

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

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

Read by Vice Chair White

*“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 Sotile led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

**Present** Commissioner Ron Cortes  
Commissioner Chiedu Egbuniwe  
Commissioner Michael Roberts  
Commissioner Renee F. Sotile  
Commission Vice Chair Alec White

**Absent:** Commission Chair Amber Whittington

**Also Present:** Commission Liaison Jennifer Del Toro  
Recording Secretary Moya Márquez

**D. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 8, 2024 AGENDA**

The Commission was asked to approve the August 8, 2024 Meeting Agenda as posted.

Staff asked to table Item 1.B. and move item 3.A. before 2.A.

**ACTION:** Approval of the August 8, 2024 agenda as amended was **motioned**

by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner White, and approved unanimously.

**E. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 11, 2024 MINUTES**

The Commission was asked to approve the July 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approval of the July 11, 2024, meeting minutes was motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved unanimously.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

JOE GREEN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, Liaison from the Disability Advisory Board, encouraged the Board to nominate individuals for the DAB's Disability Service Awards. The application closes August 9th. He also suggested that the Board consider moving the Rainbow Key Awards to January to avoid conflicts with the Disability Service Awards on October 23rd and the Disability Fair on October 1st, among several other local events. He also encouraged the Commissioners to advocate for more ADA spaces at WeHo Pride.

CARLOS SOSA, LOS ANGELES, Executive Director the C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group, spoke about the City's support of their signature event, the Pre-Thanksgiving dinner, and expressed hope that the Commissioners would volunteer for the event and that the City could continue its support of the event, and consider expanding support to their Christmas dinner.

**2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS**

The Commission received an update from staff on the 2024 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony.

The Commission received a new potential date of October 5th to consider for the date of the 2024 Awardees Ceremony. Many Commissioners expressed their intention to attend an Equality California event that date, and ultimately, the Commission agreed by consensus to request that staff return with new dates in December 2024 or January 2025 for the 2024 ceremony.

**ACTION:** None taken.

**B. BI+ VISIBILITY WEEK**

The Commission will receive an update from staff or from the Bi+ Subcommittee on the 2024 Bi+ Pride event.

The Commission was informed that the Bi+ Event would take place on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> in Plummer Park. Staff asked the Commission to recommend Bi+ organizations that should be invited to table, but no organizations were recommended.

**ACTION:** Discussed the 2024 Bi+ Pride Event.

### **C. WEHO PRIDE 2024 EVENT DEBRIEF AND 2025 PLANNING**

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive a post-event report regarding WeHo Pride 2024 and provide feedback related to the event as well as share input related to the 2025 event.

Kerry McCormick and Megan Reath of Event Services Division shared a presentation on highlights of this year's WeHo Pride Festival, including the previous feedback from the Commission that was incorporated into the event such as an online dynamic calendar, layout configuration, enhanced marketing for the free events, and ADA stage viewing. Some members of the Commission shared feedback on the Community Pride Grants. Commissioner Egbuniwe and Commissioner Cortes, who both sat on the Community Pride Grants review panel, expressed their feeling that the review process was robust and meticulously considered all applicants with the intention to give out as many grants as possible, and in some cases, applicants not selected for the grant were referred to other City Arts Grant opportunities. Commissioner Egbuniwe suggested that next year, the City can consider expanding the review criteria and priorities of the Community Pride Grants panel to perhaps award to more people and organizations.

**ACTION:** Received and filed.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. LESBIAN SPEAKERS SERIES EVENTS**

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive a presentation on Lesbian Speakers Series programming and provide feedback.

Dee'Ana Saunders, West Hollywood City Human Services Division staff, spoke about the City's Lesbian Speakers Series events. She spoke about the highlights and successes of past events. She also shared upcoming events in September with the Mazer Archives and a panel of lesbian authors in October. She asked the Commission to reach out to her if they have suggested future programming ideas

**ACTION:** Received and filed.

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Roberts reported he attended the National Night Out event and enjoyed it.

Commissioner Cortes shared that he visited the Arts Commission meeting as he was selected by the LGBTQ+ Commission in a previous meeting to serve on the Arts Grant Subcommittee. He reported on several events happening throughout the City, including a call for musicians for the City's Musicians Roster.

Commissioner Sotile shared that she agreed with public speaker Joe Green's comments about having more accessible spaces at Pride. She also shared recent successes on her community cats program.

Commissioner Egbuniwe shared that he had a meeting with the Director of the new County LGBTQ+ Commission. He hopes that soon, the two Commissions can collaborate on some efforts across the County.

Vice Chair White also shared that he attended the National Night Out event and attended Mayor Erickson's event in the park. He thanked everyone for making him Vice Chair.

## **6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, shared she will be meeting with the Director of the County's LGBTQ+ Commission next week and will report back to the Commission on requesting information and potential future collaborations. She also shared that the California LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce is hosting a LGBTQ+ Business Certification event on August 28th at Fiesta Hall from 10am-2pm. The entrance is \$25, with no one being turned away for lack of funds. Finally, she shared that the LGBTQ+ Commission will discuss its workplan at the next meeting.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:15pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 12, 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 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF  
SEPTEMBER 2024.

  
Amber Whittington | Commission Chair

  
Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary