

**MINUTES
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Alexander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Alexander, Vice Chair Robinson, Board members Brown, Luna, Gray, Nash, Ruiz, and Samala.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Hernan Molina, David Wilson and Tatiana Rodzinek.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: The Transgender Advisory Board approved the agenda of the September 1, 2021, meeting. **Motioned by Vice Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Nash and approved.**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: The Transgender Advisory Board approved the minutes of the July 26, 2021, special meeting. **Motioned by Vice Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Samala, and unanimously approved.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lindsey Deaton, Commissioner, Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission spoke about the City's transgender arts initiative and the available funding. She encouraged Board Members to share the information with friends and acquaintances. Hernan Molina, staff liaison to TAB provided the link to the City's page on Arts Grants to all Board Members.

David Wilson, City Manager, made a few comments regarding the work plan discussions. David Wilson also explained the idea of getting a facilitator for TAB meetings and said that it was to help staff and the board to develop a work plan. He also said that the Chair and Vice-Chair requested not to hire any facilitator and the request will be granted. Mr. Wilson also let the Board know that the option remains available.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.A. WORKPLAN OF THE TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

Staff Liaison Molina shared an example of the work plan that was previously approved by another advisory board. Mr. Molina also encouraged board members to think broadly about the issues that are of importance and relevance to the transgender community. Mr. Molina also provided examples of legislation and recommendations that the board could work on. He also emphasized that the focus of the board is to address matters relating to the advocacy on behalf of transgender rights, such as education, community awareness, and empowerment and make recommendations to council relative to adoption of programs, policies, or ordinances, which are of benefit to the constituency.

Member Ruiz provided a list of bills that impact the transgender community.

Staff Liaison Molina explained the structure of the work plan and provided examples.

Member Luna suggested that the board revises the mission statement.

Mr. Molina spoke regarding the issue of transphobia in the community and said that perhaps it should be included in the plan. He also said that one of the City Council's initiatives was to address transphobia in the workplace. And the City funded the development of a toolkit. Mr. Molina said that the Board can develop further initiatives or recommend the development of further initiatives, which could become one of the goals that the board should consider.

Vice Chair Robinson suggested adding collective activities and to make sure that the board is able to have events for the community.

Mr. Molina reminded the Board that while advisory boards participate in organizing events, it's not their role to create/produce events.

Member Brown spoke about gender expression and the ways to educate the community about trans issues.

Mr. Molina said that the board can start discussion regarding the Trans Pride some time in December.

Member Ruiz made a motion to close the debate. Chair Alexander seconded.

ACTION:

Board members discussed their vision for the plan, shared some of the possible topics/issues to be included in the plan, and agreed to develop the plan during the

October and November meetings of the Board. Mr. Molina explained that once the Board is comfortable with the plan, he will work on a staff report for the City Council in December in which the Council will consider the work plan. All members will submit their ideas to continue the discussion at the October meeting.

8.B. TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (TDOR)

Mr. Molina suggested that the board assemble an Ad-Hoc Working Group.

Member Brown spoke about her MC experience from the last year and her recommendation for the future was to have a non-binary person do the job.

ACTION:

The Board approved assembling an Ad-Hoc Working Group and Board Members Brown, Nash, Samala, and Luna agreed to be part of the group. Mr. Molina will schedule a first meeting for the Ad-Hoc Group members to meet and start working on TDOR 2021. The Ad-Hoc Working Group will report at the next TAB meeting on the group's discussions and recommendations.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

10. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Member Ruiz asked for clarification on how the idea of retaining a facilitator developed and the reasons behind it. Mr. Molina provided information about the search and a subsequent meeting with Chair Alexander and Vice Chair Robinson. Board Member Ruiz also mentioned that trans people on this Board and in the community should run for office to have a seat at the table. They also mentioned the need to have leadership trainings to train trans people to be ready to run for office.

Member Brown echoed some of the feelings expressed by Board Member Ruiz. She also expressed the need for the City and for cisgender people to listen to trans people as they have a personal trans experience and they can provide insights that other people cannot. She asked for people who are not trans to listen more to trans people.

Member Gray echoed some of the sentiments by Board Member Brown and also expressed her opinion that the Board is being undermined. She also expressed her dismay about the way the meetings have been canceled and how the meeting about The Abbey has been handled.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Transgender Advisory Board adjourn at 7:19 p.m. to its regularly scheduled meeting on October 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via Teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD
ON THIS 1st DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021

DocuSigned by:

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Luckie Alexander, Chair

Attest:

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Tatiana Rodzinek, Recording Secretary