

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Maysky called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Maysky led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Diana Volman, Raisa Aguf, Lyubov Levitan, Valentina Matiji, Eugene Maysky, Gabriela Gershfeld, Vika Safrigina, Ekaterina Kutepova, Alex Tolocenco.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO, PRESENT: Staff liaison Tatiana Rodzinek

4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
SUBJECT: *The Russian Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda.*
ACTION: Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Motion by Member Levitan to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Kutepova, and approved.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
SUBJECT: *The Russian Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the previous Russian Advisory Board meeting.*
ACTION: Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021, Russian Advisory Board meeting. Motion by Member Aguf to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Matiji, and approved.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
There were no public comments.
7. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**
There were no items from the board
8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.A. DESIGNATION OF A DELEGATE TO PROVIDE INPUT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PRIORITIES AT A MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION.

Subject: The Russian Advisory Board will be asked to designate the Chair or an alternate to provide input to the Human Services Commission (HSC) on Social Services priorities at the Commission's meeting of March 8, 2022.

1). Board members received report from David Giugni, Social Services Manager and responded to the questions regarding social services priorities for the Russian-speaking community and made recommendations:

- I. What are the significant social services needs of the constituency your Board represents?
 1. Aging in Place – more information regarding services and resources
 2. Affordable housing – information for senior residents who do not have access to digital devices.
 3. Digital divide and language barrier is still an issue for many residents, so access to the information on tenants' rights, and other resources for "non-digital" users (flyers, TV announcements, etc).
 4. More education regarding not only vaccination but medical issues and safety as well as response to safety concerns.
 5. Discounted internet service and technology education
 6. Better communication between JFS and city staff (Recreation)
- II. What is the most accessible way for the community to receive information?
 1. Mailings in English and Russian language (both regular mailing and emailing)
 2. Flyers in the senior buildings in English and Russian. (There are about 17 buildings for seniors and people living with disabilities in the city-reach out to the residence managers)
 3. Reach out to the younger generation: children, grandchildren (caregivers...maybe)
- III. Which are other barriers for the Russian - speaking community
 1. Prefer to come to City Hall and speak to the live person in Russian, seniors rarely leave messages.
 2. Many do not have internet and do not use smart phones or other electronic devices.
 3. A newsletter in Russian and English that residents will be expecting a few times a year would be beneficial. (JFS publish a newsletter, but it goes out to their list)

2). Action:

Designated the Chair to represent the Russian Advisory Board at a meeting of the Human Services Commission with the Chairs of Commissions and Advisory Boards in preparation for the 2022-2025 Social Services funding process.

Eugene Maysky volunteered to be a delegate and made a motion, seconded by Raisa Aguf. Motion passed.

8.B. B. WEST HOLLYWOOD HOMELESS INITIATIVE: 2021 UPDATE ON FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS AND REVIEW OF SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Subject: The Russian Advisory Board will receive an update on the City's Homeless Initiative, "The City of West Hollywood Five-Year Plan to Address

Homelessness in Our Community,” regional and local homeless services, City-funded non-profit agency program outcomes, and homeless services provided to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action: Received information and provided input

8.C. UPDATE FROM THE JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES REGARDING FIRST QUARTER PROGRAMMING AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Subject: Board members will receive update from the Activity Coordinator of the West Hollywood Comprehensive Service Center.

Action: Received information and discussed. No action taken.

8.D. VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 2022

Subject: Board members will start discussion on the project.

Action: Chair Maysky made a motion to move discussions on this item and items 9.A., 9.C., 9.D. to the next board meeting. Seconded by member Volman. Eight members voted in favor; member Tolocenco abstained. Motion passed. The item was tabled until the next meeting.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.A. UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Subject: Board members will receive updates from the liaisons to other boards and commissions.

Action: The item was tabled until the next meeting.

9.B. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2022

Subject: Board members will continue discussion on the event and its possible format.

Action: Received information from the subcommittee and voted to approve the final version of the flyer. Motion by Chair Maysky, seconded by member Volman. Motion passed.

9.C. YOM HASHOAH 2022

Subject: Board members will continue discussion on the event.

Action: The item was tabled until the next meeting.

9. D. RUSSIAN ARTS AND CULTURE MONTH, RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY ARCHIVE AND HERITAGE PORTAL

Subject: Board members will continue discussion of ideas for the project dedicated to the celebration and preserving of Russian Cultural Heritage

Action: The item was tabled until the next meeting.

9. E. UPCOMING CULTURAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Subject: Board members will receive information regarding upcoming events.

Action: there was no information.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff informed the board about the upcoming Small Business Round table and encouraged to spread the word to the members of the community.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

12. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/BOARD MEMBERS

There were no items from board members.

- 13. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 9:19 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, beginning at 7 PM via teleconference.

DocuSigned by:

Eugene Maysky

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CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Tatyana Rodzinek

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STAFF LIAISON