

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The July 14, 2016, regular meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:06 pm by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa in the First-Floor Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90069.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by RJ Aguiar.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Megan Cotanch, Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, Sue LaVaccare, James Duke Mason, Marquita Thomas, Ruth Tittle.

Not Present: Matt Palazzolo, Robert Oliver.

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of May 12, 2016, and June 16, 2016, were approved.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lee Walkup, liaison from Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the upcoming concert at The Wallis to support Orlando; meningitis vaccinations; consideration of safety cameras on Santa Monica Boulevard; and auditions for Gay Men's Chorus.
2. Robert Ozn, chair of Los Angeles Bi Task Force, thanked the Advisory Board for creating a subcommittee on the bisexual topic, and appreciated the City hiring a consultant to work on this topic, and how input from bisexuals can be included in the City's advisory board process.
3. RJ Aguiar spoke about meeting with the bisexual subcommittee before the Advisory Board meeting, and challenges that the bi community faces, illustrated by the sharply different reactions he received in the Pride parade when he was wearing a Pride shirt, vs. when he was wearing a shirt that said "Still Bisexual."

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kate Eggert said the City will be holding meetings to review the Pride event. James Duke Mason requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of the people who were killed in an attack in Nice, France, today. Robert Gamboa requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of innocent victims of gun violence and police brutality.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Board Members discussed the June 22 Rainbow Key event, which was described as one of the best that has been held. Ruth Tittle said you could feel the whole community honoring the recipients, and the involvement of Board Members in each award helped make it feel that way. Robert Gamboa said the program came together very well, and recommended working on making sure that we are doing outreach for the event in the best way. Kate Eggert said award recipient Carol Taylor-DiPietro was very grateful. Lucas John spoke about being more inclusive of younger people who are doing excellent work for the community. Marquita Thomas spoke about the high quality of the nominees, and recommended using the screen more. James Duke Mason said it had been meaningful to honor Carole Cook and Bruce Vilanch, the original recipients from 1993.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY AND AWARENESS TRAINING

Staff said that this item had been requested at the last meeting by Matt Palazzolo, who sent word that since then he has learned about the Sheriff's training for local businesses on active shooter scenarios. Robert Gamboa said he has spoken with Estevan Montemayor, Vice Chair of Public Safety Commission, about their plans for safety and awareness, and said there is a possibility to collaborate with that Commission on a public meeting for this.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about an extensive 1-on-1 training for businesses which has been held, said the ongoing Building Blocks meetings by Rent Stabilization contain a section on emergencies in your residential building, and said the Red Cross conducts periodic CERT training.

James Duke Mason said the Board could consider supporting, with Public Safety Commission, the idea of more cameras. Marquita Thomas asked if it was possible for the kiosks under consideration to include safety information.

Elizabeth Savage recommended having an active liaison to Public Safety Commission, considering inviting Public Safety Manager Kristin Cook to speak, and recommended the National Night Out meetings. By consensus, the Board agreed to invite Kristin Cook.

Lucas John moved to designate Megan Cotanch and Robert Gamboa as liaisons to the Public Safety Commission, which meets on second Mondays. This was seconded by Sue LaVaccare and approved.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said that Lucas John had raised the topic of the Banshee Ball at the last meeting, and that the organizer of the Banshee Ball is now working with Recreation Manager Olivia Walker and the Recreation Division, and staff will report more information when available.

Elizabeth Savage distributed copies of the final Aging in Place report, and thanked Board members for their participation.

Elizabeth Savage said that Social Services staff would like to discuss the Dyke March at an upcoming meeting. Marquita Thomas said she had been trying to meet with staff on this. Kate Eggert moved to have this on an upcoming agenda. This was seconded by Sue LaVaccare and approved. From discussion, this item was requested for the September agenda.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board Members thanked and congratulated the outgoing co-chairs, Kate Eggert and Robert Gamboa, for their year of service.

Nominations were opened for female co-chair. Kate Eggert nominated Marquita Thomas, and she accepted. In the absence of further nominations, Robert Gamboa moved to close nominations and declare Marquita Thomas elected. This was seconded by Lucas John, and unanimously approved.

Nominations were opened for male co-chair. Robert Gamboa said he wanted to nominate both Lucas John and James Duke Mason as male co-chair. James Duke Mason said that in light of Lucas John's seniority as a member, he would decline. Robert Gamboa nominated Lucas John.

In the absence of further nominations, Robert Gamboa moved to close

nominations and declare Lucas John elected. This was seconded by Ruth Tittle, and unanimously approved.

Board members congratulated the new co-chairs.

9. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

Kate Eggert said she will attend the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Robert Gamboa said the Human Services Commission is nearing the end of the Social Services RFP process, which is moving forward on many of the goals identified by LGAB and others, including homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, and aging in place. He recommended looking at the City Budget, which is now available, as an excellent way of understanding the many things the City is doing.

B. BISEXUAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The bisexual committee met prior to the Board meeting with several members of the bisexual community. Robert Gamboa said it had been an eye-opening meeting, and that members learned a lot about issues affecting the bi community. He spoke about possibly holding a training in bisexual issues. Kate Eggert, who also attended the committee meeting, spoke about cooperating with myth-busting.

Elizabeth Savage introduced Elissa Barrett, who has become a consultant to the City to develop information on bisexual needs and possible avenues for being most effective with regard to them. Elissa Barrett described her background.

Next steps on the subject is for Elissa Barrett to prepare her report, and the committee to meet again with members of the bisexual community.

C. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Megan Cotanch said she and Lucas John toured the LGBT Center's Youth facility recently. She spoke about items they need, including clothing and belts, and possibly musical instruments and software. Lucas John spoke about placing on the agenda how to help the Youth Center, possibly with an appeal to the City's email list. Staff said that information on the Youth Center's needs could be included in already planned communications, and that information could be brought to the Board on what the Center receives following such communication. Board Members spoke about supporting the Youth Center with speakers and mentors. Sue LaVaccare said connecting with mentors could be part of a drive to support the Youth Center.

Megan Cotanch moved to place on the next agenda the possibility of supporting a screening of "Love Is All You Need?" (2016), directed by Rainbow Key recipient Kim Rocco Shields. This was seconded by Lucas John and approved.

Marquita Thomas spoke about the upcoming meetings to review the Pride event, and thanked Kate Eggert and Robert Gamboa for serving as co-chairs.

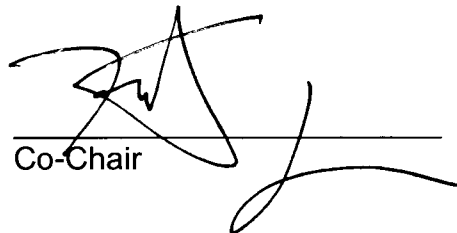
Kate Eggert thanked Megan Cotanch for speaking about Kate's mother-in-law at the last meeting. She also thanked those who were in the Pride parade.

Robert Gamboa spoke about an in-service training on meth being provided by Neva Chauppette, Psy.D.

10. ADJOURNMENT


The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm in memory of those who were killed in the attack in Nice, France, today, and in memory of innocent victims of gun violence and police brutality.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 11TH DAY OF AUGUST 2016.



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison