

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL
1ST FLOOR – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90069**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Egbuniwe called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Read by Chair Egbuniwe

“The West Hollywood LGBTQ+ Commission acknowledges that the land on which we gather and that is currently known as the City of West Hollywood is the occupied, unceded, seized territory of the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kizh peoples.”

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Ron Cortes
Commissioner NiK Kacy (Arrived at 7:11PM)
Commissioner Michael Roberts
Commissioner Renee Sotile
Commissioner Alec White
Commission Chair Chiedu Egbuniwe

Absent: Commission Vice Chair Amber Whittington

Also Present: Commission Liaison Jennifer Del Toro
Recording Secretary Moya Márquez
Community Services Director Yvonne Quarker

D. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 11, 2024 AGENDA

The Commission was asked to approve the April 11, 2024 Meeting Agenda as posted. Commissioner Cortes asked to table item 2.A. to the following meeting in consideration of absent and tardy members.

ACTION: Approval of the amended agenda of the April 11, 2024 meeting was

motioned by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Chair Egbuniwe and approved unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 14, 2024 MINUTES

The Commission was asked to approve the March 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: Approval of the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes was motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner White, and approved unanimously.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIVIAN “DAPPER DYKE” ESCALANTE”, introduced herself to the Commission and spoke about her nomination for a Rainbow Key Award.

JOSEPH GREEN, liaison from DAB, spoke about activities the TAB is involved in, including the Disabilities Awareness Month Screening Fair. He also invited the Commission to the Harm Reduction event on April 29th, hosted by the LA County Commission on HIV.

(Commissioner NiK Kacy arrived at 7:11 PM)

CHRIS ISAACSON, LOS ANGELES, spoke on behalf of their nomination to the Rainbow Key Awards. They thanked the Commission for the honor, talked about their West Hollywood event promoter business, and also encouraged the Commission to consider Jackie Beat for a Rainbow Key Award.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

The Commission received a schedule of the City’s Advisory Board and Commission Meetings and were asked to discuss if any LGBTQ+ Commissioner wishes to serve as an official liaison from the LGBTQ+ Commission to another City Advisory Board or Commission.

ACTION: This item was moved to the May 2024 meeting as part of item 1.D.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES PRESENTATION

The Commission received a presentation from the Social Services Division on programs presented in the City of WeHo.

The Division shared information about the social services programs funded by the City and explained how the social services funding process works.

The presentation included success stories, which included an instance where a Block-by-Block employee was able to assist a couple to an agency to secure

temporary housing, and also shared that there were 81 people housed by the City in the last fiscal year.

Commissioner Cortes asked about inclement weather shelters in and around West Hollywood. Social Services staff shared that most of the inclement weather and winter shelters are run by the County. The City's main shelter partner is Ascencia, the Translatin@ Coalition and the LGBTQ Center, and shared that the Holloway housing project in West Hollywood is scheduled to open in December 2024.

Commissioner Kacy asked if the Commission could receive Narcan training. Social services staff indicated that they would be able to provide such training.

Social Services staff also shared stories of businesses supporting the social services programs funded by the City.

ACTION: Received and filed.

C. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS – LIST OF 2024 NOMINATIONS FOR REVIEW

The Commission received a list of all complete and non-duplicative nominations received for the 2024 Rainbow Key Award and deliberated making no more than five awardee nominations to the City Council.

The Commission first discussed their choices, and each Commissioner was presented with an opportunity to speak about their initial selections. Following this, the Commissioners each voted for no more than 5 awardees, and the top four nominees receiving votes were:

- Vivian "Dapper Dyke" Escalante
- LZ Love
- Jackie Beat
- Brian Sonia-Wallace

Rebecca Gitlin, Marc Saltarelli, and Lisa Vanderpump were tied for votes. When voting was restricted to only these three candidates for the final vote, the commission selected Rebecca Gitlin.

ACTION: Recommend that the City Council approves the selection of Vivian "Dapper Dyke" Escalante, LZ Love, Jackie Beat, Brian Sonia Wallace, and Rebecca Gitlin as awardees for the 2024 Rainbow Key Awards, **motioned by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Sotile, and approved unanimously.**

The Commission then voted to extend the meeting by 15-minutes, **motioned by Commission Chair Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Kacy, and approved unanimously.**

D. LESBIAN AND QUEER WOMEN'S VISIBILITY WEEK SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Staff provided an update on the events that will be held in celebration of this week. On April 24th at 7PM, the Fan Girl Café will host a NextGen Coffee and Convo panel on queer activism and challenged faced by LGBTQ+ women in business. On April 27th at 5:30PM, there will be a Lesbian Speakers Series screening of the documentary "Ahead of the Curve", followed by a panel discussion. On Sunday, April 28th, from 12-4PM, West Hollywood Park will host a Queer Art in the Park event featuring a DJ, and arts and crafts vendors.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. WEHO PRIDE 2024 PARADE PARTICIPATION

The Commission called for volunteers for members interested riding on the WeHo Pride Parade float on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Any volunteers will be entered into a drawing conducted by the City Clerk, where no more than two participants will be selected.

Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Cortes expressed interest in being selected to ride the float. Additionally, multiple Commission members volunteered Commission Vice Chair Whittington in her absence.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIVIAN "DAPPER DYKE" ESCALANTE", thanked the Commission for selecting her as a recipient of a Rainbow Key Award.

5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sotile offered her congratulations to the awardees, and congratulated Commissioner Kacy for receiving support from the City on an upcoming event. She also asked the Commission to adjourn in memory of Ella Matthes, publisher and editor of Lesbian News Magazine. She also spoke about the death of OJ Simpson, and her involvement in an event with Hollywood NOW on May 19th, to celebrate the life of Nicole Brown.

Commissioner Roberts thanked everyone for the meeting and reported that he attended a meeting with the LASD and the FBI on the importance of reporting hate crime incidents.

Commissioner Kacy expressed that they felt proud of the Commission and how they worked together at this meeting to make their selections for the Rainbow Key Awards.

Commission White mentioned he was excited for this new round of Rainbow Key Award recipients. He also congratulated the newly installed Pet Mayor Winnie.

Commissioner Cortes thanked the Commission for their hard work at the meeting, and thanked Commissioner Roberts for attending the hate crimes bureau meeting. He mentioned that only about 10% of men share with others that they are victims of sexual assault. He also mentioned that he attended the Pride Community Group meetings to determine funding support for different community groups.

Chair Egbuniwe thanked the commission and thanked staff.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Moya Marquez, recording secretary, shared that the Transgender Advisory Board seeks support in staffing the TAB Booth at WeHo Pride. They asked any interested Commissioner to please reach out to them if interested.

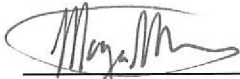
7. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 9:17 p.m. to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to be held in West Hollywood City Hall - 1st Floor Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION ON THIS 9th DAY OF MAY 2024.



Chiedu Egbuniwe | Commission Chair



Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary