

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 8, 2011
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. **ROLL CALL**

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Sue Sexton at 7:05 p.m., Thursday, September 8, 2011, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Creo Bettencourt, Ivy Bottini, Lucas John, Shawn Mimbs, Matt Palazzolo, Jimmy Palmieri, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, and Ruth Tittle

A quorum was present at all times. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was also present. Mayor John Duran, Councilmember John D'Amico, and Council Deputies Michael Haibach and Michelle Rex were also present.

II. **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Mayor John Duran congratulated the new and returning members of the Advisory Board and spoke about the City's current opportunities and challenges.

The mayor administered oaths of office to Creo Bettencourt, Lucas John, Shawn Mimbs, and Jimmy Palmieri, and they were declared installed as new Advisory Board members.

III. **AGENDA AND MINUTES**

A. **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 on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Enrique Reveles.

C. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Aug. 11, 2011, meeting were approved on a motion by Ivy Bottini, seconded by Enrique Reveles. Matt Palazzolo abstained due to absence, and Creo Bettencourt, Lucas John, Shawn Mimbs, and Jimmy Palmieri abstained because they were not members at the time of that meeting.

D. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

There were no adjournment requests.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ben McCormick, former member of the Advisory Board, spoke to congratulate the new and returning members, and about his ongoing interest and commitment to working on the issues that come to the Advisory Board. Enrique Reveles and other members thanked him for his service.

David Nash and David Joseph of Palm View Apartments spoke about their efforts some years ago to bring services to the facility, with the participation of APLA and the City. They discussed plans for expanding these services, and said they would provide further information later.

Robert Gamboa congratulated the new members of the Advisory Board, and said he was interested in working on task forces and programs.

Vince Roncone, former member of the Advisory Board, congratulated its members and spoke about issues it has faced over the years, such as the Coors boycott.

V. BYLAWS AND PROCEDURES

Staff discussed the bylaws and procedures of the Advisory Board, including how the Brown Act operates, how its agendas are formed, how funding is requested for programs the board may want to support, how officers are elected for one-year terms, how an annual workplan is developed, and other procedural matters.

Shawn Mimbs asked how the budget for Gay & Lesbian Programs compares to the budgets that are used by other boards or commissions

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. C.I.T.Y.x1 THANKSGIVING EVENT

Carlos Sosa, executive director of C.I.T.Y.x1 youth group, said they are making plans for their seventh Thanksgiving event, and are expecting 200 to 250 people. In each of the last two years, the Advisory Board has recommended, and Council has approved, city co-sponsorship of this event, up to \$500, for food. Staff said this had been paid in those two years by reimbursing a board member upon submittal of receipts showing purchase of the food.

Matt Palazzolo moved to recommend to City Council a sponsorship of up to \$500 for food only, and to ask the Council to waive fees for use of Plummer Park, or for use of an alternative City facility if Plummer Park is not available. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

Elisabeth Sandberg and Matt Palazzolo reported on plans for the Advisory Board's participation in the Oct. 2 West Hollywood Book Fair. LGBT authors have been invited to read at the Advisory Board's canopy, and five or six have agreed. Members indicated their availability for various shifts at the tables. Robert Gamboa also volunteered for this.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations were opened for the office of male co-chair. Ivy Bottini nominated Matt Palazzolo. This was seconded by Jimmy Palmieri. Lucas John nominated Jimmy Palmieri, who declined. There were no additional nominations, so it was moved, seconded, and approved to declare nominations closed, and Matt Palazzolo elected as male co-chair.

Nominations were opened for the office of female co-chair. Ruth Tittle nominated Elisabeth Sandberg. This was seconded by Ivy Bottini. There were no additional nominations, so it was moved, seconded, and approved to declare nominations closed, and Elisabeth Sandberg elected as female co-chair.

The term runs until July 2012, or as soon thereafter as successors are elected.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Shawn Mimbs and Creo Bettencourt said they are looking forward to working with everyone on the Advisory Board.

Jimmy Palmieri congratulated Matt Palazzolo and Elisabeth Sandberg on election as co-chairs, and spoke about the Tweakers Project, which is aiming to distribute up to 100,000 safer sex kits this year. He asked for the Advisory Board's committees and task forces to be on the next agenda for consideration.

Matt Palazzolo suggested developing the workplan in a retreat.

Ivy Bottini said the AIDS memorial task force will meet with Friends of the AIDS Memorial at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 14, in the RSH Hearing Room at City Hall, to continue developing plans for an AIDS memorial. Shawn Mimbs, Creo Bettencourt, Enrique Reveles, and Ruth Tittle joined Ivy Bottini on the task force.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board met recently. Day of Remembrance is planned for Sun., Nov. 20, at 2 p.m., with a march from Plummer Park to the triangle at Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights, with a shuttle returning to Plummer.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board is concerned about the treatment of Chaz Bono, and that Robin Tyler is organizing viewing parties to support him as a contestant on "Dancing With the Stars." Jimmy Palmieri noted that both Cher and Chaz are asking people to join Chaz's Facebook page in support.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board was concerned about the mistrial in the Lawrence King case. This topic was added to the next Advisory Board agenda.

Sue Sexton noted that Laura Luna will be designing the closing fashion show for the Queer Studies Conference at UCLA, on Oct. 15.

Sue Sexton asked staff to notify the Advisory Board when plans are made for a public event recognizing the end of Don't Ask Don't Tell, congratulated those who were reappointed to the Advisory Board, and thanked those who were not reappointed.

Ruth Tittle and other members thanked Sue Sexton for her service as co-chair. She noted the Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing event on Oct. 2, at which Ivy Bottini will be honored.

Elisabeth Sandberg welcomed and congratulated the members and thanked Sue Sexton and Bill Gordon for service as co-chairs. Her book tour begins Sept. 27, and runs to the middle of October, so she may be away for the next meeting.

Enrique Reveles welcomed new members, thanked Sue Sexton, and congratulated Ivy Bottini.

Lucas John said he was glad to be on the Advisory Board, and asked staff to send members a list of task forces in preparation for the next meeting. He asked for the formation of task forces on substance abuse and bullying to be on the next agenda

Ivy Bottini asked members to take a moment to tell a little about themselves by way of introduction, and in response, each did.

X. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said the annual congress of boards and commissions will be held Sat., Nov. 5.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Signed:

Sue Sexton, Co-Chair
