

# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

## WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

# MINUTES

THURSDAY, May 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

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

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lyndia Lowy at 7:05 PM.

A. Lisa Belsanti administered the oath of office of Jessie Raeder.

#### B. Roll Call

Kelly Alexander	Absent
Nicole C. Curran	Absent
Vicki Geis	Present
Lyndia Lowy, Vice Chair	Present
Stephanie Middler	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 April 27, 2006- The Board approved the minutes by consensus.

### III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no public speakers.

### IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Anil Gandhi, Director of Finance and Information Systems and Judith Wright, Budget Manager presented an overview of the City's budget to the Board which included a description of the process and information about key budget expenditures and projects.

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **A. Board Liaison Reports**

###### Public Facilities Commission:

Lyndia Lowy reported that there will be several development projects in the next three years on the east site, most of which are housing projects.

###### Public Safety Commission:

Madeleine Rackley reported that she learned about crime and women and requested that the City's public safety manager and a representative from the West Hollywood Sheriffs Station speak before the Board at future meeting.

##### **B. Subcommittee Reports**

###### **1. Status of Women in West Hollywood**

Madeleine Rackley announced that assistance is needed to finish the Board's report on the status of women in the city. Jessie Raeder and Heidi Schroeder volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

##### **C. Spring To Action for Women's Health & Safety**

There is no new date yet for the Know Before You Go Sexual Assault Awareness Outreach event.

##### **D. West Hollywood Dyke March, June 9th**

Brief discussion of the upcoming lesbian pride celebration. Jessie Raeder, Vicki Geis and Stephanie Middler are planning to attend. Staff invited Boardmembers to attend the City's parade viewing party on June 10<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

##### **E. Board Retreat, July 22, 2006**

Boardmembers were reminded to turn in their retreat questionnaires as soon as possible.

##### **F. Decorum at City Meetings**

Staff distributed a copy of the City's policy regarding decorum at City Council meetings for the Board's view. The Board discussed concerns regarding decorum, hate speech and freedom of speech. Lyndia Lowy made a motion to make a recommendation to the City Council that the City's rules of conduct and decorum be posted at City Council meetings and that they also be enforced. The motion was seconded by Vicki Geis and passed unanimously.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board discussed the National Women's History Museum Act of 2005, H.R. 1429, legislation directing the General Services Administration (GSA) to make a long-term occupancy agreement with the National Women's History Museum so the museum can have a permanent site. Concerns were raised about supporting the NWHM because of existing museums pertaining to women and the impact on funding and resources diverted from other more established women's organizations and programs in DC. Jesse Raeder offered to get feedback from some of her contacts in the women's movement about the project.

The HEART for Women Act, S.2278

The Board briefly discussed the HEART for Women Act, S.2278, which would improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease and stroke among women. No action taken.

### B. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual West Hollywood Book Fair, September 17, 2006

Marcy Norton requested input from Boardmembers on ideas. Jesse Raeder offered to see if the Feminist Majority and Ms. Magazine might participate.

### C. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Organization for Women

Lisa Belsanti reported on a recent meeting held with Kim Gandy, the President of NOW with the City Staff to brainstorm ideas for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NOW. There will be a year-long celebration kicking off in late summer to commemorate the accomplishments of the women's movement. The theme of the celebration is "40 and Fearless". The Board discussed ways to support the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration efforts. A subcommittee composed of Madeleine Rackley, Lyndia Lowy, Rae Mitchell, Jessie Raeder and Marcy Norton was formed to develop ideas on how the Board could commemorate the anniversary of NOW.

### D. Review of Calendar of Events

1. Madeleine Rackley requested that the Board consider rescheduling the June meeting because she and Lyndia Lowy would be unable to attend. The Board discussed various options. Marcy Norton made a motion to cancel the June meeting of the Board, which was seconded by – and passed unanimously.
2. The Board reviewed the basic procedures regarding the election of officers.

## **VII. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

### Marcy Norton

Reminded everyone about the upcoming election on June 6<sup>th</sup> and urged everyone to vote for proposition 81, which would provide more funding for new libraries, that City's grant request would be considered.

### Lyndia Lowy

Invited the Board to attend the performance of the West Hollywood Chorale on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Madeleine Rackley

Announced that she would not be running again for Chair of the Board and stated that she enjoyed serving the last two years.

## **VIII ITEMS FROM THE STAFF**

None.

## **IX ADJOURNMENT**

The Women's Advisory Board adjourned at 9:00 PM to a special Board Retreat Meeting at 10 AM on **July 22, 2006** in West Hollywood, CA 90069.