

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Volman called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – Chair Volman read the Land Acknowledgement
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Volman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Diana Volman, Raisa Aguf, Lyubov Levitan, Ekaterina Kutepova, Valentina Matiji, Eugene Maysky, Sasha Razor.

ABSENT: Alex Tolocenco

ALSO, PRESENT: Staff liaison Tatyana Rodzinek

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
SUBJECT: *The Russian-speaking Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda.*
ACTION: Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Motion by Member Maysky to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Levitan, motion passed by 8 to 0 roll call vote.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
SUBJECT: *The Russian-speaking Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of the previous Russian Advisory Board meeting.*
ACTION: Approve the minutes of the September 20, 2022, Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting. Motion by Member Levitan to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Maysky, motion passed by 7 to 0 roll call vote.
7. **SWEARING IN A NEW MEMBER OF THE BOARD**
Mayor Pro Tempore, Sepi Shyne, swore in a new member of the board Sasha Razor.
8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
There were no public comments.
9. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 10.A. **YOM HASHOAH 2023**

Subject: Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the programming for the Yom HaShoah Event 2023

Public Comment Marina Goldshteyn, Activities Coordinator from JFS, spoke about a hand-drawn animation that illustrates Holocaust Survivor Erika Jacoby's memories of surviving Auschwitz.

Action: The board members agreed to hold the event on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at noon in Council Chambers, but will continue discussion at the next meeting. No action taken.

10.B. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

Subject: Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on programming for the International Women's Day Event 2023

Public Comment: Marina Goldshteyn spoke about the event that she organized for the patrons of her program.

Ekaterina Kutepova suggested a few ideas:

1. screening of the documentaries that had been created for the past two years and bring all participants from the past two years to the event.
2. Talk about the greatest women of the world, such as the Queen of Great Britain, women of Ukraine, who are fighting for their freedom, etc.

Eugene Maysky also suggested that that the board should acknowledge the winners of the previous competition.

Eugene Maysky also to talked about women in Iran.

Raisa Aguf supported the ideas and would like to bring various performers.

Lyubov Levitan spoke about the program of the event.

Ekaterina Kutepova suggested the title to the event: "Women who changed the World"

Eugene Maysky talked about the music to the old movies.

Sasha Razor talked about women from various diasporas and the approach to the holiday.

Eugene Maysky talked about the content of the event.

Valentina Matiji suggested not to touch upon political topics.

Sasha Razor talked about political aspect of the event.

Ekaterina Kutepova volunteered to write a script. Ekaterina asked staff to invite representatives from Women Advisory Board to the next meeting.

Action: Lyubov Levitan made a motion to create a script to be discussed at the next meeting. Eugene Maysky seconded the motion. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

10.C. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD'S INITIATIVES

Subject: Russian-speaking Advisory Board will discuss any new initiatives
Action: No new initiatives were brought forward. No action taken.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.A. PREPARATION FOR THE 2023 WEST HOLLYWOOD CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the upcoming cultural events that will highlight the cultural heritage of the Russian-speaking Community.

Action: Staff informed the board about the RFP. No action taken.

11.B. DISCUSSING AND FINALIZING THE NAME OF THE FESTIVAL THAT WILL CULMINATE THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the name of the festival that will culminate the West Hollywood Russian-speaking Community Cultural Heritage Month.

Action: **Diana Volman made a motion to call the festival “WEHO Mishka”, seconded by Eugene Maysky.** The board members voted to call the event “WeHo Mishka (bear)”, which has been the symbol of the event as its logo for over 20 years. Motion passed by a roll call vote 7 to 1. Member Aguf abstained.

11.C. UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Action: There were no updates.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

The board received information from staff regarding the Communications Department’s improvements in promoting various events. Communications Department will work with staff to make substantive improvements in the Russian information section of the City's website to make it a more dynamic area, as well as develop a QR code system for Plummer Park landmarks.

Staff asked the board members to review the city web page information regarding the Russian-speaking community and make suggestions about changes, improvements and additions to the page.

Staff informed the board about new workshop on Plummer Park reconstruction. Staff asked the board to submit their input.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT:


Marina Goldshteyn informed the board about the social services provided by the Comprehensive Community Center in Plummer Park. Marina also spoke about intergenerational discussions between seniors and youth and free meals in the park.

14. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/BOARD MEMBERS

Eugene Maysky talked about a social media page dedicated to the Russian-speaking Community. Eugene Maysky also talked about his work in his charity organization.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 9:09PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **December 20, 2022, at 7 p.m.**, beginning at 7 PM via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 20TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2022.

DocuSigned by:

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CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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STAFF LIAISON