

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The January 19, 2017, regular meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:04 pm by Co-Chair Marquita Thomas in the First-Floor Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90069.

This was a special meeting, held one week later than the regular meeting date, so that members could attend the "Jamming for Jeanne" event at the West Hollywood Library on January 12, 2017.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michael Che.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, James Duke Mason,
Robert Oliver, Sue LaVaccare, Marquita Thomas

Not Present: Megan Cotanch, Lucas John, Matt Palazzolo

There is one vacancy on the Board at this time.

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 Laura Schoonover.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Robert Gamboa moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of support for the 10th anniversary screening of *Tweakers*, a film about the Tweakers Project. This was seconded by James Duke Mason and approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2016, were approved on a motion by Sue LaVaccare, seconded by Robert Gamboa, and approved, with James Duke Mason and Robert Oliver abstaining.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Michael Che spoke about City Poet Kim Dower's invitation to everyone to contribute a line to a collaborative poem. He spoke about Hollywood Fringe, which is offering to provide complimentary registration, valued at \$250, to any production which holds at least one performance of an LGBTQ-related theme in West Hollywood during Fringe events in June.

2. Teri Maher with WeHo Works spoke about recruitment of guards for the Academy Awards.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Adjournment requests: Robert Oliver – President Obama, Vice President Biden, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Robert Gamboa – in memory of community members John Connors, Marty May, and Mack Wessels; in memory of Itaberli Lozano, ag 17-year-old Brazilian who was killed by his mother for being gay. James Duke Mason: in memory of George Michael, Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds, and Miguel Ferrer, and in honor and gratitude to Michelle Obama, and Congressman John Lewis. Marquita Thomas: Eric Fanning, first openly gay Secretary of the Army; Randy Berry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons; and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Marquita Thomas said there have been two community meetings about LA Pride in recent years, and there is interest in doing a third. She moved that this be placed on the agenda for February, with the meeting being held in March at the Library Community Meeting Room. This was seconded and approved.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CONNECTION AND SERVICES WITH THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

Robert Oliver said the bisexual subcommittee met prior to this meeting, and reviewed progress on the four goals set out in Elissa Barrett's white paper, Toward Inclusion, as earlier adopted by LGAB: (1) Update the City website to include links to a range of bi-related resources, programs, and services, and cross-promote events with LA Bi Task Force; (2) Create and or distribute "Bi Ally" materials; (3) Incorporate Bi components into LGT sensitivity trainings conducted by the City for key stakeholders and community members; and (4) Add 2 City residents to the LGAB Bi Subcommittee for the purpose of taking an additional period of up to 6 months to evaluate progress and explore whether other steps are needed. The subcommittee reported that:

With regard to the first recommendation, the City will add Bi-related materials to the Social Services Guide, including a referral link to BiNet USA. Also, an informational reminder will be added, to indicate that the referrals contained in the Guide are provided on a non-discriminatory basis. Bi-related information will be printed for parks, information racks, and the library. Staff will work with Arts and Cultural Affairs staff to advocate for Bi sensitivity in City-sponsored art.

With regard to the second, The City is sponsoring an event featuring Margaret Cho, who is bi. The City is cooperating with the Lambda Literary on an upcoming event featuring panels that included members who identify as bi.

With regard to the third, LGAB can consider setting a periodic agenda item semi-annually or annually, to address issues of the bi community. Bisexuality is already included in the City's administrative regulation about harassment.

With regard to the fourth, the City sought bisexual residents who would be willing to serve on a Bisexual Subcommittee of LGAB (which would include both Board Members and residents), but received no applications. Robert Gamboa said the topic has been under consideration since late 2015, and the Board has shown due diligence in trying to set up a committee. Sue LaVaccare suggested putting a poster regarding Bisexuality in the City's Pride booth.

The subcommittee recommended setting an annual check-in on Bi issues, with the understanding that the topic may appear more frequently if events warrant. Marquita Thomas made this motion, which was seconded by Robert Gamboa and approved.

B. 2017 RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Adding nominations for the 2017 Rainbow Key Awards, Robert Gamboa nominated Ruth Tittle; Robert Oliver nominated JQ International; James Duke Mason nominated Cleve Jones; and Marquita Thomas nominated APLA Health.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. LESBIAN SPACE

Elizabeth Savage talked about what lesbian space and lesbian visibility means today – both physical space and cultural/intellectual space. The Board had received copies of articles on the topic of "The Disappearing L." It was noted that the City Council is expanding the funding for the Werle Building project, which includes meeting space prioritized for lesbian groups/meetings.

Robert Gamboa requested that LGAB members receive a tour of the Werle Building when it is completed.

By consensus, the Board placed on its next agenda the topic of creating a mission statement for a revitalized Lesbian Visibility Committee. She suggested that Board Members send draft statements to staff during the month, and then compare them and settle on a statement at the next meeting.

B. TWEAKERS PROJECT

Robert Gamboa moved for the Board to sponsor, in name only, the 10th anniversary screening of *Tweakers*, a documentary compiled by Jimmy Palmieri, Yvette Sotelo, and Sue Sexton. This was seconded by Robert Oliver and approved.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed the report to City Council on the February 22 screening of "Love Is All You Need?," co-sponsored by LGAB.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON REPORT

Robert Gamboa attended the Public Safety Commission and reported on progress in helping the homeless, and about IwatchLA and TransitWatchLA. He said that the Sheriffs conducted an active shooter training, and requested that LGAB be informed about the next one.

B. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no additional liaison reports.

Board Members congratulated Kate Eggert on her marriage this week. James Duke Mason said he sometimes hears that West Hollywood is not welcoming to women and people of color; he asked for more information on this. He spoke about the shuttle to the Red Line, and about supporting the State Legislature's hiring of Eric Holder for legal advice on preventing harm from new policies of the Federal Government.

Marquita Thomas requested that the topic of the lack of events in the L/G community in recognition of the national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., be on an upcoming agenda. She said the topic links to the LGAB's topic of the LGBT Future, one of the workplan items. This was moved by James Duke Mason, seconded by Robert Gamboa, and approved.

Kate Eggert met with the street design committee, and with Human Services administrative staff, to discuss the kiosks idea. She noted that under a new law, Councilmembers may marry couples.

Robert Gamboa spoke about the Women's March being held this Saturday, about the success of #BOOM! on New Year's Eve, and about the upcoming #SIZZLE! at Pride. He said the Board should spend a few minutes at each meeting considering what it can do, right now, about the changes occurring in Washington DC.

James Duke Mason spoke about President Obama's final press conference, and said the scope and relevance of the Board is likely to expand if the new Administration moves against LGBT rights, as many expect.

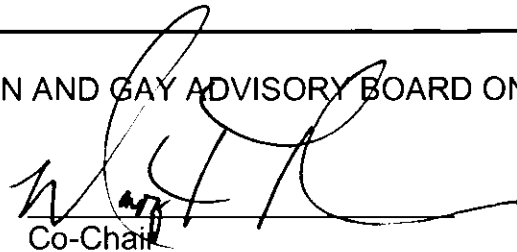
Sue LaVaccare noted that Fox News used masculine pronouns when reporting the pardon for Chelsea Manning.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

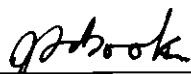
The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2017, in the First-Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison