

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – JULY 12, 2012**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Matt Palazzolo at 7:03 p.m., Thursday, July 12, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Lucas John, Shawn Mimbs, Andrew Oldershaw, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton

A quorum was present at all times. Councilmember John D'Amico, Council Deputy Michelle Rex, Human Services Commissioner Heidi Shink, and Jeff Book, staff liaison, were also present.

II. INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER

Human Services Commissioner Heidi Shink administered the oath of office to Amy Ruskin, who had been appointed to the Advisory Board by Councilmember D'Amico. She was declared installed as a new Advisory Board member.

III. AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

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

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as posted.

C. MINUTES

1. REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2012

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 14, 2012, were approved on a motion by Sue Sexton, seconded by Enrique Reveles, with Matt Palazzolo and Amy Ruskin abstaining.

2. JOINT STUDY MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2012

The minutes of the joint study meeting with the Transgender Advisory

Board, on June 27, 2012, were approved on a motion by Sue Sexton, seconded by Enrique Reveles, with Shawn Mimbs, Andrew Oldershaw, Matt Palazzolo, and Amy Ruskin abstaining.

C. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Elisabeth Sandberg and Matt Palazzolo asked for the meeting to be adjourned in appreciation to the City for their year serving as co-chairs of the Advisory Board. Amy Ruskin asked for the meeting to be adjourned in appreciation to Councilmember D'Amico for her appointment to the board.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Heidi Shink spoke about the Making Strides breast cancer awareness walk, which will be held Saturday, Aug. 25, at 9:30 a.m., raising research funds for the American Cancer Society. The march will go from Plummer Park to the Library on San Vicente Blvd.

V. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Andrew Oldershaw said the Addiction, Recovery and Sexual Health (ARSH) task force will meet next week, and are continuing to receive responses to their survey of providers.

A joint task force was formed with the Transgender Advisory Board, and it will hold its first meeting on Monday. Lucas John volunteered to join this task force.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board did not meet this month except for the joint study session with LGAB.

Elisabeth Sandberg said she had information from Antonio Castillo regarding the historical designation of the Palms bar.

The marketing task force will meet again shortly.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Book Fair will be Sunday, Sept. 30. Matt Palazzolo said the task force on the Book Fair needs to meet with the company chosen to organize this year's event. Michelle Rex identified the company as Authentic Agency

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW CROSSWALKS

Staff reported that the Council had asked for a report on the costs of keeping the rainbow crosswalk year-round, and this will be going to them soon.

Members of the Advisory Board thanked Lucas John for raising the topic of the rainbow crosswalks, which have been very popular since their installation.

Ivy Bottini said she would like to see the rainbow crosswalks at San Vicente Blvd/Santa Monica Blvd maintained year-round, and also installed at Doheny

Blvd./Santa Monica Blvd, La Cienega/Santa Monica Blvd., and La Brea Ave./Santa Monica Blvd. Matt Palazzolo said the intersection of San Vicente and Santa Monica needs to be improved in general. Shawn Mimbs said the Gateway Task Force is still being formed, which will consider design of the main entranceways to the city.

Ivy Bottini moved to ask the City Council to install rainbow crosswalks at all four locations, and maintain them year-round. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles, and approved by 6 to 3, with Lucas John, Andrew Oldershaw, and Matt Palazzolo voting no.

Board members spoke about whether it would be better to focus on a single location, and about LGBT visibility on the east side of the city.

Lucas John moved to rescind the earlier vote. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and approved 7 to 2, with Ivy Bottini and Sue Sexton voting no.

Andrew Oldershaw moved to recommend to City Council that the Advisory Board enthusiastically endorses year-round maintenance of the rainbow crosswalks at San Vicente Blvd./Santa Monica Blvd., and encourages the Council to consider doing the same at the Santa Monica Blvd. intersections with La Brea Ave., La Cienega Blvd., and Doheny Blvd. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and approved unanimously.

#### B. BATHROOMS IN LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Advisory Board discussed comments made at the joint meeting with the Transgender Advisory Board, regarding reports of denials of access to bathroom facilities based on perceived gender. The Board recalled having endorsed the proposal to the state Community Colleges board, for new buildings to include gender-neutral facilities (in addition to other facilities). The Board also spoke about how to ask local businesses to take a "Trans 101" workshop, so they would be more aware of these issues. The Board said the topic would be taken up by the new joint task force.

#### VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lucas John asked what happened to the Advisory Board's request that the budget for Gay & Lesbian Programs be increased from \$14,500 to \$30,000 for FY 2012-2013. Staff said the request had been forwarded to the City Council, but the amount in the adopted budget for FY 2012-2013 was \$14,500. Board members expressed concern that this is inadequate for the programs they intend to do this year, and concern that the funds might also be requested and used by groups other than themselves.

Ivy Bottini asked staff to report on how many boards have line items in the budget, in what amounts, and whether those funds are subject to usage by groups other than the designated board.

Members discussed the 2012 Rainbow Key Awards event, and thanked Lucas John for his invaluable assistance with the venue, food, organization, and program.

VIII. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

Elisabeth Sandberg noted this was the last meeting as co-chairs for herself and Matt Palazzolo, due to the City's requirement of one-year terms.

The floor was opened for nominations for male co-chair for the term ending July 2013. Lucas John nominated Andrew Oldershaw, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. On a motion by Shawn Mimbs, seconded by Lucas John, and unanimously approved, nominations were closed and Andrew Oldershaw declared elected.

The floor was opened for nominations for female co-chair for the term ending July 2013. Lucas John nominated Ivy Bottini, who declined. Ivy Bottini nominated Sue Sexton, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. On a motion by Ivy Bottini, seconded by Andrew Oldershaw, and unanimously approved, nominations were closed and Sue Sexton declared elected.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Palazzolo reminded members that the Advisory Board is the community co-sponsor of "I Do," a film at Outfest, showing at 8 pm on Wednesday, July 18, at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre. Matt Palazzolo, Andrew Oldershaw, and Amy Ruskin are planning to attend, and Shawn Mimbs may also

Ivy Bottini thanked Elisabeth Sandberg and Matt Palazzolo for their service as co-chairs

Andrew Oldershaw mentioned whether the Board should keep the "T" in its references to LGBT in its internal mission statement. Board members indicated they did want to keep this.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the Women's Mastery Series, being held 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Matt Palazzolo and Elisabeth Sandberg reflected on their year as co-chairs, noting renewed energy and visibility for the Board, including the Book Fair, Rainbow Key, and ARSH task force

IX. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed flyers for Buff n' Cut, a City-supported fitness expo.

X. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm in appreciation to the City for Matt Palazzolo and Elisabeth Sandberg's year as co-chairs of the Advisory Board, and in appreciation to Councilmember D'Amico for the appointment of Amy Ruskin to the board.

*Signed:*

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*Elisabeth Sandberg, Co-Chair*

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*Matt Palazzolo, Co-Chair*