

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – JANUARY 9, 2014**  
**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Amy Ruskin at 7:02 pm, Thursday, January 9, 2014, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg, Ruth Tittle, Jeffrey Waack, Laura Wise

Not Present: Ivy Bottini

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Jeff Book, staff liaison.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Amy Ruskin.

C. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

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

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Without objection, Item IV-D regarding Vaseline Alley was tabled. The agenda was approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Jeffrey Waack.

E. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2013

The minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2013, were approved on a motion by Ruth Tittle, seconded by Enrique Reveles, with Amy Ruskin abstaining.

F. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Michelle Branch, a longtime member of the recovery community, and in happiness for New Mexico, where the state supreme court declared marriage equality, and for Utah, where a Federal court overturned the state's ban on same-sex marriage. The Utah ruling is stayed pending an appeal.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Block thanked Robert Gamboa for his work on the sober New Year's Eve event held Dec. 31 at West Hollywood Park Auditorium. He expressed disapproval that the Rainbow flag is not flying at West Hollywood City Hall.

III. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

Robert Gamboa said the Video Project has been approved by the City Council, which directed the planning group to work with the City's Public Information and Cable staff. Senior management is discussing how to proceed, and will move forward shortly.

Robert Gamboa said he was glad about progress toward a joint project with the Russian and Transgender Advisory Boards, and said the Outreach Committee hopes to follow these with an outreach project with the lesbian community.

Robert Gamboa said the co-chairs have been invited to attend Christopher Street West's monthly outreach meeting, which Matt Palazzolo and Laura Wise also attend.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Utility Box project has been approved, and is pending further action by the City.

Amy Ruskin said she met with the performing arts subcommittee of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission earlier this evening to review applications for this year's One City One Pride program.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. JOINT PROJECT WITH TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Palazzolo said the group working on an "Evolution of Us" meeting is interested in having a video segment where members of this board and the Transgender Advisory Board are interviewed about their gender and sexual identity. Further information will be provided in the future.

B. JOINT MEETING WITH RUSSIAN AND TRANSGENDER BOARDS

Jeffrey Waack said a planning group met and discussed the possibility of having three social events, with each board taking the lead on the program on one of the events, possibly at Mari Vanna restaurant, with potential dates of Feb. 24, March 24, and April 14.

Elisabeth Sandberg moved to proceed with this event as recommended by the committee. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved.

C. RAINBOW KEY

Staff said the agenda for the February meeting will focus on review of Rainbow Key nominations and selection of recommendations to the City Council for the 2014 awards. Staff asked members to share any ideas for outreach, so the

opportunity to make nominations will be widespread.

D. VASELINE ALLEY

This item was tabled.

E. SOBER NEW YEAR'S EVE EVALUATION

Robert Gamboa reported that #BOOM!, the Sober New Year's Eve event, held Dec. 31 at West Hollywood Park Auditorium, was excellent, with many compliments received from attendees. He thanked park staff for their work, and noted some demographic information from surveying attendees, including 71% of those attending live, work, or have a strong connection with West Hollywood; 81% were LGBT; 71% were sober or in recovery; and there was a large representation of people with disabilities. There is hope to make this an annual event.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. YOUTH OUTREACH

The Advisory Board discussed involving youth in their work, and noted that Section 5 of City Council's Resolution No. 11-4204 provides that the City Council shall have the right to "annually appoint a youth (15-18) representative to serve as an ex-officio member of the Advisory Board."

On a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Enrique Reveles, the Advisory Board voted unanimously to ask City Council to open the application process for the position of youth representative to the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, and to appoint a youth to this position.

B. RAINBOW FLAG

Robert Gamboa noted that the Rainbow Flag was not flying at City Hall. Also, that West Hollywood was not included in The Advocate's new list of "gayest cities," although he felt this was due to the criteria used to determine the list, which included the number of concerts by Mariah Carey, Lady Gaga, Pink, and the Jonas Brothers, as well as the overall population of each city.

The Advisory Board discussed the use and impact of the Rainbow Flag, and determined that members would speak to their individual Council offices about this.

C. SUPREME COURT OF INDIA -- RULING ON PENAL CODE SECTION 377

The Advisory Board discussed the recent ruling by the Supreme Court of India, upholding Section 377 of India's Penal Code, which bans homosexual acts.

Robert Gamboa moved to recommend that the City Council write a letter in support of the LGBT community of India. This was seconded by Laura Wise,

and approved, with Matt Palazzolo and Elisabeth Sandberg abstaining. Elisabeth Sandberg moved that such a letter could be addressed to the Naz Foundation, which initiated the lawsuit that challenged the ban, with copies to Human Rights Watch and other relevant recipients. This was seconded by Jeffrey Waack and approved.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ruth Tittle spoke about the Argyle Building of Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH), located at Hollywood Blvd. and Western; said the Foundation for the AIDS Memorial is moving along, with the City close to choosing a company to do the last phase of improvements to West Hollywood Park; said she is working toward an informational forum on a new treatment that cures Hepatitis C; and that she will be away during the February meeting of the Advisory Board.

Robert Gamboa thanked Ruth Tittle for her contributions and support for #BOOM!, the sober New Year's Eve event, and said he will be bringing up the topic of the Sober Zone at LA PRIDE at a future board meeting.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The February meeting will focus on Rainbow Key nominations.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff asked board members to provide any feedback they may have about the use of the Community Meeting Room.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm, in memory of Michelle Branch, a longtime member of the recovery community, and in happiness for New Mexico, where the state supreme court declared marriage equality, and for Utah, where a Federal court overturned the state's ban on same-sex marriage, although the Utah ruling is stayed pending an appeal.

*Signed,*

  
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Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair

  
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Amy Ruskin, Co-Chair