

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – JUNE 19, 2007**  
**ROOMS 5 AND 6, PLUMMER PARK**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, meeting in joint session with the Russian Advisory Board, was called to order by RAB Chair Andrey Pronin at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 19, 2007, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the Plummer Park Community Center at 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

LGAB Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Chris Clarkin, Bill Gordon, Scott Mann, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, and Ruth Tittle. A quorum was present.

RAB Members Present: Grigoriy Adlivankin, Polina Belitski, Nonna Danilkevich, Larisa Danilova, Michael Moshkovich, Steve Pargamanik, Andrey Pronin, and Lev Volovik.

Mayor John Duran, Council Deputies Hernan Molina and Fran Solomon, and staff liaisons Tatiana Rodzinek and Jeff Book were also present.

B. POSTING OF AGENDA

Staff reported that the agenda had been posted at City Hall and other locations as required.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

D. MINUTES

Minutes were deferred.

2. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lyn DeShields, member of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, said there is a vacancy on that board.

Agassi Topchian congratulated the boards on their first joint meeting.

Steven Sawyer, member of the Disabilities Advisory Board, also congratulated the boards, and noted there is a vacancy on the disabilities board also.

Sofia Komskaya, member of the Public Safety Commission, said this is a unique city and appealed for participation on boards and commissions.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. TOM OF FINLAND FOUNDATION

Dan Berkowitz moved to approve co-sponsorship of the 13th Annual Tom of Finland Erotic Arts Festival, which is scheduled for Sept. 21-23, 2007, in West Hollywood Park. This was seconded by Ivy Bottini, and approved.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. TWO COMMUNITIES

Mayor Duran said this first joint meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and the Russian Advisory Board was a historic evening for the city, which he hopes will become a tradition. Agassi Topchian and Andrey Pronin said this was a good beginning for the communities getting to know each other better.

Chris Clarkin introduced Hernan Molina, who moderated the next portion of the meeting. Hernan noted the joint meeting developed out of interest from the Russian Advisory Board following confrontational events between the Russian and gay communities in Northern California.

Hernan Molina invited board members to reflect on their experiences with the other community, and share what they recalled. There were comments from Nadia Sutton, Steve Pargamanik, Ivy Bottini, Dan Berkowitz, Grigoriy Adli-vankin, Bill Gordon, Chris Clarkin, and Scott Mann. Hernan Molina noted a recurring theme that both communities had suffered from discrimination.

There were additional comments from Ruth Tittle, Elisabeth Sandberg, and Lev Volovik. Hernan Molina noted a common theme that particularly for older residents, lack of fluency in a common language was a barrier to easy communication. There was an additional comment by Mikhail Moshkovich.

Hernan Molina asked how the boards could reach out to each other in a common project, and members of both boards provided ideas in this regard, including targeting the two groups by focusing on common interests; appealing to the older generation to participate; an event with speakers; an event with food; cultural and

networking occasions; an event with music, including Tchaikovsky; an event for school-age children; pairing English-speakers with people who want to learn English, and similar ways to build personal relationships; a dance contest; periodic joint, televised meetings of the advisory boards, involving well-known community leaders; awards to those who build the relationship between the communities; receptions on the east and west side of the city, focusing on stories of survival in both communities.

A joint committee was formed, with each group to take the lead on putting together the event it would like to see. From the RAB, participants included Steve Pargamanik, Grigoriy Adlivankin, Polina Belitski, and Mikhail Moshkovich. The LGAB designated the subcommittee that worked on the joint meeting, including Chris Clarkin and Bill Gordon. Chris Clarkin suggested the joint committee meet every month or six weeks to continue progress.

There was public comment from Helen Levin, Sofia Gelman, Yefim Stolyarpkiy, and Yellena Orloff.

5. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Nadia Sutton spoke about Pet Pride and pet adoption.

Dan Berkowitz thanked LGAB members for their participation in the Rainbow Key luncheon, and noted he will be away in Alaska for July, and in Princeton for August.

Chris Clarkin asked for the boards to discuss the worldwide Pride conference that is coming up, because he would like the City to send greetings to Moscow Pride.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Tatiana Rodzinek noted that RAB wrote to the mayor of Moscow after the events in Sacramento.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

The next regular meeting of LGAB is at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 12, 2007, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.