

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2015
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 Laura J. Wise at 7:04 pm, Thursday, February 12, 2015, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Beth Bishop, Ivy Bottini, Robert Gamboa, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Jeffrey Waack, Laura Wise.

Not Present: Paul Chavez, Matt Palazzolo, Ruth Tittle.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; and Jeff Book, staff liaison. Council Deputy Michelle Rex was also present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

C. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Staff reported the agenda had been posted as required.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a motion by Enrique Reveles, seconded by Laura Wise.

E. MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2015

The minutes of the January 8, 2015, meeting were approved on a motion by Laura Wise, seconded by Robert Gamboa, with Elisabeth Sandberg abstaining.

F. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Elisabeth Sandberg asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Penny Proud, 21, of New Orleans, who on Feb. 10 became the fifth trans woman of color to be killed in the first five weeks of 2015.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Walkup, liaison from Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the Senior Valentine's Dance; a North Hollywood screening of "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine"; the voter registration deadline for the March 3 city election; the movie "Selma"; the situation with

equal marriage rights in Alabama; and the upcoming appearance of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles on "Good Morning America."

Elizabeth Roland of the American Cancer Society spoke about the upcoming Relay for Life fundraising event, and the higher rate of smoking in the LGBT community.

Heidi Shink, Planning Commissioner, spoke about having been verbally assaulted with homophobic remarks from a bicyclist passing La Bohème restaurant recently.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

David Giugni, Social Services Manager, discussed the background of City funding for social services, from an original grant to what is now the LA LGBT Center, to the current complement of about \$4 million in annual services for seniors, homeless, LGBT, and Russian-speaking community members, among others. Contracts are awarded in a three-year funding cycle, and we are currently in the second year of the 2013-2016 cycle. Next year, a request for proposals for the 2016-2019 cycle will be initiated.

Laura Wise asked what process is used to determine funding for agencies located outside the City, such as the Tarzana Treatment Center. David Giugni said that agencies seeking funding have to demonstrate that they serve West Hollywood community members.

Robert Gamboa asked various questions about the PATH residential facility, including whether people are able to stay in the facility during daytime if they aren't feeling well. David Giugni responded to questions and said residents are able to stay in the daytime if they aren't feeling well.

Laura Wise said it was unacceptable that there were no female doctors at the LGBT Center, a lack which impacts their ability to provide services to trans community members, among others. David Giugni said this was noted and that staff would report further on that.

Robert Gamboa asked about homeless shelter placement of people with pets. David Giugni said there is limited availability at PetCo Place at the PATH facility in Hollywood, and also at KLEAN Treatment Center in West Hollywood.

Robert Gamboa asked about the recent count of 43 homeless persons in West Hollywood, and whether there are pro-active steps being taken to decrease this. David Giugni said the trend is down over the last four homeless counts, and the City's efforts to bring people in from the streets continues, through new Shelter Plus Care housing vouchers.

Beth Bishop said the homeless population seems to have grown, and reported on negative encounters near her business at Santa Monica Boulevard/Fairfax Avenue.

Elisabeth Sandberg said there are similar reports of problems near the Friends of the Library store. David Giugni said if you feel threatened, the first call is to the

Sheriff's office, and if you see homeless people who need help, call Social Services, which will speak with PATH's outreach team. Elizabeth Savage noted that there have been more security staff added to the Library area.

Robert Gamboa said that Ruth Tittle, who was unable to be present, had hoped to speak about prospects for curing Hepatitis C, and about sponsoring a PEP/PrEP forum. David Giugni invited LGAB members to the next collaborative meeting of HIV and substance abuse treatment providers. He said the City is preparing a PEP/PrEP forum with the City of Los Angeles and the National Minority AIDS Council.

Robert Gamboa asked whether community members were having quicker times in receiving psychological services. David Giugni said there is a program through NCJW for those in need, and spoke about the collaborative meeting of psychological and mental health services providers.

Laura Wise said women should be able to use The Spot, and said that TEEP, the transgender economic program at the LGBT Center, needs funding to be built out into a larger program, instead of operating with one staff person.

Robert Gamboa is the LGAB's liaison to the Human Services Commission. Laura Wise said she would also attend Human Services meetings as possible.

B. AGING IN PLACE STRATEGIC PLANNING

On a motion by Enrique Reveles, seconded by Laura Wise, the Aging in Place Strategic Planning item was postponed until the March meeting.

C. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

A total of 11 nominations for the Rainbow Key awards had been received. Enrique Reveles and Laura Wise opened discussion on the 11 nominations, which were, in the order received:

- (1) Mikel Gerle and Brendan Rome
- (2) Jon Davidson and Jennifer C. Pizer
- (3) Raffi and Nanar Tokatlian
- (4) Larry Block
- (5) Peter Lancellotti
- (6) Elaine Suranie
- (7) Jon Imperato
- (8) Jen Foster
- (9) Our Lady J
- (10) Douglas Sadownick, Ph.D.
- (11) Jimmy Palmieri

After reviewing the group of nominations, the Advisory Board expressed interest in continuing to discuss six of the nominations: Jimmy Palmieri, Our Lady J, Elaine Suranie, Jon Davidson & Jennifer Pizer, Mikel Gerle & Brendan Rome, and Raffi & Nanar Tokatlian.

After further discussion, Laura Wise moved to designate Jimmy Palmieri, Our

Lady J, Elaine Suranie, and Jon Davidson & Jennifer Pizer as four of the five recommendations to the City Council. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and approved.

Laura Wise moved to conduct a ballot on whether Mike Gerle and Brendan Rome, or Raffi and Nanar Tokatlian, should be the fifth recommendation. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved. Five members supported Mike Gerle and Brendan Rome, and two supported the Tokatlians.

Laura Wise moved to add Mike Gerle and Brendan Rome to the list of recommendations and recommend the entire group of five to the City Council. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa. Robert Gamboa moved to amend this by reporting to the City Council that the Tokatlians had also been ranked highly. This was accepted in the motion, and the entire motion was approved.

[Note: Subsequent to this meeting, it was noted that Jenny Pizer has already received a Rainbow Key, so that recommendation went forward on behalf of Jon Davidson alone.]

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

V. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

Robert Gamboa said there had been a lot of activity at the recent meetings of the Human Services Commission, which he will report on at a later time.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Robert Gamboa distributed cards for DontSpreadIt.com, a website which provides anonymous notifications to persons who may have been exposed to sexually transmitted diseases and infections. Ivy Bottini questioned the privacy and security of this system.

Ivy Bottini spoke about the hearing organized by Elaine Suranie at the Capitol in Sacramento.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Laura Wise asked for further discussion about Social Services to be on the agenda for April, and there was no objection. The Aging in Place discussion is now scheduled for March.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed invitations from Nadia Sutton to the One Billion Rising event, as well as information about banners for Women's History Month.


VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm in memory of Penny Proud.

Signed,



Enrique Reveles, Co-Chair



Laura J. Wise, Co-Chair