

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – DECEMBER 12, 2013**  
**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 Robert Gamboa at 7:05 pm, Thursday, December 12, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Ruth Tittle, Jeffrey Waack, Laura Wise

Not Present: Paul Chavez, Amy Ruskin

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Jeff Book, staff liaison, and Michelle Rex, Council Deputy.

B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lee Walkup.

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-F regarding Vaseline Alley was postponed until the January 2014 meeting. The agenda was approved on a motion by Jeffrey Waack, seconded by Enrique Reveles. Items IV-B and IV-A were moved ahead of Item III on the agenda.

E. **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2013, were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Matt Palazzolo.

F. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Ivy Bottini asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Lee Glaze, who owned The Patch, a Wilmington bar that was the base for the 1968 floral protest of arrests of gay men by the LA Police Department. Matt Palazzolo asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Bob Tomasino, owner of Oil Can Harry's in Studio City. Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in support

of the LGBT community of the Republic of India, where the Supreme Court ruled this week to uphold Penal Code Section 377, criminalizing gay sex.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Walkup spoke about the 20/20 intergenerational community forum on the past, present and future of HIV/AIDS prevention and care, held Dec. 11 in the Council Chambers, and about the silver star memory project of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. ONE CITY ONE PRIDE

Andrew Campbell spoke on behalf of Mike Che, asking the Advisory Board to designate a member to work with the performing arts subcommittee of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission in reviewing applications for the 2014 One City One Pride event. On a motion by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Jeffrey Waack, the Advisory Board designated Amy Ruskin, with Elisabeth Sandberg as alternate.

A. REMARKS FROM SHERIFF'S STATION CAPTAIN

Capt. Gary Honings of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department introduced himself to the board. A 30-year veteran of the department, he has been captain at the West Hollywood station for eight months, and has 17 years of experience in the city. He introduced Lt. Cheryl Newman. In response to questions, Capt. Honings discussed the crime rate in the city, the number of alcohol-related incidents, and the Ambassador Program, which expands visibility through contract employees.

III. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

With regard to outreach by the Advisory Board, Robert Gamboa said the CSW open forum was the first effort, to be followed by the joint venture with the Transgender Advisory Board and the joint meeting with the Russian and Transgender boards. Future possibilities are lesbian outreach, as well as a program with Senior Advisory Board.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Public Facilities Commission voted unanimously to support the utility box project, which is included in an item going to City Council on December 16.

Elisabeth Sandberg reported that the women on The Lesbian Center (TLC) realized they had different goals and priorities, and split into different groups.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

C. JOINT PROJECT WITH TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Palazzolo said he met with Drían Juarez from the Transgender Advisory

Board, and they are considering proposing an event called The Evolution of Us, which would be a discussion of changing identities, labels, and lifestyles among LGBT people. It would be more interactive, and could start with a speed mixer, and have a well-known keynote speaker. The Advisory Board supported continuing with planning. Laura Wise may join the planning group.

D. JOINT MEETING WITH RUSSIAN AND TRANSGENDER BOARDS

Staff is scheduling a meeting of the planning committee members from the three boards, to work on the agenda for the proposed joint meeting.

E. RAINBOW KEY

The Advisory Board reserved most of its February meeting for review of Rainbow Key nominations.

F. VASELINE ALLEY

This item was postponed until the January meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Elisabeth Sandberg noted that LGBT people are not fully equal in the United States yet because the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) has not been adopted.

Ivy Bottini spoke about the City's efforts on issues of particular concern to seniors. She also said there needs to be a concentrated campaign on behalf of clean and sober in the City, and that this should be attacked as vigorously as HIV/AIDS has been.

Matt Palazzolo has joined the board of Christopher Street West.

Ruth Tittle spoke about the need to listen to younger LGBT people. Laura Wise said the City's website refers to the possibility of having an appointed youth member of the Board.

Robert Gamboa spoke about discrimination against LGBT people in Orange County, CA, where organizers of the Tet Parade in Westminster intend to exclude them. Viet Rainbow of Orange County has been formed.

Robert Gamboa spoke about #BOOM!, the alcohol- and drug-free New Year's Eve event, planned for Dec. 31, and said he and Ruth Tittle attended the candlelight vigil on World AIDS Day. He is also participating in AIDS/LifeCycle, June 1-7, 2014.

Jeffrey Waack said Michigan State University's lesbian and gay alumni group is holding an event on Dec. 30 at Gym Bar.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ruth Tittle asked for the topic of youth outreach to be on the next agenda, to discuss possibilities for a youth member or a subcommittee involving youth. The Advisory Board approved this by consensus.

Robert Gamboa asked the Board to place on the agenda the topic of what can be done with regard to the ruling by the Supreme Court of India to uphold Penal Code Section 377. The Advisory Board approved this by consensus.

Robert Gamboa spoke about City Council's action establishing that the flags of the US, the State of California, and the City of West Hollywood would fly on City properties, with the City Manager authorized to have other flags. He asked for this to be placed on the agenda, for consideration of action in support of flying the Rainbow flag. The Advisory Board approved this by consensus.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Due to the construction of a new parking garage behind City Hall, meetings of the Advisory Board will be held in the Library Community Room beginning in January.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Block thanked Robert Gamboa for his work on #BOOM! and said that more than \$2,000 in prizes has been donated. He spoke about his efforts to give official designation to the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards, and about the importance of the City flying the Rainbow flag.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Robert Gamboa wished everyone happy holidays and new year, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm in memory of Lee Glaze and Bob Tomasino, and in support of the LGBT community of the Republic of India.

*Signed,*

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*Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair*