

**MINUTES  
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The March 10, 2016, 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 in the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069,

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Not Present: Ruth Tittle.

A quorum was present at all times. There are two vacancies on the Board. Also present were staff members Jeff Book and John Erickson.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved on a motion by James Duke Mason, seconded by Matt Palazzolo.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of March 10, 2016, were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Lucas John, with Robert Oliver abstaining.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Lee Walkup spoke about the Senior Health Fair; anti-LGBT laws in certain states; and the Gay Men's Chorus preparation for *Oye Mi Canto*, their program with the Cuban gay men's chorus, Mano a Mano.
2. Nir Zilberman spoke about Love No Hate becoming a nonprofit, and showed an anti-drug abuse video he said will be playing in local bars.

**F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Robert Gamboa requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

### **3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. ACTIONS AND CURRENT STATUS REVIEW**

Staff reviewed actions that LGAB has taken since May 2015, and where these stand. Lucas John would like to know how the distinction is made between LGAB actions that go on to the City Council as staff reports, asking for a specific action by the City Council, and those that are reported to the City Council in the LGAB action report. LGAB Members discussed the bisexual topic; historical kiosks; Werle Building; lesbian space. Matt Palazzolo said it would be helpful to have the items marked as ongoing, open, annual/recurring, or completed.

#### **B. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS**

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman recommended honoring those who have recovered from alcohol or drug abuse and have careers.

Board Members reviewed their individual assignments for the Rainbow Key Awards.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. LGBT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman spoke about having visited Being Alive, and said we must not forget that not all homeless are youth, and that we should be paying attention to where the money goes.

Staff said that Kris Nameth, program manager of the Youth Services Program at the LA LGBT Center, is planning to speak to LGAB at the May meeting. The Board could provide some questions and interests that they would like Kris Nameth to address.

Robert Gamboa said there are many sides to the issue. He has attended Human Services Commission meetings including this topic. One question at this time is how do we fill the gap between what is already being done, with what needs to be done. Some of this discussion was held three years ago when LGAB had its Addiction, Recovery and Sexual Health (ARSH) subcommittee.

James Duke Mason said the City should open and operate its own homeless shelter. He said the City could afford this, and the need is obvious. Staff reviewed history on the City's initiation of the West Hollywood Homeless Organization (WHHO), the belief in a more regional approach which led to integration with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), and PATH's recent decision to not seek an extension on funding from the City while continuing to provide services to community members

when available.

Lucas John spoke about helping youth who are trying to improve their situations, at the LA LGBT Center's Youth Services program. He also spoke about possibly providing housing grants that would enable youth to stay in the community and not be homeless.

Matt Palazzolo said a topic for next month's speaker could be funding for job help instead of bed space, and the history of what has been most helpful to young people in need.

**B. HARVEY MILK DAY**

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman spoke about honoring heroes such as Harvey Milk and Ivy Bottini. He said many people don't know who Harvey Milk is. We must have everyone in West Hollywood knowing who Harvey Milk is and what he accomplished.

Staff presented information on the City's plans for Harvey Milk Day this year, including a screening of "Milk" at 3 pm on Sunday, May 22. Board members were invited to participate in leading the screening and developing a panel for discussion. The event is planned for 3 to 6 pm, with a half-hour panel following the screening, and a small reception.

Board Members' ideas for panelists included Cleve Jones, Gus Van Sant, Dustin Lance Black, Karen Ocamb, Jimmy Palmieri, Stuart Milk, and young activists whose lives have been affected by Harvey Milk, such as Kim Rocco Shields. Board Members volunteered to contact possible panelists.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

**6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff spoke about the 10<sup>th</sup> West Hollywood Women's Leadership events, to be held May 6-7, 2016.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nir Zilberman said Love No Hate will be opening a sober-living facility with 18 beds, of which 9 would be for gay men, and 9 for women. He said he is working with the City Manager, Mayor-elect, likely City Council candidates, and others. He said their first board meeting is being held soon. He said he does things the City doesn't want him to do, but feeding the homeless is not a crime.

**8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**A. LIAISON REPORTS**

Lucas John said we could be providing better support for the Transgender Advisory Board, which meets at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of every month, at Plummer Park.

Robert Gamboa said the Public Safety Commission discussed issues relating to the Penthouse Nightclub and Dayclub on Robertson Boulevard. He said the Human Services Commission conducted a public hearing on social services priorities on May 12, and will be holding a special Commission meeting on May 19 to adopt recommendations on priorities, for consideration by the City Council.

Kate Eggert attended the Historical Preservation Commission, and spoke about the commercial survey, which unfortunately does not have much specific West Hollywood gay and lesbian information in it.

**B. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

James Duke Mason said the Board has the opportunity to do something big this year, if it chooses and plans what to do. It can also accomplish many smaller things.

Marquita Thomas said she was concerned at the last meeting that the Board agreed to adjourn in memory of Nancy Reagan. She said a board which in particular serves the community should not be honoring someone who made derogatory remarks about gays and lesbians. She said in the future we should have more information about the people put forward for this kind of recognition, to avoid having this situation occur again.

James Duke Mason said he understood those sentiments, and that he had never heard those remarks attributed to Mrs. Reagan.

Kate Eggert said the nomination for The Factory for the National Register of Historic Places has been turned in. She hopes the nomination will be heard at the state level in July or August. She said an update on the possibility of LGBT history kiosks should be on the next agenda.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. in memory of Bill Rosendahl, who served on the Los Angeles City Council from 2005 to 2013.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE  
12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2016.

Robert Gamboa  
Co-Chair

Attest:

Book  
Staff Liaison