

MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018
6:00 P.M.

FIESTA HALL- PLUMMER PARK
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for check out at the meeting. If you require special assistance to attend, (e.g., transportation) or to participate in the meeting (e.g. a signer for the hearing impaired), you must submit your request in writing to or call the Public Safety Department at (323) 848-6414 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Public Safety Department at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 323-GO-METRO (323-466-3876) or go to www.metro.net.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Member Wen led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. ROLL CALL**
PRESENT: De La Cruz, Johnson, Juarez (6:15 PM) Monroy, Samala, Sanchez, Wen
ABSENT: Deaton, Lachine
ALSO PRESENT: Lily Campbell, Emergency Management Coordinator
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
SUBJECT: The Transgender Advisory Board is requested to approve the Agenda.
ACTION: Motion by Vice Chair Sanchez to add Item 9B. “TABLING AT TRANS PRIDE.” Seconded by Member Samala and approved. With Chair Johnson, Member Wen, and Member Monroy voting yes and Member De La Cruz abstaining. Motion by Member Monroy to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Samala and unanimously approved.
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
SUBJECT: The Transgender Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2018 meeting.
ACTION: Motion by Samala to approve the March 7, 2018 minutes, seconded by De La Cruz and approved. With Chair Johnson, Member Monroy, Vice Chair Sanchez, and Member Juarez voting yes and Member Wen abstaining.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Eyres, resident of West Hollywood, spoke about CASA of Los Angeles, a nonprofit organization that aims to support youth in the foster system. Karen said that the Los Angeles LGBT Center partnered with UCLA to study foster care children which found that a disproportionately large number of foster kids in LA County identify as LGBTQ. CASA of Los Angeles would like to reach out to TAB to connect these children with resources that CASA may not know about. Karen spoke about the challenges that Transgender foster children face. Karen invited TAB members to sign up as volunteers at CASA of Los Angeles.

William Seegmiller, resident of West Hollywood, spoke about the Los Angeles LGBT Center's research department. William informed TAB that the LGBT Center is working on Trans-specific research, especially regarding Trans youth. William spoke about a PrEP study focused on Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming individuals. William encouraged people who qualify to participate in this study.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS

Member De La Cruz spoke about being happy to be back after missing a few meetings.

Member Monroy spoke about the upcoming Transgender Conference for Latina community at the East Los Angeles County Public Library on Saturday, April 21st from 11 AM to 4:30 PM.

Vice Chair Sanchez welcomed Member De La Cruz to the meeting. She informed the TAB members that there is a Trans Project LA photographer in the audience taking photos of Vice Chair Sanchez for a documentary. She said that UCLA Law has a free name change clinic at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza (1125 N. McCadden Place) on Monday, April 16th from 6:30-9:00 PM.

Member Samala spoke about the Transgender Day of Visibility event in LA and thanked everyone who supported the event. She spoke about policies passed in the City of Los Angeles that will help the Transgender community.

Member Juarez said she was happy to be at the meeting. She said that Grindr celebrated Transgender Day of Visibility by promoting Trans artists on its platform and holding internal dialogue at their office.

Member Wen said he attended a meeting by the West Hollywood Project. He requested that the City find a steady space for the West Hollywood Project to host their meetings. Chair Johnson let him know that the organization should come to the next meeting to formally ask for this request. Member Wen said he will reach out to them about attending the next TAB meeting. Member Wen said he attended a conference for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), where he learned about a Gay Italian couple that is having a baby via surrogate. The couple is looking for housing because one of them is physically disabled. Member Wen also spoke about an individual, Ms. Quest, who had an

incident at Kaiser's Sunset office. Member Wen said they met with the Trans healthcare doctors, which resulted in a senior level person from Kaiser reaching out to Ms. Quest to issue a formal apology. Member Wen said he attended the Human Rights Los Angeles Dinner and Gala. Member Wen said that Jessica Herthel, author of the book "I Am Jazz" said that when she performed a reading at the West Hollywood library, she had a young Trans female in the audience read the book. Member Wen said that Jessica hopes to continue this practice of having young Trans females read the book at future readings.

Chair Johnson said he was a guest lecturer at USC Keck Medical School speaking about the Transgender perspective in healthcare to the first year medical students. He admired having the opportunity to share the Transgender story at the beginning of these students' medical careers. He asked other TAB members to volunteer to speak at USC as well. Chair Johnson said submissions are open for TransLifeLA's PoPUp Film Festival, which will be held on June 30th.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8A. TRANSGENDER AWARENESS MONTH

SUBJECT: The Board will provide input on the events that will take place during November 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and discuss

ACTION:

Member Wen requested that TAB have hand-outs for the November Transgender Awareness Month Kick Off march to hand out during June Pride events.

Member Juarez asked for clarifications regarding the type of postcards. Member Wen would like a "save the date" style card to hand out since there will be many people at the June Pride events.

Member De La Cruz asked if the June events would be an appropriate place and time to hand out postcards when people attend Pride to have fun. Chair Johnson said Pride would be a great time and place to hand the postcards out. Chair Johnson said that postcards are not enough, so he suggested collecting contact information from people also.

Chair Johnson said TAB should confer with staff regarding the City's capacity to promote the march. Chair Johnson suggested partnering with an organization to collect contact information from people to promote the march.

Vice Chair Sanchez spoke about a Trans group at the Women's March that may help bring the grassroots efforts to promoting the march. Vice Chair Sanchez said Trans service providers may also serve as partners to promote the march.

Member Monroy said that early promotion is important and suggested making a video to promote the march.

Chair Johnson recommended that TAB partner with a community-based organization instead of a private organization to promote the march. Member Juarez said companies like Kaiser may want to help donate to print the postcards.

Chair Johnson asked Member Wen to create a more concrete design/idea on the type of postcard so that staff can find out what is possible before TAB votes on the postcards. Chair Johnson recommended an ad hoc committee on the postcard project. Vice Chair Sanchez volunteered to join the ad hoc committee.

Member Monroy provided an update on possible performers at Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) this year.

8B. MURAL FOR TRANS YOUTH

SUBJECT: The Board will discuss the possibility of a mural in West Hollywood for Trans Youth.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and discuss

ACTION:

Member Wen said he is trying to schedule a meeting with the One Archives foundation, which has previously submitted proposals for murals in West Hollywood. Member Wen suggested an “art day” for Trans Youth as a more feasible option.

Member Juarez asked about the style of mural that Member Wen is envisioning. Member Wen said this depends on budget and artist. Member Juarez loves the idea of a mural on the parking garage at the library.

Member Wen described that the City has a list of approved muralists but if TAB had someone else in mind, an approved muralist could work with TAB’s suggested artist.

Chair Johnson asked for clarification regarding the mural because he thought it was supposed to be about youth. Member Wen said that incorporating youth in the mural would be based on TAB’s feedback. Chair Johnson suggested focusing on one thing. Chair Johnson suggested that TAB ask the City to provide mural space and resources for a Trans tribute mural.

Staff recommended that staff from the Arts Division come to a future meeting to describe the mural selection process in West Hollywood. Chair Johnson said this would be very helpful for the Board. Chair Johnson also recommended that the mural project highlight the entire Trans community, not solely Trans youth.

8C. MIDNIGHT STROLL

SUBJECT: The Board will discuss ways to support the Midnight Stroll during the weekend of April 13-16.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and discuss

ACTION:

Member Samala invited TAB members to volunteer at the next Midnight Stroll on April 13-16th at Step Up on Vine (1057 N. Vine St.) from 10 PM – 7 AM each day.

Member Samala said that she is planning on meeting with the West Hollywood Homeless Initiative Project Manager Corri Planck to see if the Midnight Stroll can enter West Hollywood.

Chair Johnson asked if toiletries are accepted as donations. Member Samala said that clothing, food, socks, blankets and toiletries are accepted as donations.

Member Samala said there will be a formal grand opening at Step Up in June for future Midnight Strolls. Chair Johnson asked that Member Samala send staff the location of the Midnight Stroll and contact information for the Midnight Stroll organization.

Member Juarez recommended that Neighborhood Watch groups be invited to the Midnight Stroll. Member Juarez said this may increase empathy among the residents towards homeless individuals. Staff said that Jasmine Duckworth, Community Affairs Liaison, can be connected with Member Samala regarding promoting the Midnight Stroll.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9A. TRANS HOMELESSNESS AND LOW INCOME HOUSING

SUBJECT: The Board will discuss Trans homelessness and low income housing in the City of West Hollywood.

RECOMENDATION: Review and discuss

ACTION:

Member Samala spoke about rising homelessness in Los Angeles County and West Hollywood specifically. She spoke about “Know Your Rights on Fair Housing” handout that TAB may want to consider distributing to people who would like to attend trainings.

Chair Johnson asked which specific actions TAB can take regarding low income housing. Member Samala asked if the City has a committee regarding homelessness. Staff mentioned that the city has a Homeless Initiative and various social services contracts with nonprofit organizations.

Chair Johnson recommended that Member Samala compile all of the information she has on the barriers to affordable housing for Transgender individuals and provide that to the City. Member Samala asked for the creation of an ad hoc committee to compile this information. Member Wen and Member Monroy said they will join this committee. Chair Johnson asked the new ad hoc committee to come to the next meeting with specific information on barriers to low income housing and possible solutions for the Transgender committee, which will be provided to the City’s Homeless Initiative Project Manager.

9B was added during approval of the agenda.

9B. TABLING AT TRANS PRIDE

ACTION:

Vice Chair Sanchez spoke about tabling at Trans Pride LA last year and

recommended that TAB table at this year's Trans Pride LA (June 16, 2018).

Member De La Cruz asked what type of information would be collected from people at the table. Vice Chair Sanchez said that email addresses would be compiled. Chair Johnson said this list is the same one that is used to promote TDOR.

Member Juarez recommended that TAB members sign up for shifts to increase participation. Member Juarez also recommended adding games to the table.

Motion by Chair Johnson to have a table at Trans Pride LA. Seconded by Juarez and unanimously approved.

Chair Johnson asked Vice Chair Sanchez to take the lead on organizing shifts and provide all information to City staff.

10. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Staff informed the Board that the May 2nd meeting will be held at Fiesta Hall, located at 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA, due to construction in the City Hall lobby. Staff informed the Board that the June 6th meeting will be held at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room (625 N. San Vicente Blvd.).

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Edem Amai Luna, staff member at LA LGBT Center, shared an event that the Center will be hosting in conjunction with LAPD. The LAPD Wilcox station is having an LGBT open house on May 3rd from 5-7 PM. Edem's contact information is 323-860-3734 and dluna@lalgbtcenter.org.

Adam Morello Reyes, intern at the Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP) at LA LGBT Center, spoke about Transgender Awareness Month. Adam said they are a graphic designer/freelance illustrator and suggested more spaces for Queer and Trans artists in West Hollywood.

12. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Member Wen shared that he attended the Transgender Visibility Day event at Flaming Saddles in West Hollywood and said it was well attended. Member Wen said that two years ago he and Member Juarez initiated the Transgender voting empowerment event in West Hollywood and would like to bring that event back. He thanked the community in attendance.

Member Juarez thanked the community in attendance.

Member Samala spoke about attending the LA LGBT Bar Association event.

Vice Chair Sanchez thanked the community in attendance. She said she may not attend the next TAB meeting.

Member Monroy had no comments.

Member De La Cruz said the Transgender Wellness Center will open this month.

Chair Johnson said he spoke with City staffer Bonnie Smith and said she is doing well.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Transgender Advisory Board adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next Special meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2018 at Fiesta Hall (7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA).



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.)