

**MINUTES**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**JANUARY 11, 2018**  
**7:00 PM**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Co-Chair Megan Cotanch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sue LaVaccare.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Lauren Costine, Megan Cotanch, John Erickson, Jason Frazier, Robert Gamboa, Sue LaVaccare, Samantha Lavin, Marquita Thomas

**ABSENT:** Lucas John Junkin, James Duke Mason

**ALSO PRESENT:** David Giugni, Acting Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Corri Planck, Corey Roskin, David Escobedo, and Jeff Book.

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Approval of the agenda was moved by John Erickson, seconded by Jason Frazier, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the November 9, 2017, meeting were was moved by John Erickson, seconded by Jason Frazier, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lee Walkup spoke about the City participating in beautification for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and about the president's terminology in referring to Haiti and African countries.

**F. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

John Erickson asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Matt Palazzolo. Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Kerrice Lewis, Mikey Lamar, Christa Leigh Steele-Knudslie,

and Kevin Short (WeHo Jesus). Marquita Thomas asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of four Black lesbians who died in the first week of the year: Shanta Myers, Brandi Mells, Kaladaa Crowell, and Kerrice Lewis, along with Kaladaa Crowell's daughter, Kyra Inguett.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY**

*Subject: The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board will receive and discuss information about a demographic survey of homelessness by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).*

David Giugni said that after the last Homeless Count, LAHSA conducted a demographic survey, with data on age, race/ethnicity, orientation, and education. The survey will be repeated two or three months after the upcoming Homeless Survey.

**B. HOMELESS INITIATIVE AND CITY PLANNING GRANT**

*Subject: The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board will receive a presentation on the City's Homeless Initiative and the City Planning Grant.*

Corri Planck reported on the Homeless Initiative and a city-planning grant. Elements of the City's response to homelessness include the contracts for services with Social Services agencies; Continuum of Care vouchers from the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACOLA); designation of \$25,000 for rapid re-housing; partnership with the Los Angeles Sheriff regarding approach to homelessness; funding mental health care; relationship with the business community; on-site services at the West Hollywood Library; and other elements.

**C. PLANNING FOR FEBRUARY MEETING ON RAINBOW KEY AWARDS AND ETHERIDGE AWARD**

*Subject: The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board will discuss plans for their televised February meeting.*

Staff discussed the February 8, 2018 meeting in the Council Chambers, which will be televised.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. LESBIAN SPEAKERS SERIES AND DYKE MARCH**

*Subject: The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board will receive an update on the 2018 Lesbian Speakers Series and begin discussion of plans for this year's Dyke March.*

Corey Roskin provided information on planned events in the Lesbian Speakers Series, and discussed last year's map for the Dyke March.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

**6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no additional items from staff.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**A. LIAISON REPORTS**

John Erickson attended "Tea with Alice and me." He spoke about the Women's March, the upcoming performance of The Vagina Monologues, and the City's recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He said he would provide an update on The Vagina Monologues at the February meeting. He asked what can be done to keep the memory of Matt Palazzolo alive, such as sponsoring a scholarship in conjunction with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

Robert Gamboa said the Bisexual Committee had met just prior to this meeting, and is considering doing a survey and further discussing how to increase visibility. Robert Gamboa said he is planning to visit Japan and will meet with a gay group there. He also spoke about the grief of losing Matt Palazzolo, which was shared by the entire Board as well as staff.

**B. OTHER ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Advisory Board members discussed how to follow up on the reports on Homeless Services earlier in the meeting. Jason Frazier said it is important to know where help can be most effective. Megan Cotanch said she will talk with Kris Nameth at the LA LGBT Center about the best things the Board could do.

In discussion of the purposes of the Rainbow Key awards and the Etheridge Award, the Board determined that nominations and selection of the Etheridge Award will be conducted in March or April, after conclusion of the Rainbow Key selection in February. This was moved by John Erickson, seconded by Robert Gamboa, and unanimously approved on roll call vote.


John Erickson moved to designate the lesbian members of the Board (Lauren Costine, Megan Cotanch, Sue LaVaccare, Samantha Lavin, and Marquita Thomas) as a committee to make a recommendation to the Board regarding a recipient of the 2018 Etheridge Award. This was seconded by Jason Frazier and unanimously approved on roll call vote.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:20 pm in memory of Matt Palazzolo, Mikey Lamar, Christa Leigh Steele-Knudslie, Kevin Short, Shanta Myers, Brandi Mells, Kaladaa Crowell, Kerrice Lewis, and Kyra Inguett. The next regular meeting is at 7 pm, Tuesday, February 8, 2018, in the City Council Chambers at 625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 8TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018.

  
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Co-Chair

Attest:

  
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Secretary