

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

THURSDAY, December 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

*Location: Rent Stabilization Conference Room
West Hollywood City Hall
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.*

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Madeleine Rackley at 7:10 PM.

B. Roll Call

Kelly Alexander	Absent
Nicole C. Curran	Present
Debra Farmer	Absent
Vicki Geis	Present
Lyndia Lowy, Vice Chair	Present
Rae Mitchell	Present
Marcy Norton	Present
Judith Resell	Absent
Madeleine Rackley, Chair	Present
Heidi Schroeder	Present

Staff: Lisa Belsanti and Larissa Fooks.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of October 27, 2005 Meeting-

Marcy Norton noted that her name was misspelled under Item F(2). She made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended; the motion was approved by Lyndia Lowy and passed unanimously.

Minutes of November 17, 2005 Meeting-

Marcy Norton amended her comments from Item VI. With "related to June '06 ballot". Nicole Curran made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Lyndia Lowy and passed unanimously.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Status of Women in West Hollywood Report

Madeleine Rackley asked to re-open the subcommittee for new members in order to finish the project.

B. Board Liaison Reports

Senior Advisory Board: Nicole Curran reported that the SAB has been discussing Medicare Part D. She encouraged WAB members to attend future forums on the issue scheduled for January 18th and February 1st.

Human Services Commission: No Report. Rae Mitchell announced that the Commission was meeting at the same time as tonight's WAB's meeting.

Public Safety: No report. Marcy Norton attended Councilmember Prang's Board & Commissioners meeting and shared information about the changing demographics in the City as illustrated by wait lists for pre-schools and increased enrollment in elementary schools.

Russian Advisory Board: Lyndia Lowy reported that the Board discussed the increase in development on Santa Monica Blvd. She will be unable to attend future RAB meetings.

C. National Women's History Month, March 2006

None of the subcommittees have met recently. Meetings will be scheduled for January, prior to the next WAB meeting.

D. Roe V. Wade Forum, January 24, 2006

The Board considered a request to join other women's rights organizations in co-sponsoring a town hall forum hosted by the National Council of Jewish Women on issues relating to the importance of protecting the Roe V. Wade Supreme Court decision

that legalized abortion in the United States. They also discussed co-sponsoring an event by Planned Parenthood on January 21st featuring a screening of the documentary "Abortion Diaries". Nicole Curran made a motion in support of the WAB co-sponsoring both events. The motion was seconded by Lyndia Lowy and passed unanimously.

E. Board Retreat, February 25, 2006

The Board discussed possible agenda topics for the retreat, including communication process, event promotion, a mock session of Robert Rules of Order, Board work plan and short term versus long-term goals. Staff will prepare a questionnaire for Boardmembers to complete in preparation of the retreat.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative Issues

The Board reviewed information regarding the Head Start Readiness Act, S 1107 and discussed the passage of Boehner Amendment which was attached to House version of the bill and exempts the religious organizations from complying with fundamental federal non-discrimination protections. *No Action Taken.*

B. West Hollywood Women's Heart Health Campaign

Staff gave update to the Board on plans to launch a community awareness campaign focusing on heart health for women. Staff also provided information regarding three nationwide campaigns on women's heart health: Sister to Sister Women's Heart Health Day, February 17, 2006 and Wear Red Day and the Heart Truth/Red Dress Campaign. At last month's meeting, the Board decided to incorporate heart health screenings into Women's History Month at the Saturday's in the Park Event. Nicole Curran announced a heart screening event for seniors sponsored by the L.I.F.E. program to be held on February 7th at Plummer Park. Some programming suggestions from the Board included holding events at times that working women could attend as well as partnering with neighboring cities such as Beverly Hills as part of building a coalition in response the health crisis. Nicole Curran made a motion staff to look in to the feasibility of the City participating in the Red Dress Tour produced by the Heart Truth/Red Dress Campaign. The motion was seconded by Vicki Geis and passed unanimously.

C. West Hollywood Pro Choice City Campaign

Staff reported about the development of a campaign urging other municipalities to proclaim themselves “pro-choice” cities similar to the City of West Hollywood. It was suggested that Women’s Commissions and Boards from other cities be approached to support the campaign.

D. West Hollywood Social Marketing Campaign for Plan B

Staff reported on the development of a project in support of local access to Plan B, the morning after pill. The social marketing campaign that would educate the public about Plan B and ensure that there were no barriers to its legal access in the City. The Board gave feedback on the campaign concept.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Lyndia Lowy: Announced the 1st prosecution of someone in West Hollywood for human trafficking.

Marcy Norton: Announced the departure of Laura Frakes from the West Hollywood Library as of the end of the month. She will be recognized by the City Council for her service on December 19th and there will be a farewell party hosted by Friends of the Library on December 30th.

Madeleine Rackley: Announced that she has finally returned to her house because the renovations were complete and thanked the WAB for their patience.

VII ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Larissa Fooks announced the City’s annual “Don’t Drink and Drive” Napkin distribution will be held on Thursday, December 15th.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

The Women’s Advisory Board adjourned at 8:55 PM to their next regular meeting at 7pm on **January 26, 2006** in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.