

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The December 10, 2015, meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Lee Walkup led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, James Duke Mason, Robert Oliver, Matt Palazzolo, Marquita Thomas, Ruth Tittle.

Not Present: Beth Bishop, Lucas John, Elizabeth Persen.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; and Jeff Book.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Robert Gamboa moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Adjournment Requests as Item 1.C. This was seconded by James Duke Mason and approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2015, were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by James Duke Mason.

E. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Robert Gamboa requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Coachella Valley LGBT activist George Zander; Visit West Hollywood president/CEO Bradley Burlingame; Larry Daniel Kaufman; and all victims of the recent attacks in Paris and San Bernardino.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. A. Lee Walkup, liaison from Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the Gay Men's Chorus, Congressman Adam Schiff, the #BOOM! Sober New Year's Eve event, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

2. Nir Zilberman said he was disappointed last month when LGAB members thought the meeting should end by 9 pm.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Staff reported that nominations were opened on Dec. 1 with a City press release and email to board and commission members. Nomination forms were distributed. Board Members were encouraged to distribute the request for nominations widely, through their own social networks and contacts.

B. AGING IN PLACE/AGING IN COMMUNITY 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman spoke about feeding the homeless at Love No Hate, and said that on Christmas they will present a free day of movies for older homeless people.

Elizabeth Savage presented an update on the Aging in Place/Aging in Community 5-Year Strategic Plan. There has been an extensive information-gathering phase which has included input from boards and commissions, experts in the field, focus groups, and individual interviews. Consultants are currently developing measures and metrics that will track the collective impact (aggregation of separate impacts) to determine the Plan's effects on progress toward social change.

Robert Oliver commented on the need for affordable housing and the impact of the Ellis Act. Elizabeth Savage spoke about the possibility of increasing relocation fees, and amending the Ellis Act to require property owners to hold rental property for at least 5 years before using the property for other purposes.

C. LGBT HISTORY KIOSKS

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman said that while there is merit to historical kiosks, he doesn't want people to look on West Hollywood only as place where things happened in the past, but as an exciting place in the present.

Andy Sacher of The Lavender Effect spoke about the importance of telling gay and lesbian history, and about The Lavender Effect's projects.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about best ways to have a project with a definite outcome, and cooperating with the streetscape media project that the City is doing. She suggested forming a committee that would meet prior to the Advisory Board for the next four months, and report back to the Advisory Board on this potential project.

Robert Gamboa moved to create a committee to explore the potential for LGBT history kiosks. This was seconded by Kate Eggert, and approved. The committee members are Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, and James Duke Mason.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman said the Sheriff's Department is doing an amazing job, but that people need to act responsibly also, by reducing risks when walking alone or at night. He said perhaps a brochure on how to stay safe could be produced by the City and distributed at clubs.

Sergio Aloma, Acting Captain of the West Hollywood Station, responded to questions raised by Board Members at the November 2015 meeting. He spoke about robberies near San Vicente Boulevard and in the northeast section of the city; about the addition of ALPRS (Automatic License Plate Recognition System) in the city; about the role of bicycle security ambassadors, who serve as extra eyes and ears to provide information to Sheriff's officers when needed; and about the pros and cons of expanding camera presence in public areas. In response to questions, Acting Captain Aloma said there was no indication that the recent robberies in the northeast area were targeted to LGBT victims.

David Aguilar, operations manager of the Block by Block bicycle security ambassadors program in West Hollywood, spoke about that program, which operates 7 days a week and works with local businesses, PATH, and the Sheriff's Department. In response to a question, he said the three biggest issues for bicycle ambassadors are: (1) intoxicated people; (2) homeless people; and (3) poor lighting in some areas. He said the program verifies that bicycle ambassadors are touring their entire route by requiring them to check in through a series of 65 buttons located throughout the City, which record the presence of the ambassador's wireless card. He said the security ambassadors are not volunteers; they are employees of a national company which provides this service.

In response to questions, Acting Captain Aloma said the Department had recorded fewer than 12 hate crime incidents in West Hollywood in 2015, year to date, and that while there had been one crime involving people who met through Craigslist, there were no reports of problems of people meeting through Grindr.

Public Comment: Michael King said safety in the City has improved since the 1990s, and that LGBT people originally gathered in West Hollywood because it was outside the jurisdiction of LAPD. He expressed concerns about enforcement of liquor laws at The Abbey.

Board Members thanked Acting Captain Aloma and David Aguilar for speaking.

B. RECOGNIZING IVY BOTTINI

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman thanked Councilmembers and Board members for coming to a recognition for Ivy Bottini held at Love No Hate. He asked who the next Ivy Bottini will be, because she has been a path-breaking leader, and we need to have people who will follow her example.

Board Members discussed various ways of recognizing former Board Member Ivy Bottini's contribution to the community, and what form a public event could take. Ruth Tittle said Ivy has received many awards and commendations, and that it would be good to ask her what she thought about a public event of the kind being considered. She agreed to speak with Ivy Bottini about this.

Robert Gamboa moved to ask Ruth Tittle to speak with Ivy Bottini about this, and let the Board know her thoughts. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and approved.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reported a request for one or two members to attend the Women's Advisory Board meeting on January 28, to provide input on the report on the Status of Women in the city. Marquita Thomas will attend this meeting on behalf of the Board.

Staff distributed invitations from the Equality CA Institute for their December 13 event, Fair Share for Equality.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. James Wen, Transgender Advisory Board, spoke about the Equality Act, and thanked Board Members for attending the Transgender Day of Remembrance.
2. Nir Zilberman said the Board should do its own research on remarks presented by the bicycle security ambassador spokesman; and spoke about the need for wellness in the city, and Black History Month.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

James Duke Mason, liaison to Rent Stabilization Commission, noted that the Commission's meetings seem to always happen at the same time as this Board. Since the Rent Stabilization Commission meeting is televised, Elizabeth Savage said he could view the meetings afterward.

B. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Oliver spoke about the Transgender Day of Remembrance and the performance by the Trans Chorus.

Marquita Thomas expressed appreciation to the speakers this evening.

James Duke Mason said he had spoken under Public Comment at the last City Council meeting to recommend formation of a Business Advisory Board. He also spoke about homelessness in the City, and asked for the issue of the impact on homelessness on the LGBT community to be part

of discussion next month, when the Board conducts a study session to develop its workplan.

Kate Eggert commented on the loss of LGBT businesses such as Video West.

Robert Gamboa spoke about the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and suggested that Board Member's homework prior to next month's study session should include thinking about what they find exciting in the City and what they are concerned about in the City, because the Board has the potential to help the City continue to be a model for the rest of the world.

Ruth Tittle spoke about World AIDS Day, and with regard to the loss of LGBT businesses, said the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce had formed a young entrepreneurs group, to encourage new projects.

9. ADJOURNMENT


The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 pm.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 14th DAY OF JANUARY 2016.



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison