

**MINUTES
WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

**West Hollywood City Hall
1st floor Community Conference Room
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, California 90069**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Women's Advisory Board Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Lazarus at 7:14pm.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** Read by Vice Chair Lazarus.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Lead by Vice Chair Lazarus.
4. **ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED BOARDMEMBER:**
Staff Liaison Larissa Fooks administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Women's Advisory Board Member Stevi Shari.
5. **ROLL CALL:**
PRESENT: Olivia Lane, Helane Wilbourne, Melanie Elman, Stevi Shari, Sajji Lazarus

ABSENT: Angela de Silva, Kat Lockwood, Debra Torok

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaison, Larissa Fooks
Recording Secretary, Amy Valdepeña
6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**
Approved the Meeting agenda for June 22, 2023. Motion by Vice Chair Lazarus, seconded by Boardmember Lane and approved.
7. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**
Approval of Meeting minutes for March 23, 2023, has been tabled. Approved Meeting minutes for May 25, 2023. Motion by Vice Chair Lazarus, seconded by Boardmember Wilbourne and approved.
8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
No comments.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Brief review of the annual election process for the Board's chair and vice chair, to be held at the July monthly meeting and conducted by the City Clerk per the bylaws.

ACTION: Reviewed, Discussed and Filed.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. WORKPLAN REVIEW AND UPDATES

The Board discussed and reviewed their current workplan. The board conducted a round table and shared top issues, what drove them to serve on the Board and what they want to get back from serving on the Board.

What is your top issue?

Boardmember Shari- Economic equality.

Boardmember Elman- Rape Kits and Safety for all WeHo Citizens.

Boardmember Wilbourne- Women and financial literacy, voting and understand politics, promote volunteer opportunities, sharing City resources and services.

Boardmember Lane- Events, volunteering, environmental, unhoused and community.

Vice Chair Lazarus- Anti trafficking, volunteering in the city.

What drove you to serve on the board?

Boardmember Shari- Just wants to help and this is her second home and wants to help the community, minorities, and women.

Boardmember Elman- Get involved.

Boardmember Wilbourne- Career volunteer, it can make a difference-

Boardmember Lane- Trying to find a silver lining from the pandemic, unhoused, government, environmental task force. Called the council members and asked how she can help.

Vice Chair Lazarus- She was teaching a self-defense class; her client spoke about human trafficking and the help of WeHo. She came to a WAB meeting and wanted to make a difference. Bringing in more people to get involved.

What do you want to get back from serving on the Board?

Boardmember Shari- Mesh her social media platform with WAB and hoping the word gets out get more people involved.

Boardmember Elman- Making one real change.

Boardmember Wilbourne- Make a difference in the Community and change the policy and practices. Enhance DEI, enhance equity and diversity. Wants to get more people aware of what is happening in West Hollywood.

Boardmember Lane- Having more of a social media presence. Wants people to understand what is going on in West Hollywood.

ACTION: Vice Chair Lazarus requested to continue having a conversation regarding social media at next month's meeting.

B. WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

The Board discussed ideas in planning for the City's annual commemoration of Women's Equality Day on August 26th, the anniversary of women winning the right to vote in the United States. Boardmember Wilbourne gave a brief report to the board on Women's Equality Day, 100th anniversary plans. The goal is to educate, have a good time, empower, tie it something political, arts element and keynote speaker. No organization to collaborate with has been chosen yet. Staff Liaison Larissa will follow up with Kamala on their availability.

ACTION: Vice Chair Lazarus made a motion to move forward on the City's annual commemoration of Women's Equality Day and seconded by Boardmember Wilbourne.

***Item 10 C was tabled*

C. LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The Board will receive a report from the Legislative Subcommittee and staff regarding legislative advocacy efforts on the Board's priority issues.

D. SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAMS

Board discussed regarding advocacy for Sexual Assault Response Teams. Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), which help survivors through the maze of community services available to them and uses the experiences of survivors to improve those services. Check in regarding the Board's upcoming site visit to the UCLA Rape Treatment Center (RTC).

ACTION: Reviewed and Discussed.

11. SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

The Board will receive feedback and updates regarding the following Board initiated and or/co-sponsored activities.

A. ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONS FOR WOMEN, ACCW

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments.

13. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD:

Vice Chair Lazarus- It's great to meet all WAB members.

14. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Staff Liaison Larissa Fooks great to everyone tonight. Hoping to fill the one vacancy next month.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

The Women's Advisory Board adjourned at 9:06pm to its regular meeting, which will be on Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 7:00pm at West Hollywood City Hall, 1st Floor

Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA
90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 27TH DAY OF JULY 2023.

DocuSigned by:
Saji Lazarus
E217834EF96C438
SAJJI LAZARUS, CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Larissa Fooks
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LARISSA FOOKS, LIASION