update report to the Board on plans for the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration. Preparations have been finalized for the film screening of *Iron-Jawed Angels* and the rally with special guest speakers. A copy of the full-page *LA Weekly* ad was shown to the Board, listing all the co-sponsoring organizations, featured speakers, and the extensive host committee of elected officials.

WAB members were asked to arrive by 6pm to assist with the program.

**D. Townhall Meeting on Social Security Reform**

*Tabled.*

**E. NCJW/LA Community Forum on Slavery and Trafficking**

The Board discussed their participation as co-sponsors of the upcoming forum on the issue of slavery and trafficking, tentatively scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. Members Nicole Curran, Madeleine Rackley, Lyndia Lowy, Heidi Schroeder are planning to attend and provide assistance at the event.

**F. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual West Hollywood Book Fair**

The Board discussed hosting brunch for women authors again at this year's book fair. By consensus the Board decided not to repeat the event. It was suggested that the Board consider hosting a booth for women authors next year. Volunteers were requested to assist with the City's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to be held after the close of the book fair.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Televised Meeting of the Board, September 26th**

The Board discussed whether to proceed with the scheduled televised meeting next month or not because the Board's report on the *Status of Women in West Hollywood* would not be ready in time to present. Marcy Norton made a motion to postpone the televised meeting of the Board, seconded by Lyndia Lowy, the motion passed unanimously.

**B. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

Discussion of local, statewide and national legislation and policy affecting women.

1. Nicole Curran made a motion in support of the National Breast Cancer Coalition's legislative priorities for 2005:

Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act - SB 575 (Chafee); Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2005 - SB 910 (Snowe), HR 1849 (Kelly); Fair Access to Clinical Trails (FACT) Act - SB 470 (Dodd, Grassley) and support the funding of \$150 million for FY 2006 for the Department of Defense (DOD) Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program. The motion was seconded by Lyndia Lowy and passed unanimously.

2. The Board reviewed the Put the Kids First Act, Proposition 74 and the Public Employees Right to Approve Use of Union Dues for Political Campaign Purposes Act, Propositions 75.

*Received and filed.*

3. Marcy Norton made a motion to approve AJR 30 (Liu), Women's Equality Day, a joint Assembly resolution in support of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote urging the President and the U.S. Congress to dedicate themselves to upholding the current protections of equality for women and to pioneer new protections of equality for women until women achieve parity with men. The motion was seconded by Lyndia Lowy and passed unanimously.

### **C. Healthy West Hollywood**

Staff gave an update on plans for the City's annual "Healthy West Hollywood Month" programming held during the month of October, including Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Domestic Violence Prevention Awards. Rae Mitchell will sign-up WAB members next month to volunteer for breast cancer prevention outreach activities on October 11th and October 20th.

Boardmembers were asked to attend the kick-off of "Healthy West Hollywood" at the September 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

### **C. Review of Calendar of Events:**

No action taken.

## **VI. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

None

**VII ITEMS FROM THE STAFF**

None

**VIII ADJOURNMENT**

The Women's Advisory Board adjourned at 9:05 PM to their next regular meeting at 7pm on **September 22, 2005** in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.