

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023**

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

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

**PRESENT:** Diana Volman, Eugene Maysky, Liudmila Raskin, Sasha Razor, German Simakovski.

**ABSENT:** Lyubov Levitan, Raisa Aguf, Evgeny Kovnatsky.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**ACTION:** Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, December 19, 2023. Motion by Chair MaySky to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Volman, motion passed by a roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**SUBJECT:** *The Russian-speaking Advisory Board was requested to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.*

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting. Motion by Chair Maysky to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Volman, motion passed by a roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Christopher Locke**, the co-founder, and president of an organization called Designing in Color, which has been contracted by the City of West Hollywood to lead the current strategic plan and economic study that the city is currently undergoing. Christopher Locke explained to the board members that they would want to hear about some of the challenges that the historical and present Russian-speaking community faces in West Hollywood. Christopher Locke said that one way to participate is to be a part of the action team or the core coalition. But also, there will be multiple community events and the mixer will provide a

platform for the community members to express their opinion. People will be able to participate throughout the life of the project for the next 10 months.

**Kate Surinskaya**, a film maker, born in Russia. **Kate Surinskaya** made a film in 2021. The film is about three generations of women in Soviet and modern Russia: it's about Mother Daughter relationships and pursuing your dreams, and also, a tragedy of a teenager. The film has been in a festival circuit since 2021, It has been a great run. It got selected for 25 festivals worldwide, and received 13 awards, including for best writing, Best Directing, and best performances as well. Kate would like to have a screening of the film to spread the word about Russian culture and share the film with the audience.

## **6. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no comments from the board members.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9.A. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024**

**Subject:** The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the International Women's Day

**Action:** The board members discussed the programming and decided to continue discussion at the next meeting. The programming will include: Music, dancing, fashion show and some refreshments. No Action Taken.

### **9.B. VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 2024**

**Subject:** The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the **VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 2024**

**Action:** The board received an update from staff regarding the concert being planned for the event. Member Razor also suggested a screening of the documentary. The board will continue discussion at the next meeting. No Action Taken. The board discussed the options of the set up for the event

### **9.C. FOLLOW UP ON THE RESOLUTION REGARDING HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL MONTH**

**Subject:** The Russian-speaking Advisory Board received update from staff regarding the further steps that will be implemented by the City Council. The decision is pending and will be based on the information that will be researched by staff and provided to the Governmental Affairs Liaison who will work with the City Council.

**Action:** No action was taken.

### **9.D. HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE EVENT 2024**

**Subject:** The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the Holocaust Remembrance Event for the year of 2024.

**ACTION:** No action taken. The board will continue discussion at its next meeting. Staff will provide letters signed by the Mayor of the City of West Hollywood to be sent to schools. No Action taken. The presentation by Larry Gross will be followed by a Cantor singing and candlelight ceremony.

**9. E. 2024 WEST HOLLYWOOD RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS**

**Subject:** The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the 2024 cultural events that will highlight the cultural heritage of the Russian-speaking Community and Russian-speaking Community Awards Presentation. Staff provided a final version of the application and description of the event.

**ACTION:** No action taken; Board members discussed the programming for the Awards Ceremony. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

**9.F. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD'S INITIATIVES**

**Subject:** Russian-speaking Advisory Board followed up on the previously proposed initiatives.

**ACTION:** No Action Taken, staff informed the board that there were no updates.

**9.G. 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.

**10. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

The board members received updates from staff on the events and important community meetings happening in the city.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

**12. RUSSIAN SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

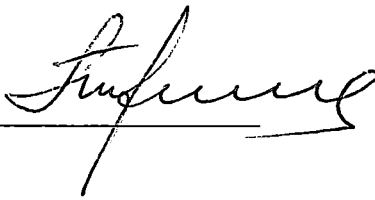
**13. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 8:20 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **January 16, 2024**, beginning at 7PM at West Hollywood City Hall in Community Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
STAFF LIAISON