

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Volman called the meeting to order at 7:15PM.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – Chair Volman read the Land Acknowledgement
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Volman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Diana Volman, Oleg Volovik, Eugene Maysky, Liudmila Raskin, Lyubov Levitan, Raisa Aguf, German Simakovski.

ABSENT: Myroslava Rytko, Sasha Razor.

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, October 15 regular Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting. Motion by member Aguf to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Levitan, motion passed by a roll call vote.
6. **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 September 17, 2024, Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting. Motion by member Aguf to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Levitan, motion passed by a roll call vote.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Louise Smith, Disabilities Advisory Board Chair introduced herself as a liaison for the Russian-speaking Advisory board and announced the information on the Annual Disability Service Awards as part of the City's observance of Disability Awareness Month in October. The awards presentation will be broadcast live on WeHo TV on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Louise Smith also shared concerns about recent break-ins in their building, including one on Rosh Hashanah. The crime rate is reportedly high in LA County, with multiple break-ins in their area. Louise Smith also mentioned ongoing issues with accessibility due to scooters and robots on sidewalks.

David Gear, a professor at UCLA, introduced himself and his connection to the WeHo government. David discussed a film about people living with HIV in Ukraine, particularly focusing on those dealing with the war and seeking treatment. David informed the board that the film preview screening is scheduled for November 14th at UCLA, with free admission but parking fees, and that the film highlights Jana Pamphilova, a 26-year-old woman living with HIV who started an organization in Kyiv.

8. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Eugene Maysky and Raisa Aguf discussed the importance of the film and the need for community engagement.

German Simakovski invited the presenter and the board members to a Ukrainian organizations' coalition meeting on October 23rd.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR RECENT IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

SUBJECT: The Russian speaking advisory board received update from the Human Services Division representatives on resources for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from the countries of the former Soviet Union.

ACTION: The board members discussed existing resources and identified gaps in services for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. No action taken.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.A. WEST HOLLYWOOD RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH - DISCUSSION ON 2025 EVENTS

SUBJECT: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the 2025 cultural events that highlight the cultural heritage of the Russian-speaking Community.

The board members continued discussion regarding historical archive of the Russian-speaking community and celebration of the next year's 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

The board members discussed additional events to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, as well as other possible events. The board members also discussed women's history month events and the possibility of organizing a children's fashion show and other contests for the Youth.

ACTION: No Action taken

10.B. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD'S INITIATIVES

SUBJECT: Russian-speaking Advisory Board followed up on the previously proposed initiatives. The board members continued updating the brochure.

ACTION: No Action Taken. The board will continue discussion at their next meeting.

10.C. UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SUBJECT: Board members were to receive updates from the liaisons to other boards and commissions.

ACTION: There were no updates.

10.D. COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Subject: Russian-speaking Advisory Board will discuss upcoming events.

ACTION: There were no events to discuss.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no comments from staff.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

13. RUSSIAN SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no comments

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 9:10 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **November 19, 2024**, beginning at 7PM 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 NOVEMBER 2024.


CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:


STAFF LIAISON