

MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

JULY 13, 2017

7:00 PM

FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Co-Chair Marquita Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Sue LaVaccare led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL -

PRESENT: Megan Cotanch, Samantha D. Lavin, Jason Frazier,
Lucas John, Sue LaVaccare, James Duke Mason,
Marquita Thomas

ABSENT: Lauren D. Costine, Robert Gamboa

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Book

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was amended to include the election of officers, because the Bylaws provide that officers will be elected each July. A motion to approve the Agenda as amended was made by Sue LaVaccare, seconded by Jason Frazier, and approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2017, meeting was made by Lucas John, seconded by James Duke Mason, and approved.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. A. Lee Walkup, chair of Senior Advisory Board, spoke about national arts funding, Bastille Day, Census 2020, the Gay Men's Chorus's performance with Holly Near, and the introduction of Articles of Impeachment by Congressman Brad Sherman.

2. Teri Maher of JVS WeHo Works distributed their new calendar for July and said the Stalking Horse pub will be conducting a job recruitment with their help soon.

F. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Megan Cotanch asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of her grandmother, Miriam Cotanch, who passed away yesterday at the age of 96. Jason Frazier asked that the meeting be adjourned in celebration of the 38th anniversary of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2017 RAINBOW KEY AWARDS – REVIEW

Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board members discussed the Rainbow Key Awards held on June 14, 2017, in the City Council Chambers. Members felt the program ran smoothly.

B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

James Duke Mason said the committee to bring back items of legislative interest had not met since the last Advisory Board meeting. Staff drew the Advisory Board's attention to SB 396 (Lara) regarding harassment regarding gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. The Advisory Board asked for this item to be on the next agenda.

C. CONNECTION WITH THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

Staff reviewed current status of the Advisory Board's approach to connections with the Bisexual community. Lucas John said he would speak with Robert Gamboa about what the mission for a Bisexual subcommittee would be.

D. NEXT STEPS ON WORKPLAN

With regard to LGBT Future, James Duke Mason said he and Robert Gamboa had talked with Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, and Peter Noonan, Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager, regarding housing affordability and the business climate in the City. This topic and other aspects of workplan will remain on the agenda.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed information about the need to include transgender people in Federal data.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Marquita Thomas opened the floor for nominations for Co-Chairs to serve until July 2018. James Duke Mason and Megan Cotanch were nominated by Lucas John and seconded by Marquita Thomas. There were no other nominations. The floor was closed and they were unanimously declared elected.

9. ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON REPORT

Megan Cotanch reported that Robert B. Oliver, formerly of this Advisory Board, was sworn in as a member of the Public Safety Commission, in a meeting attended by family members and friends. She said the Public Safety Commission discussed expanding cameras in key locations in the City. A representative from the Sheriff's Department had discussed alcohol consumption in the Pride Festival. For the Resist March there were no major safety issues.

B. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no additional reports from liaisons. The following liaisons and committee members were designated by the Advisory Board:

Business License Commission – Marquita Thomas
Human Services Commission – Robert Gamboa
Public Safety Commission – Megan Cotanch
Rent Stabilization Commission – James Duke Mason
Transportation Commission – Jason Frazier
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Bisexual Committee – Robert Gamboa
Lesbian Space – Megan Cotanch, Marquita Thomas
LGBT Future – Robert Gamboa, James Duke Mason
LGBT Signage – Megan Cotanch

C. OTHER ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

1. LGBTQ CHINA

Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board member Lauren D. Costine is currently traveling in China, and had requested that a report from her regarding conversations with LGBT people there be included on the next agenda. This was moved by Sue LaVaccare, seconded by Lucas John, and approved.

2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Frazier spoke about the upcoming Glitter Run and screening of *Clue* (1985) at Hollywood Forever; and about the Gay Men's Chorus.

Lucas John asked that the next agenda include the topic of requesting renewal and more frequent maintenance of the Rainbow crosswalks at Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards. This was approved for the agenda by the Advisory Board.

Lucas John suggested that the Advisory Board consider inviting remarks on a regular basis from seniors in the Gay and Lesbian community, to help maintain a link to their knowledge and community history. He asked for this to be considered on an upcoming agenda, and this was approved by the Advisory Board.

Lucas John said it felt like the Advisory Board received more community engagement when meetings were held at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. He asked for discussion of the meeting space to be on an upcoming agenda, and this was approved by the Advisory Board.

Marquita Thomas spoke about Equality California's Equality Awards, to be held September 16 at the J.W. Marriott at LA Live. She also spoke about Outfest and San Diego Pride.

Sue LaVaccare spoke about the Lotus Festival, to be held July 15-16 in Echo Park; Orange County Trans Pride, to be held July 29 in Santa Ana; HRC Connect with Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, LA County Property Appraiser Jeffrey Prang, and Montebello Mayor Vivian Romero, on August 2, in Downey.

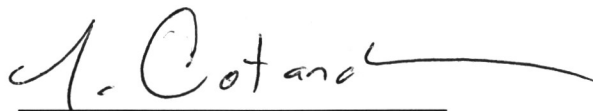
Samantha Lavin asked for the Advisory Board to review the list of items that were considered in adopting the current workplan, and spoke about the Resist March held on June 11, 2017.

Advisory Board members thanked Lucas John and Marquita Thomas for their service as Co-Chairs, and congratulated Megan Cotanch and James Duke Mason on their election as Co-Chairs.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

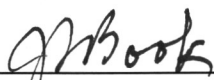
The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:09 pm in memory of Miriam Cotanch, and in celebration of the 38th anniversary of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles. The next regular meeting is at 7 pm, Tuesday, August 10, 2017, in the First Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE
10TH DAY OF AUGUST 2017



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison