

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JUNE 13, 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 Sue Sexton at 7:05 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo,
Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle

Not Present: Amy Ruskin

A quorum was present at all times. Councilmember John Duran, Council Deputies Kiran Hashmi and Michelle Rex, and Jeff Book, staff liaison, were also present. Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, joined the meeting in progress.

II. **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER**

Councilmember John Duran administered the oath of office to Paul Chavez as his new appointee to the Advisory Board. He was declared installed as a new Advisory Board member, and welcomed by the Advisory Board members. Councilmember Duran thanked Andrew Oldershaw for his service on the Advisory Board.

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 on a motion by Ivy Bottini, seconded by Enrique Reveles.

C. **MINUTES**

1. **MEETING OF MAY 9, 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2013, were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Enrique Reveles.

D. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Sue Sexton asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Lt. Jimmy Farrell

of the Sheriff's Department, and Joan McGuinness Cordova, mother of Jeanne Cordova. Robert Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Todd Menard and Will Rosenbalm, and in support of Virginia R. Gurrola, mayor of Porterville, CA, who issued that city's first proclamation declaring June to be LGBT Pride Month. Elisabeth Sandberg asked that the meeting be adjourned in recognition of the closing of the Palms Bar.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Andrew Oldershaw, who has been appointed to the Human Services Commission, thanked board members for working with them as a member of the Advisory Board, and urged the new member, Paul Chavez, to get to know each of the board members.

Chris Clarkin thanked Councilmember Duran for appointing Paul Chavez to the Advisory Board, and said he knows him from neighboring office space on Sunset Boulevard.

Dan Berkowitz thanked everyone who helped with the 2013 Rainbow Key Awards, which were held June 11. He recommended that next year's awards process start promptly in September, so there would be ample time to determine awards criteria and present information to Council. He also invited everyone to the gay play reading festival that is happening June 15 and 17, featuring a full-length play on the second evening.

V. SUBCOMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Robert Gamboa said the sober space at the Pride Festival went well. He spoke about the Digital Video Project subcommittee, which is preparing ideas on how to finance the project. He said Betsy Kalin has joined the subcommittee, which will meet again on June 19.

Elisabeth Sandberg said The Lesbian Center had excellent visibility at Long Beach and LA Pride. Ivy Bottini said the group is planning its first major event for October. Elisabeth Sandberg noted that with Shawn Mimbs no longer on the Advisory Board, she will continue with the Utility Box Project herself, and welcomed others to assist.

Ivy Bottini said that communications about difficulties seniors have in using some West Hollywood public facilities are resulting in the City using an analyst to evaluate how these facilities can be low-impact on seniors. Elisabeth Sandberg said this should be part of the City's plans for the renovations to the Werle Building.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board did not meet this month. She said the Rainbow Key Awards went well, although the video can't be replayed on the cable system due to apparent copyright issues over music used in one portion. She congratulated Ivy Bottini on winning the Etheridge Award.

Robert Gamboa said he understood there have been issues about the way the Rainbow Key award was presented to Chaz Bono.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. OUTFEST LIAISON

The Advisory Board selected Matt Palazzolo as liaison to Outfest, where the Advisory Board is a community collaborator.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. WORKPLAN

The Advisory Board decided to hold additional decisions on its 2013-2014 workplan until the 10th seat is filled.

Robert Gamboa asked for a New Year's Eve party for the recovery community to be placed on the next agenda.

Robert Gamboa said the addiction, recovery and sexual health subcommittee is being dissolved.

Elisabeth Sandberg said The Lesbian Center is looking for a controller/treasurer.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Robert Gamboa said he spoke with a young woman at the Pride Festival about testicular and prostate cancer; saw How to Survive a Plague at the Council Chambers last night, noting the rising HIV rates among younger men; spoke about planning to attend the next City Council meeting in Porterville, where the mayor issued an LGBT Pride Month proclamation; and welcomed Paul Chavez to the board.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Rainbow Key Awards had been moving and dignified.

With regard to the question raised regarding Chaz Bono, Ivy Bottini said she had heard that Chaz Bono was not happy with the remarks she made introducing him.

Matt Palazzolo said he was sorry to miss the Rainbow Key awards, and that he looks forward to next year's event.

Ruth Tittle said the 501(c)(3) for the Friends of the AIDS Memorial has been formed, and that its new board is having a retreat this weekend. She is working on the Buff & Cut fitness event; and was glad to be on the City float with the councilmembers.

Enrique Reveles spoke about the Rainbow Key event, and said the venue was both dignified and comfortable.

Sue Sexton thanked Andrew Oldershaw for his service on the Board; spoke about the Pride parade and highlights of the festival weekend; and thanked Michael Che and Andrew Campbell for their work on One City One Pride.

IX. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Elizabeth Savage said that in light of Council's direction for the Advisory Board to review the Rainbow Key process, staff will prepare a package with some ideas to consider, including how other groups present their awards. The plan is to bring a draft for consideration to the July meeting, and then return with an edited final version in August, for submission to Council after that. She said the report will look at other awards by the City, the LGBT community, and relevant cultural groups. She also noted that officers for the 2013-2014 year will be elected at the July meeting, and that the Trans Unity awards are June 22 at The Village.

X. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chris Clarkin thanked Michelle Rex for her commitment in attending events for the city. He spoke about the Rainbow Key awards as well.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm in memory of Lt. Jimmy Farrell of the Sheriff's Department; Joan McGuinness Cordova, mother of Jeanne Cordova; Todd Menard; and William Rosenbalm, and in support of Virginia R. Gurrola, mayor of Porterville, CA, who issued that city's first proclamation declaring June to be LGBT Pride Month; and in recognition of the closing of the Palms Bar.

Signed,

Sue Sexton, Co-Chair

Andrew Oldershaw, Co-Chair