

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Maysky called the meeting to order at 7:07 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, Ekaterina Kutepova, Alex Tolocenco.

ABSENT: Gabriela Gershfeld, Vika Safrigina.

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, March 15, 2022. Motion by Member Aguf to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Matiji, motion passed by a roll call vote.
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 February 15, 2022, Russian Advisory Board meeting. Motion by Member Aguf to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Volman, motion passed by a roll call vote.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Ruthie Rosenberg, Care Manager and Care Liaison with JFS Care. Ms. Rosenberg talked about the JFS Care organization and services that the organization is providing and talked about the need to hire Russian-speaking caregivers.
Victor Omelczenko, West Hollywood resident, asked staff liaison to correct spelling of his last name in the minutes.
7. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**
There were no comments from members of the board.
8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
8.A. RUSSIAN ARTS AND CULTURE MONTH, RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY ARCHIVE AND HERITAGE PORTAL
Subject: Board members will continue discussion on the ideas for the project dedicated to the celebration and preserving of Russian Cultural Heritage
Dina Gontar, the producer of the Russian Arts and Culture Month, explained to the

board that the idea of the event would be the same as the event before. There will be vendor booths, children's section, food section, a stage, and a concert, what's changing is the purpose of the event. The purpose of the event will change for this year only. It will be a fundraising event to benefit refugees from the Ukraine. The purpose is to collect funds to help refugees from Ukraine, the City of West Hollywood had issued a statement with the list of nonprofit organizations, the proceeds gathered from the event are going to a nonprofit organization, from the list provided by the city. Dina encouraged everyone to look for vendors, participants, and volunteers.

Agassi Topchian spoke about the format of the event for this year. Mr. Topchian also expressed concern about turning this event into a political rally.

Ekaterina Kutepova talked about donations of food and items

Victor Omelczenko, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the format of the event and the entire month and encouraged the board to decide at the meeting and not to wait until the next meeting.

Action: The board discussed changes to the event, which is going to be on the same day as they had plans to hold the Russian Arts and Culture Festival - Sunday, May 22. The Board voted to call the event: "WeHo Fundraiser for Refugees from Ukraine". All other events that will be happening during the month of May will also be fundraising events. All proceeds will go to one of the charities recommended by the City of West Hollywood.

8.B. VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 2022

Subject: Board members will continue discussion on the project.

Vice Chair Kutepova talked about the Victory in Europe Day commemoration on May 8th and May 9th. The board suggested that there will not be any speakers and performance on that day. There will be Music and people will gather around the Veterans Memorial to lay flowers and wreaths. The board members will visit Veterans at their homes with flowers and gifts. The website will be updated, and more community members will be able to add information about their family members

Action: Vice Chair Kutepova made a motion to call the day WWII Memorial Day. Chair Maysky seconded the motion. Motion passed by roll call vote.

8.C. FOLLOW UP ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Subject: Board members will follow up on the event and the possible format.

Action: Board members discussed the final video produced for the event. Voted to select the winners, discussed the budget.

Vice Chair Kutepova made a motion to award 5 participants as first prize winners and 5 participants as second prize winners. Chair Maysky seconded the motion. Motion passed by the roll call vote.

8.D. YOM HASHOAH 2022

Subject: Board members will continue discussion on the.

Action: Board members received information from member Volman on the project and provided input. Diana provided the programming for the event. Diana talked about the program.

Chair Maysky made a motion to approve the programming. Vice Chair Kutepova seconded. Motion passed by the roll call vote.

8.D. UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Member Aguf talked about her attendance of the Planning Commission.

Lyubov Levitan spoke about attending the Historic Preservation Commission

Chair Maysky talked about attending Human Services Commission where he presented Social Services Priorities for the Russian-speaking community.

8. F. UPCOMING CULTURAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Subject: Board members will receive information regarding upcoming events.

Action: Board members received update from staff regarding various events in the city.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Victor Omelczenko, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the RAB reports on their attending other boards and commissions. Mr. Omelczenko also talked about a few housing projects, historic preservation of some buildings and expressed his concerns.

Mark/Farhad Yusupov spoke about the Russian-speaking speaking population in the City of West Hollywood and about the Fundraiser. Mr. Yusupov encouraged the board members to think how the upcoming waive of immigrants from Ukraine will affect the community in West Hollywood

11. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/BOARD MEMBERS

There were no items from board members.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 9:03 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 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