

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023**

**West Hollywood City Hall Community Conference Room
at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** –Boardmember Maysky called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – Boardmember Maysky read the Land Acknowledgement
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Boardmember Maysky led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **SWEARING IN NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**
Councilmember Heilman sworn in 3 new members of the board:
Ludmila Raskin
German Simakovski
Evgeny Kovnatsky

5. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Sasha Razor, Raisa Aguf, Lyubov Levitan, Eugene Maysky, Evgeny Kovnatsky, German Simakovski, Liudmila Raskin.
ABSENT: Alex Tolocenco, Diana Volman

ALSO, PRESENT: Staff liaison Tatyana Rodzinek, Lourdes Morales, Assistant City Clerk

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

SUBJECT: *The Russian-speaking Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda.*

ACTION: Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, August 15, 2023. Motion by Chair Maysky to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Aguf, motion passed by a roll call vote.

7. **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 June 20, 2023, Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting. Motion by Member Aguf to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Levitan, motion passed by a roll call vote.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

There were no comments from the board members.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. ELECTIONS

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board will elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the board. Lourdes Morales administered elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

ACTION: The board elected Eugene Maysky as the Chair and Sasha Razor - the Vice-Chair of the Board.

10.B. FOLLOW UP ON THE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT 2023

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board will discuss the National Night Out 2023 Event

Lubov Levitan praised the event.

Raisa Aguf spoke about the event

Sasha Razor spoke about future planning of the event and programming

Board member recommended that staff invites Representative from Sheriff's and Fire Departments.

Board members spoke about various ways of the event promotion

Board members would like to see presentations on the personal safety and emergency preparedness in the future

Lubov Levitan spoke about newly arriving members of the community.

ACTION: No action taken; the board members provided recommendations for the future.

10.C. HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE EVENTS 2024

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board will start discussion on the Holocaust Remembrance Events for the year of 2024

ACTION: The item was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting.

10.D. 2024 WEST HOLLYWOOD RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board started discussion on the 2024 cultural events that will highlight the cultural heritage of the Russian-speaking Community.

The board members started discussion about the 2024 West Hollywood Russian-speaking Community Cultural Heritage Month, WeHo Mishka Festival 2023, Russian-speaking Community Awards Presentation, selected the dates, and voted to make changes to the Awards Presentation event and the process of selecting the awardees

ACTION: No action taken; staff will provide draft application by the next meeting.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.A. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD'S INITIATIVES

Subject: Russian-speaking Advisory Board followed up on the previously proposed initiatives and proposed a new initiative.

Action: Eugene Maysky made a motion to create a subcommittee that will work on the creation of a reference brochure for the newcomers. Seconded by Sasha Razor. Sasha Razor, German Simakovski, Eugene Maysky volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Below are the initiatives that the board will be focusing on.

1. Grand Piano for West Hollywood Park
2. Jewish Cultural Festival during High Holidays in WeHo
3. Initiate increase of the cultural programs for children in the community center of Plummer Park

11.B. 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 members received update from staff on the events and important community meetings happening in the City.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT:

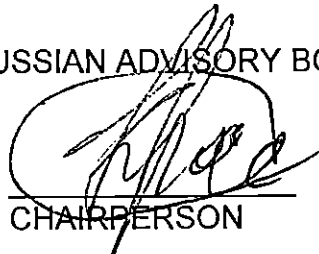
There were no public comments.

14. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/BOARD MEMBERS

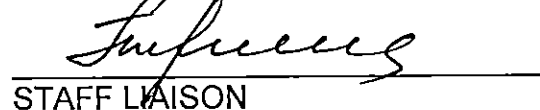
New board members introduced themselves and spoke about their vision, contributions and impact they would like to make in the community. Chair Maysky spoke about the work of CES and the services provided to the community.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 8:48PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **October 17, 2023, at 7 p.m.**, beginning at 7 PM at West Hollywood City Hall in Community Conference Room, 1st floor at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 19th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.


CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:


STAFF LIAISON