

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022**

**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Maysky called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Maysky led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Gabriela Gershfeld.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Staff liaison Tatyana Rodzinek

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
**SUBJECT:** *The Russian Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda.*  
**ACTION:** Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Motion by Member Levitan to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Matiji, motion passed by a roll call vote.
6. **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 April 19, 2022, Russian Advisory Board meeting. Motion by Member Levitan to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Aguf, motion passed by a roll call vote.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
There were no public comments.
8. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**  
There were no items from the board.
9. **NEW BUSINESS**

**8.A. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS PRESENTATION**

**Subject:** The Russian Advisory Board received a presentation from Hernan Molina, the City's Governmental Affairs Liaison on the City's 2021-2022 legislative priorities. Hernan Molina provided clarification on how the members of the communities can influence the legislative process.

**Action:** board members received information and asked questions. No action taken.

**8.B. 2023 ARTS GRANT PROGRAM**

**Subject:** **Eva Angeloff**, WeHo Arts Coordinator presented 2023 Arts Grant Program and the opportunities for community members. Eva encouraged the board members to inform the community.

**Action:** Board members received information and asked questions. No action taken.

### **8.C. COMMUNITY SAFETY FOCUS GROUP**

**Subject:** the board selected a focus group representative to participate in a focus group to provide perspectives on service gaps, risks/barriers, and opportunities for improvement in the city's community safety and well-being landscape.

The board members received information from staff regarding the project. The board members were informed that the City Manager has recently engaged a consultant to develop a comprehensive community safety and well-being strategy. The City has contracted with StrategyCorp, a professional services firm based in Ontario, Canada, to guide us through the strategic planning process. StrategyCorp's team is experienced in working with local and regional governments, police organizations, and the non-profit sector to develop and implement community safety efforts. The project will include the creation of strategic goals, prioritization of new and existing community safety and well-being initiatives, and an implementation plan for moving forward. Our goal is to develop a single integrated strategy to help streamline efforts and optimize our community's safety and social service ecosystem.

**Action:** Eugene Maysky nominated himself to represent RAB, motion made by Eugene Maysky, seconded by member Kutepova. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9.A. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NAME OF THE BOARD AND FUTURE IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

**Subject:** Board members continued discussion on the subject. The board members also discussed virtual vs in-person meetings.

Alex Tolocenco suggested that the board asks City Council to allow the board to continue to meet virtually and do two or three meetings per year in person or when necessary. The following arguments were provided by the board members why they consider it important to continue productive work of the board:

- a. COVID is not over yet and a few members are in the risk group and have family members that are at risk
- b. Some members changed their work due to pandemic and have to drive far or fly often and virtual meetings provide an opportunity to contribute into the work of the board and not to miss meetings.

**Action:**

1. The board discussed various versions of the name and Eugene Maysky made a motion to name the board "**Russian-speaking Advisory Board**". Ekaterina Kutepova seconded; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Member Kutepova made a motion to recommend that the board continue with its virtual meetings to provide effective and productive work of the board and have 2 or 3 in person meetings per year when all members will be comfortable to meet in person. Chair Maysky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

#### **9.B. FOLLOW UP ON YOM HASHOAH 2022**

**Subject:** Board members followed up on the past event.

Diana Volman spoke about the event and emphasized the importance of educating younger generation.

**Action:** No action taken.

#### **9.C. FOLLOW UP ON VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY/WWII MEMORIAL DAY 2022**

**Subject:** Board members followed up on the project. Member Volman commented on the low attendance of the in person events due to COVID.

**Action:** Board members received information from staff and provided comments. No Action taken.

#### **9.D. FOLLOW UP ON MAYSKY CLASSICAL NIGHT FUNDRAISER 2022**

**Subject:** Board members followed up on the project.

**Action:** board members received information from the organizer of the event, provided recommendations. No action taken.

#### **9.E. WEST HOLLYWOOD FUNDRAISER FOR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE, RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**Subject:** Board members continued discussion on the events and will select the awardees

The board members discussed the nominations and selected on awardee to receive the award for Outstanding Community Service.

Staff suggested that participants of the international women's day receive their award during the fundraiser.

**Action:** Liubov Levitan made a motion to have only one category and select Vazgen Varzhabetian as a recipient of the award. Ekaterina Kutepova seconded. Motion passed by the roll call vote.

**Ekaterina Kutepova also made a motion to redirect funds from the fundraiser to Camp Geshet, a non-profit organization hosting refugee kids for the summer. Seconded by Eugene Maysky. Motion passed by a roll call vote.**

#### **9. F. UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Subject:** Board members received updates from the liaisons to other boards and commissions.

**Action:** There were no updates, no action taken.

#### **9. G. UPCOMING CULTURAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS**

**Subject:** Board members received information regarding upcoming events.

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

**10. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no items from staff.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Marina Goldshteyn, Activity Coordinator from Jewish Family Services talked about Jewish Heritage Month.

**12. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/BOARD MEMBERS**

Lubov Levitan spoke about Jewish Heritage Month.

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 9:08 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, beginning at 7 PM via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2022.

DocuSigned by:  
*Eugene Maysky*  
56D19B0FA18740A...

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
*Tatiana Rodzinek*  
1252C05D660D483

STAFF LIAISON