

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2016**

**7:00 p.m., Wednesday November 9, 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 Councilmember Duran.

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

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion to approve October 5, 2016 meeting minutes by Member Gonzalez. Seconded by Member Johnson.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Michelle Dennis spoke about the success of voter empowerment day earlier this year. She asked the Transgender Advisory Board to conduct a public conversation on strategies to generate respect for the transgender community, in light of recent election results.

Mayor Lauren Meister congratulated the award recipients and offered support for the Transgender Advisory Board. She spoke about the benefit of living in a progressive city like West Hollywood that can set an example for the rest of the country. Mayor Meister presented a proclamation of November as Transgender Awareness Month.

Councilmember John Duran spoke about hearing that Trump supporters were already bullying minorities and members of the LGBT community in the West Hollywood area. He said we will not tolerate any bullying in our community. He suggested that people report any incidences of bullying to the Sheriff's Department, Public Safety Department and City Council.

Terry Mayor and Ms. Henry spoke about their program WEHO Works, which helps job seekers. They work in the career center at the West Hollywood Library. They announced their Open House next Thursday at 4 pm.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Samala thanked the city for embracing the Trans community and Mayor Meister and Councilmember Duran for being so welcoming to the Trans community.

Member Gonzalez spoke about today being a heavy day. Member Gonzalez thanked Mayor Meister and Councilmember Duran for speaking.

Member De La Cruz spoke about working in the community for more than 11 years. She works with the trans Latina community to gain services like mental health, housing, asylum, etc. She spoke

about the importance in providing services for the community. She encouraged any trans woman who needs help to contact her.

Member Frias spoke about working for the community and asking that we adjourn in the name of (?) She spoke about being a Latina transgender woman. She envisions a healthy community.

Member Wen thanked Mayor Meister and Councilmember Duran for attending this meeting. Member Wen spoke about being proud of how the transgender empowerment movement was successful. Member Wen thanked those who have worked with education in regards to the Trans community in areas outside of West Hollywood.

Member Johnson thanked the City of West Hollywood for embracing the transgender community. He spoke about how important contracts are in embracing diversity. He spoke about those in the Trans community being experts in transformation, so the Trans community can be leaders in setting the example for what it means to be a united nation.

Member Juarez read the transcription on the Trans memorial in West Hollywood.

Member Lachine spoke about November being Transgender Awareness Month. She mentioned the march and the theme of Day of Remembrance. She mentioned how fortunate we are to live in a progressive city.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8A. Transgender Day of Remembrance

Public Comment from Amanda and Asher from JQ International, who spoke about how important it is for the Jewish and LGBT community to support one another. They acknowledged how difficult today was in light of recent elections. They spoke about how they are having a transgender equality brunch which will be a pre-event before the Transgender Day of Remembrance event. It will include a panel.

Member Wen spoke about a transgender teenage boy speaking on the panel.

Member Lachine encouraged everyone to attend the event.

8B. Transgender Month of Remembrance 2016

Member Lachine spoke about the kickoff that was on November 1st at City Hall. City Hall is lit up in the colors of transgender flag at night. A wreath was laid at the transgender memorial. This Sunday at 1 pm at City Council chambers is transgender documentary Sunday. Both films are inspiring. She spoke about another event on November 19, when Member Johnson is putting on a wellness fair.

Member Johnson spoke about the transgender wellness and wellbeing conference. It is an annual event at the National Council of Jewish Women. He encouraged all allies to come to this fun event.

Member Juarez spoke about the transgender job fair that was held on October 20 at the West Hollywood auditorium. The 46 employers represented a variety of fields. About 150 community members attended the event. Many employers were pleased with the candidates they met. They collected resumes. They sent out post-job fair survey which will let the council know how many people received interviews and were offered jobs.

Member Lachine spoke about speaking with a manager at Chase bank that said Chase received 4 resumes and they were excited to interview applicants.

Transgender Day of Remembrance is on November 20 at 1 pm in the autocourt outside of City Council chambers. This includes the reading of names. It will be followed by a march and reflection. Member Lachine thanked the work of Member De La Cruz and Public Safety staff Bonnie Smith who assist with this event. There will be Spanish and sign language interpreters at the event.

Member Gonzalez spoke about the importance of the board to help the community heal after the elections.

Member Frias thanked everyone for being strong together.

9. New Business

9A. Awards

Member Johnson introduced AJ King, who serves as the associate director of the Southern California HIV/AIDS research center at UCLA.

AJ King thanked the board and the City of West Hollywood for presenting him with this award. He said the city models inclusivity and respect. He thanked the board for their work and said the world has a lot to learn from the West Hollywood Trans community.

Member Johnson introduced Chela Demuir, who sponsors the trans-giving dinner to bring people together who don't have families for Thanksgiving, and a brunch for Trans women. She has a program where she provides awards to the community. She is in an organization that bridges the LGBT community with the ballroom dance community.

Chela Demuir thanked the board for recognizing her advocacy work. She wanted to use her voice to help others.

Member Juarez introduced the creators of Her Story, an Emmy-nominated show that focused on the lives of Trans women. She noted that the recipients were unable to attend today's meeting.

10. Items from Staff

Bonnie Smith spoke about the City Calendar having all of the events, which are posted on the website and at City Hall. Bonnie Smith said the Day of Remembrance postcard is posted on the City Hall monitors. She thanked the board for the members' hard work in planning the transgender awareness events. She said she was proud to work with the board.

Member Lachine spoke about a banner being posted at City Hall.

11. Public Comment

Michelle Dennis spoke about there being some training videos made for the 2018 elections. She mentioned wanting voting meters considered in West Hollywood, which would give a direct access to the transgender community. She spoke about a strategy that would members of the transgender community running for local office, to help generate respect for the community.

12. Items from Board Members

Member Samala thanked everyone for working with her and thanked the city for being progressive. She announced the Day of Remembrance panel and discussion on Thursday November 17 at LA City College.

Member Gonzalez thanked everyone for being there and was hopeful about the future.

Member De La Cruz thanked everyone for coming and shared that this is the first time she was able to vote in the election.

Member Frias spoke about an event on November 18 recognizing Latina transgender women. Everyone is invited.

Member Wen congratulated the winners of the awards and thanked the city for working with the transgender community. He asked everyone to attend the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.


Member Johnson thanked the City of West Hollywood for standing by the transgender community and embracing it. He thanked his colleagues for all of their work in planning Transgender awareness month.

Member Juarez thanked everyone for being here and thanked the board members for doing the hard work. She said being at this meeting gave her hope that love will trump hate.

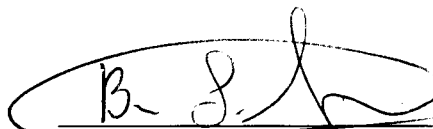
Member Lachine acknowledged the work of Member O'Brien who was unable to attend tonight. She adjourned in memory of those who have lost their lives to transgender hate and violence in USA, Mexico, and Canada. All TAB members read names of individuals who lost their lives to transgender hate and violence.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM to the next Transgender Advisory Board on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. West Hollywood, CA 90069



Transgender Advisory Board Chair



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.)