

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2016**

**7:00 p.m., Wednesday October 5, 2016  
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.  
West Hollywood, CA 90048**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** –Chair Lachine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - led by Member Kean.

**3. ROLL CALL** – Board Members present: Chair Coco Lachine, Vice-Chair Drian Juarez, Karina Samala, James Wen, Drian Juarez, Kean O'Brien, Justine Gonzalez, Erika De La Cruz, and Jaye Johnson. Also present: Bonnie Smith, Public Safety, Supervisor and Bruce Robertson, Administrative Assistant.

**A. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER LESLIE FRIAS**

Staff member Bonnie Smith swore in new Board Member Leslie Frias.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Motion to approve agenda by Member Samala. Seconded by Member Gonzalez. Motion approved.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion to approve September 7, 2016 meeting minutes by Member Gonzalez. Seconded by Member Samala. Motion approved. Members O'Brian and Frias abstained.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A. MICHAEL WOJTKIELEWICZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD, introduced himself as the new DAB liaison to the TAB. Mr. Wodjtkielewicz invited members to the DAB service awards on October 26<sup>th</sup> and the Health & Wellness event on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**7. MEMBER COMMENTS**

Member Kean welcomed Member Frias to the Board and asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Alexis Arquette.

Member Samala thanked those who attended the Queen California pageant, and announced the Queen USA pageant on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Ace Hotel and invited members to attend. Member Samala also announced the FBI job fair on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Federal building on Wilshire Blvd.

Member Gonzalez spoke about safety concerns by Los Angeles and West Hollywood residents surrounding the LGBT Youth Center, she also stated that Mayor Meister suggested that members make this matter a part of the Board's work plan. She assured the Board and City that the Center takes neighborhood concerns seriously with its primary goal being that clients receive appropriate services.

Member De La Cruz apologized for not being able to attend recent meetings. She invited members to attend G.A.R.R.A.S., a TransLatina Coalition event November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Member Frias thanked members for welcoming her to the TAB and is looking forward to working with and learning from the group.

Member Wen, announced that Trans voter empowerment will be taking place October 8<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **8C. Job Fair**

Member Juarez briefed the board on the upcoming Job Fair sponsored by the LGBT Center October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Fair will include a 9 AM breakfast training for Trans employers with the Fair opening at 11 AM. She also announced that Grinder will provide free USB drives to participants, which will include information including job search tools, resume building, discrimination etc. A professional photographer will be available to take free head shots for attendees which will be loaded onto the USB drives. Additionally a make-up artist will be available to assist applicants prior to the head shots being taken. West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman and Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell will be in attendance.

Member Johnson is present.

### **8A. Transgender Day of Remembrance 2016**

Member Wen introduced various items for discussion for the upcoming TDOR.

1. Security – members had previously asked that TDOR security include plain clothes officers. Staff informed the members that all officers will be in uniform.
2. Transportation – members discussed possible bus stop locations in which attendees could be picked up to attend the event. A consensus was reached that McArthur Park would be a central location for most attendees. Chair Lachine asked that subcommittee member further consider the matter, pinpointing a pick-up location and report back to the full board.

Chair Lachine asked that the West Hollywood Shuttle, City Line, begin its regular pick-up schedule early in order to assist with transportation. Bonnie Smith agreed and will work with city staff to ensure an early pick up.

3. Theme – March in Reflection.
4. Volunteers – Member Wen and De La Cruz will work together to coordinate event volunteers.
5. Keynote Speaker – Isa Noyla of the Transgender Law Center is confirmed as the keynote speaker.
6. Keynote Youth Speaker – Member Juarez suggested Trans celebrity Gigi Gorgeous introduce the youth speaker. The youth speaker has not yet been selected

Member Wen recommended a Latino Trans boy who attends Huntington Park High School and has been the victim of Trans bullying at school as a potential youth speaker.

Member Kean suggested reaching out to St. John's Trans group for a possible youth speaker.

Public Comment on Item 8A

- A. AMANDA MADDAHI, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR OF JQ INTERNATIONAL, offered support for the TDOR. Also spoke about LGBTQ Iranian issues supported by the organization and asked to partner with the City in partnering on this and other future Trans events.

Chair Lachine and Bonnie Smith each commented that they would contact Ms. Maddahi regarding potential partnering opportunities.

Member Wen continued discussion items:

7. Music/Performers

- a. Reception Music - sound engineer to provide reception background music. Vice-chair Juarez volunteered to compile background music and recommended highlighting Trans artists/musicians.
  - b. Latin Music Performer – Member Wen confirmed that Mariachi Arcoiris De Los Angeles will perform at the beginning of the TDOR event.
  - c. African American Music Performer – Jazzmun Crayton will perform.
  - d. Trans Chorus of Los Angeles – members discussed the chorus and reading of names, logistics, stage, timing. Board members concluded that the Trans Chorus would be incorporated as a part of the reading of names rather than solely providing musical numbers.
8. Reading of Names - Member Johnson felt strongly that the Chorus not become a distraction to the reading of the names; he commented that the name reading should be spiritual for attendees.

Member De La Cruz concurred with member Johnson.

Member Juarez commented that reading the names without music, in the past, has been painful and suggested that reading the names with beautiful, healing music would be a good idea.

Member Juarez also recommended that the audience, in unison, say *We Remember*, after each name is read. Members of the Board concurred.

- 9. Spiritual/Clergy – a Trans Rabbi will attend the event.
- 10. Dove Release - Member Wen proposed to allow the donation of 30 doves, by White Dove Los Angeles, to be released at the end of the event as event attendees being their march to Matthew Shepard Triangle.
- 11. Flowers – flowers will be given to each person reading names.
- 12. Programs – Member Johnson will design event programs or postcards. Once designed, staff will arrange for printing.
- 13. T-Shirts – The Center will design and provide funding for the t-shirts. Members expressed concern that when asked about the design and logos the Center rejected the suggestion to include the City's logo on the shirts.

Member Johnson, however, will ask again that the City logo to be included on the t-shirt given as TDOR is a City sponsored event.

- 14. Giveaways – Transgender and pins to be given to event attendees.
- 15. Food & Beverage – Member Samala will secure beverage donation. Members discussed that left over food be donated to Covenant House or another worthy organization.

Chair Lachine asked that the Transgender memorial be cleaned/polished prior to the event.

Member Wen reminded members about the Lighting of City Hall on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **8B. Transgender Month of Remembrance 2016**

Chair Lachine reminded members of the special televised meeting to be held in the City Council Chambers on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Action:** Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by member De La Cruz to determine how many awards to be presented. Motion approved with Member Samala abstaining.

**Action:** Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by member De La Cruz to recognize three (3) honorees. Motion approved with Member Samala abstaining.

Members voted to honor AJ King, Shala and HerStory as 2016 award recipients in recognition of their contributions to the Trans Community.

Bonnie Smith requested that award recipient contact information be forward to staff ASAP in order that invitations can be sent to honorees.

## 9. New Business

9A. Chair Lachine outlined upcoming Transgender Awareness Month events:

### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kick-off event, flag raising ceremony, lighting of City Hall
- 5<sup>th</sup> Films, Raising Zoey & Shunned, at 2PM in the City Council Chambers
- 9<sup>th</sup> TAB, meeting at 7PM in the City Council Chambers
- 19<sup>th</sup> Trans Wellness & Wellbeing conference (NCJW 10AM – 5PM)
- 20<sup>th</sup> TDOR – West Hollywood Library
  - 1:30 Reception
  - 2:00 Program
  - 3:00 March to Matthew Shepard Triangle

## 10. Items from Staff

Bonnie Smith announced that the Annual Congress will be held at West Hollywood Council Chambers, Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and informed members that the Congress is mandatory.

Staff also announced that in response to the Boards request that the Sheriffs hold a Trans 101 training Sheriffs have expanded the scope to include other issues important to the LGBTQ Community. No date has been set for this training.

Staff suggested that the agenda for the November 9<sup>th</sup> televised meeting be limited due to the dessert reception and awards which will follow the meeting. She also asked that staff meet with members regarding site set-up/staging prior to the 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 11. Public Comment

None.

## 12. Items from Board Members

Member Wen announced that he and former councilmember Abbe Land met with Gensler Architect regarding the Bathroom Ordinance and commented that the designs are moving in positive direction with emphasis on inclusion.

Member Kean announced that he recently sat on the review board for the City's Arts Grants panel and is pleased to announce that some Trans artists are being fully funded by this grant program.

Member Johnson announced that Trans Source is being launched on Yelp; a mobile app and web platform for the Trans community. Member Johnson asked members to forward any postings they would like posted on the new app.

Member Leslie stated that she is happy to be on the board and looks forward to working with the Board.


Chair Lachine welcomed Member Frias and asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Alexis Arquette.

## 13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM in memory of Alexis Arquette to a special meeting of the Transgender Advisory Board on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers, 625 N San Vicente Blvd. West Hollywood, CA.



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Transgender Advisory Board Chair



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Staff Liaison

**A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.**

***(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)***