

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The June 16, 2016, special meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:04 pm by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa in the First-Floor Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90069. The special meeting had been called due to cancellation of the regular meeting (June 9, 2016) due to lack of a quorum.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Megan Cotanch, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, James Duke Mason, Matt Palazzolo, Robert Oliver, Marquita Thomas, Ruth Tittle.

Not Present: Kate Eggert, Sue LaVaccare.

A quorum was present at all times. Marquita Thomas and Ruth Tittle joined the meeting in progress. Also present were Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; and staff members Jeff Book and John Erickson.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The names of the 49 victims of the attack on the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, FL, on June 12, 2016, were read, and a moment of silence was held. (See list at adjournment, below.) There was a request to adjourn the meeting in their memory, and in memory of Vicky Cordle, mother-in-law of LGAB co-chair Kate Eggert.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bronwen McGarva spoke about differences in this year's Dyke March, and the difficulty of getting into the area to participate. She said the march should include women of all ages, as well as those with mobility issues. She is available in case a committee to discuss the next Dyke March is formed.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Megan Cotanch said she also had difficulty getting to the stage at the Dyke March. James Duke Mason said he read that Christopher Street West is planning to hold a meeting for community feedback.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Board Members reviewed plans for the Rainbow Key Awards on June 22, 2016, and their individual roles in the event, including who will introduce and present the awards to the individual honorees. Robert Gamboa thanked Matt Palazzolo for designing the flyer and Facebook page, and urged members to send the invitation to all of their friends and groups.

Elizabeth Savage announced that Carole Cook and Bruce Vilanch, who received the first Rainbow Key Awards in 1993, have confirmed that they will attend.

B. GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH HOMELESSNES

James Duke Mason wondered what the City will do regarding homeless services since PATH has chosen to not seek continued funding. Lucas John said he is planning to speak further with Kris Nameth of the LA LGBT Center on youth homelessness. Megan Cotanch and Lucas John are planning to do a tour of the Center's Youth facility.

Public Comment: Victor Omelczenko commended James Duke Mason and Lucas John for their involvement in addressing homeless services. He said he had spoken to staff several years ago about the possibility of having a facility like Triangle Square, the Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH) facility, in West Hollywood.

Board Members requested that the list of applicants for 2016-2019 Social Services contracts be sent to them, along with the schedule of remaining meetings in the funding process. James Duke Mason and Robert Gamboa will review the list of applicants and consider next steps in advocating for expanded services for the homeless in West Hollywood.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

John Erickson said there will be a budget presentation for the community on June 18 at Plummer Park Community Center, and that the proposed budget is online as part of the City Council agenda for June 20.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Victor Omelczenko said he was honored by the Senior Advisory Board for being active in the community. He recalled a City Council meeting where John Heilman said the budget is the most important thing the City Council does. He asked for LGAB to review the budget to see whether it is meeting the needs of the gay and lesbian community.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

Robert Gamboa and Robert Oliver will be meeting with representatives of the bisexual community. (Together with Kate Eggert, they are the LGAB subcommittee on bisexual issues.) Robert Oliver said they will collect relevant data and report back to the Board.

B. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Megan Cotanch, who served on the panel for the Harvey Milk Day program with Kate Eggert, said that Kim Rocco Shields is looking for agencies to partner with for screenings of the feature version of "Love Is All You Need?," which has been adapted from the 2011 short film.

Lucas John asked that the next agenda include a discussion with Isla Jones Chanel, organizer of the Banjee Ball, on how the City can help with projects that provide youth with a gathering space other than the bars. There was no objection to placing this on the agenda. Marquita Thomas noted that the Vogue Ball was held in the West Hollywood Park Auditorium on June 10.

Marquita Thomas said she arrived late because she attended an Entertainment AIDS Meeting this evening. She spoke about enormous increases in AIDS among people of color, and asked for the Board to discuss ways to have an impact on this, in addition to supporting PrEP. She said the attack on the Pulse nightclub in Orlando will be a kind of modern-day Stonewall. She said that Councilmember Duran's speech after the attack was one for the ages, and urged people who haven't heard it to locate it and listen.

Robert Oliver spoke about using Board meeting time to discuss important issues, and leaving details of event planning to committees. For example, the selection of honorees for Rainbow Key Awards could be done by the full Board, but the details of the awards program, such as food and

flowers, could be handled by committee.

Ruth Tittle thanked everyone for the very successful Pride event. She said the Sizzle event was excellent as part of Pride. She said she was thinking about the people lost in the attack in Orlando. She spoke about an Interfaith march in Washington DC, and asked whether there are Muslim gay groups here. She said Thrive Tribe will speak at the next LGAB meeting.

Robert Gamboa said he has spoken with Mayor Lauren Meister and Councilmember John D'Amico about what can be done to improve safety for City meetings and activities. He would like the Board to discuss this further. Robert Oliver spoke about a Sheriff's video on alternatives in an active-shooter situation (Run; Hide; Fight), which could be shown. James Duke Mason said he was concerned by a lack of security at Council and Board/Commission meetings. Megan Cotanch spoke about communication systems for alerts.

Matt Palazzolo requested that the topic of creating a public safety and awareness training be on the next agenda, focused on defensive and practical information. There was no objection to placing this on the agenda.

Robert Gamboa spoke about participating in this year's AIDS/LifeCycle, which took place from San Francisco to Los Angeles on June 5-11, 2016, and raised more than \$16 million. He spoke about the emotional impact of each day on the ride. He spoke about the Sizzle event at the Pride Festival, which was well attended, especially on Friday and Saturday.

Robert Gamboa asked for discussion of a memorial for the victims in Orlando, or for all victims of LGBT hate crimes, to be on the agenda. There was no objection.


9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm in memory of Vicky Cordle, mother-in-law of LGAB co-chair Kate Eggert. Megan Cotanch spoke about Vicky Cordle's acceptance of Kate as her daughter's partner, and having really been a second mother to Kate.

The meeting was also adjourned in memory of the 49 victims of the shooting in Orlando: Stanley Almodovar III, 23; Amanda Alvear, 25; Oscar A. Aracena-Montero, 26; Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33; Antonio Davon Brown, 29; Darryl Roman Burt II, 29; Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28; Juan Chevez-Martinez, 25; Luis Daniel Conde, 39; Cory James Connell, 21; Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25; Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32; Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez, 31; Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25; Mercedes Marisol Flores, 26; Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22; Juan

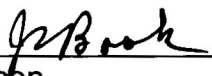
Ramon Guerrero, 22; Paul Terrell Henry, 41; Frank Hernandez, 27; Miguel Angel Honorato, 30; Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40; Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19; Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30; Anthony Luis Laureanodisla, 25; Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32; Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21; Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49; Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25; Kimberly Morris, 37; Akyra Monet Murray, 18; Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20; Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25; Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36; Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32; Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35; Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25; Jean C. Nives Rodriguez, 27; Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35; Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24; Yilmery Rodriguez Solivan, 24; Edward Sotomayor, Jr., 34; Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33; Martin Benitez Torres, 33; Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega, 24; Juan P. Rivera Velasquez, 37; Luis S. Vielma, 22; Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez, 50; Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37; and Jerald Arthur Wright, 31.

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



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison