

MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
AUGUST 10, 2017
7:00 PM

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Co-Chairs James Duke Mason and Megan Cotanch called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
 - A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Hon. Lindsey Horvath led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - B. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:	Lauren Costine, Megan Cotanch, John Erickson, Jason Frazier, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, Sue LaVaccare, James Duke Mason.
ABSENT:	Samantha D. Lavin, Marquita Thomas
ALSO PRESENT:	Jeff Book, David Escobedo
 - C. **INSTALLATION**
Hon. Lindsey Horvath administered the oath of office to John M. Erickson, new member of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.
 - D. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
The Agenda was approved on a motion by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Jason Frazier.
 - E. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2017, meeting was made by John Erickson, seconded by Lauren Costine, and approved, with Robert Gamboa abstaining.
 - F. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 1. Andrew Campbell, Arts Manager, spoke about “Señor Plummer’s Final Fiesta,” a workshop of a site-specific interactive theatre experience, which is playing August 24-27 at Fiesta Hall.

2. Karen Ayres, Women's Advisory Board chair, invited members to an Aug. 18 screening of "Equal Means Equal," a documentary by Kamala Lopez, as part of the City's Women's Equality Day event.
3. Teri Maher of WeHo Works spoke about the organization's August calendar and workshops.
4. Lee Walkup, Senior Advisory Board liaison, spoke about an article on Ruth Williams in Weherville; the City's consideration of art requirements for large developments; and the passing of singer Barbara Cook at 89.

G. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

James Duke Mason asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Barbara Cook and Glen Campbell. Lucas John asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Brendan Cameron. Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Gregory Paul Friedman and Gemmel Moore.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1. SENATE BILL 396 (LARA) ON HARASSMENT FOR GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION

John Erickson said SB 396 (Lara) is pending with the Senate Appropriations Committee. He moved to support the Governmental Affairs Liaison in monitoring the bill and taking the next steps toward City support, if appropriate. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa, and approved.

B. CONNECTION WITH THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

Board members discussed continuing to learn about issues of importance to the Bisexual community. John Erickson recommended that the City recognize major events and occasions of the Bisexual community. Robert Gamboa will talk with the two community members who earlier expressed interest in participating in this with LGAB. Staff will forward to the Advisory Board a copy of the "Toward Inclusion" White Paper, which was received by the City Council on October 17, 2016.

C. NEXT STEPS ON WORKPLAN

The Advisory Board discussed having a retreat meeting to adopt a new workplan for 2017-2018, and tentatively settled on October 16, 2017, if

space is available. John Erickson suggested that each member have in mind at least two things they would like the Board to accomplish this year.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. LGBTQ CHINA

Lauren Costine discussed her recent three-week trip to China, where she met the co-founder of Shanghai Pride, who is married and able to receive marriage benefits through her U.S. employer, even though marriage is not yet legally recognized in China. She said they are very careful in when and how they choose to advance their issues. John Erickson spoke about highlighting this through the Human Rights Speakers Series, and Jason Frazier said the LA LGBT Center regularly hosts interns from China. The Board designated Lauren Costine, John Erickson, Jason Frazier, and Sue LaVaccare to research and report back on further action on China.

B. RAINBOW CROSSWALKS

Staff said that the Rainbow Crosswalks are made of a special material, so brightening them would probably involve replacing them. Lucas John spoke about West Hollywood having been a leader in creating Rainbow Crosswalks, a design feature that was subsequently picked up in Tel Aviv and many other cities. He said the City should take whatever steps are best for keeping them bright, and consider having a different design that incorporates the rainbow concept, but other than stripes. Jason Frazier noted that the crosswalks initially had a glitter effect, which seems to have worn off. John Erickson recommended asking Facilities staff for options on how to improve them. [Update from staff: the Rainbow Crosswalks are currently cleaned on a monthly basis, using the method and frequency recommended by the product manufacturer. The City is likely to consider replacing them in the next few years.]

The Board appointed Lauren Costine, James Duke Mason, and Jason Frazier to join Megan Cotanch on the LGBT Signage committee, which includes these types of infrastructure components.

C. ETHERIDGE AWARD

The Advisory Board was asked to consider combining the process for the Etheridge Award, traditionally given by the Lesbian Visibility Committee at the Dyke March, into the Rainbow Key awards process. After discussion, John Erickson moved to combine the process by seeking nominations at the same time, and presenting the award at the Rainbow Key ceremony. This was seconded by James Duke Mason. There were 3 in support, 4 in opposition, and 1 abstaining. Lucas John moved to combine the process, with the award being presented at the Dyke March. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa, and there were 7 in favor, 1 abstaining.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. UPDATE ON MEETING ROOM

The Advisory Board had asked about the possibility of meeting in the Library Community Meeting Room instead of City Hall. Staff said the information from the City Clerk was that for now, boards could choose to meet at City Hall or Plummer Park.

Staff also presented information and handouts about Be Well WeHo and the Frida Fest.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON REPORT

There was no report from liaison to the Public Safety Commission.

B. OTHER LIAISON REPORTS

Robert Gamboa reported on behalf of himself and James Duke Mason for the LGBT Future committee. They have been working on a plan to assess a wide variety of impacts on the future of LGBT people including cultural shifts and assimilation. The Board approved Lauren Costine to join this committee.

James Duke Mason moved to place on the next agenda to determine the date for a Community Forum on LGBT Future. This was seconded by Megan Cotanch and approved.

C. OTHER ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Frazier spoke about the LA LGBT Center's screening of "Clue" (1985) at Hollywood Forever.

Board Members welcomed John Erickson to the Board.

Robert Gamboa encouraged Board Members to continue informing their Council Members about the Board's actions and projects. He said he has been asked to speak to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and asked for any information or connections to experts on the subject.

Megan Cotanch said time was being spent determining what the Board can and can't do, and asked for this to be clarified. James Duke Mason

asked for the Board to receive a list of everything they had voted on, and what happened to those actions. The Board approved a motion for staff to give a status report on all open items at each meeting. The Board approved a motion to place on the agenda of the special workplan meeting the topic of how items go through the City's process. [Director's Note: The current workplan, along with open items, will be presented to the Board at its annual Study Session to update the workplan. The new workplan will be submitted for approval subsequent to the Study Session.]

Lauren Costine congratulated the new co-chairs.

John Erickson moved to place on the next agenda co-sponsoring the February 2018 performance of "The Vagina Monologues." This was approved by the Board.

John Erickson moved to place on the next agenda the scheduling of a televised meeting of the Board. This was approved by the Board.

John Erickson moved to recommend that the City recognize Celebrate Bisexuality Day, an annual event on September 23. This was approved by the Board.

John Erickson moved to request for an upcoming agenda, in the next few months, that the Event and Film Services Division give a presentation on sponsorships by the City. This was approved by the Board.


There was a request for the Board to be sent the updated City Council meeting schedule.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was adjourned at 9 pm in memory of Barbara Cook, Glen Campbell, Brendan Cameron, Gregory Paul Friedman, and Gemmel Moore.


The next regular meeting is at 7 pm, Tuesday, September 14, 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
14TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2017.



Co-Chair

Attest:



Secretary