

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The May 12, 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: Megan Cotanch, Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, Sue LaVaccare, Robert Oliver, Matt Palazzolo, Ruth Tittle.

Not Present: James Duke Mason, Marquita Thomas.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were staff members Jeff Book and David Escobedo.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to include the installation of two new members, and then approved on a motion by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Lucas John. Without objection Item IV. A., Gay and Lesbian Youth Homelessness, was moved up on the agenda.

INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS

The oath of office was administered to Megan Cotanch and Sue LaVaccare by staff liaison Jeff Book. The members of the Advisory Board welcomed the new members.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kate Eggert corrected the minutes of the April 14, 2016, meeting to include that James Duke Mason was on record supporting creation of a homeless shelter for West Hollywood, and that she supported this also. The minutes of the April 14, 2016, were then approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Robert Gamboa, with Ruth Tittle abstaining due to absence.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lee Walkup spoke about the Senior Health Fair, the Senior Advisory Board, the Pride Parade, and the election of delegates to the Democratic National Convention.
2. Nir Zilberman spoke about Harvey Milk, the Pride Parade, and

- including Bisexuals in an Advisory Board.
3. Ed Cockrell spoke about Christopher Street West (CSW) and issues concerning the Pride Festival. He urged the Advisory Board to cooperate with CSW to hold town halls after the Pride Festival.
 4. Craig Bowers, CSW board member, spoke about hearing recent concerns about the Festival, and about public comment being available at CSW board meetings on 3rd Tuesdays at 7 pm.
 5. Dan Morin brought greetings from former Board Member Ivy Bottini, and expressed concerns about the Pride Festival.
 6. Larry Block spoke about taking back the Pride Festival on behalf of the community, and said that oversight of the Festival should be under the purview of LGAB.
 7. Richard Eastman spoke about Harvey Milk, George Moscone, and problems with the Pride Festival and Christopher Street West.
 8. Jimmy Palmieri, liaison from Human Services Commission, spoke about the RFP process for 2016-2019 social services, which is now underway; and about Sizzle at the Pride Festival.
 9. James Wen spoke about the Trans community generating a Not My Pride campaign, and other issues relating to the Pride Festival.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members spoke individually about issues with the Pride Festival, including costs and programming.

Robert Oliver asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Xulhaz Mannan, editor of Bangladesh's only magazine opposed to taboos on homosexuality, who was murdered this week.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Public Comment:

1. Nir Zilberman spoke generally about gay and lesbian youth homelessness.
2. Victor Omelczenko spoke about turning 1123 N. Detroit temporarily into a homeless shelter for gay and lesbian youth.

Kris Nameth, leader of the LGBT Center's program on LGBT youth homelessness, provided extensive remarks about the challenges their program addresses, about how they go about responding to the needs of homeless youth, and about the services and help that is available through the Center. Board members posed numerous questions to learn more about the program. The item was continued for further discussion.

The Board voted to form a committee to frame ideas toward recommending that the City of West Hollywood operate its own homeless shelter. Members are Megan Cotanch, Kate Eggert, Robert Oliver, and Matt Palazzolo.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Public Comment:

1. Nir Zilberman said the Board should focus on real things, not on the details of the Rainbow Key Awards program.
2. Michael Wojtkielewicz raised issues about West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, which is one of this year's recipients of the Rainbow Key Award.
3. Victor Omelczenko said he would have waited to give an award to WHCHC because it is unclear how they have performed on housing.

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

B. ACTIONS AND CURRENT STATUS REVIEW

Public Comment:

1. Nir Zilberman asked what the Board has accomplished in the last six months.
2. Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation and the Detroit bungalows.

Robert Oliver moved to create a committee to look into the best way to proceed on the question of including bisexuals on this board or another. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and approved. Members are Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, and Robert Oliver.

4. NEW BUSINESS (resumed)

B. PREPS, CONDOMS, AND LUBE (PCL)

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman thanked Lucas John for bringing this topic up, and said people are still dying of AIDS.

After discussion, the Board continued this item to a future meeting, and will invite Kevin Stalter of Thrive Tribe to attend and talk about it.

C. HARVEY MILK DAY

Public Comment:

1. Nir Zilberman said Harvey Milk would be ashamed if he were here,

- because talk is cheap.
2. Richard Eastman spoke about knowing Harvey Milk personally; said Cleve Jones and Dustin Lance Black are liars; said he would demand an investigation of CSW and the City by the US Department of Justice; and demanded an end to the corruption of politicians.

Megan Cotanch and Kate Eggert volunteered to be on the panel for the Harvey Milk Day program.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff provided the Board with new contact information, reflecting new members.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Victor Omelczenko said getting things done involves finding a Councilmember to lead a topic, and then at least two more who will go along. He spoke about the City's purchase of the Coast Playhouse.
- Nir Zilberman said the Board members were "amazing people" and that "You are Harvey Milk." He spoke about people in the future needing to have information about preps, condoms, and lube.
- Ed Cockrell thanked the Board for the discussion with Kris Nameth. He said he is on the HIV Commission of LA County now, and that sometimes the community doesn't understand what you have to go through, with process and politics.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

Public Comment: Victor Omelczenko said it was good to see interaction among boards and commissions through liaisons. He said there were concerns about impact on City infrastructure if CSW becomes a major music festival.

There were no reports from liaisons.

B. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Oliver spoke about attending Tel Aviv Pride, where the entire community participated. He said a gated festival is not what we need.

Lucas John asked for Helyne Meshar or Hernan Molina to be scheduled to speak to the Board in June about legislative priorities.

Kate Eggert supported Robert Oliver's views on the Pride Festival.

Ruth Tittle said that when CSW board members spoke to LGAB a couple of months ago, they said the Festival would be the same.

Public Comment: Victor Omelczenko spoke about the March 21, 2016, City Council item regarding co-sponsorship of LA Pride.

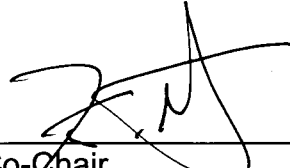
Robert Oliver requested that further discussion of CSW and LA Pride be on the agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Robert Gamboa asked Board members to not let negative comments keep them from doing the business of the Board.

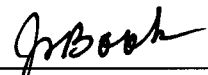
The meeting was adjourned at 11 pm in memory of Xulhaz Mannan, who had been editor of Bangladesh's only magazine opposed to taboos on homosexuality, prior to his murder this week.

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



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison