

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

THURSDAY, April 27, 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 Madeleine Rackley at 7:06 PM.

A. Roll Call

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

Staff: Lisa Belsanti and Larissa Fooks

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Marcy Norton requested that the Minutes of the March 23rd meeting be corrected regarding item IV C. to remove the word "complained" from her comments and include her acknowledgement of everyone's hard work on Women's History Month activities. A motion to approve the Minutes as amended was made by Heidi Schroeder and 2nd by Kelly Alexander and passed unanimously.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board Liaison Reports

Human Services Commission:

Kelly Alexander reported. The LA Gay and Lesbian Center was there to give a status report on reaching their goals because they are on probation. She reported that the Commission was not very familiar with the needs of women in the City. Kelly also commented that it seemed that women's needs are not a specific focus of social services funding consideration but mostly considered as part of other groups and that the Board's pending report on the *Status of Women in West Hollywood* might have event greater importance.

B. Subcommittee Reports

1. West Hollywood Kids Fair, April 22, 2006

Heidi Schroeder reported. This year the booth activities included creating rain sticks and potting seeds. Most of the WAB members participated in some way. Heidi Schroeder acknowledged the efforts of Stephanie Middler and resident Tami Kendra. Marcy Norton thanked Heidi Schroeder for her leadership. She also suggested that the Board critically look at which events they choose to participate in and evaluate what the Board gets out of participating. Madeleine Rackley suggested that this issue be included in the board retreat discussion.

2. West Hollywood Townhall on Medicare Part D

The subcommittee reported on the recent townhall meeting held at Plummer Park. It was very well attended despite poor weather-- 101 people attended the English language session and 26 people attended the Russian language session. The townhall was videotaped and has been repeatedly shown on Citychannel 10. The Board also discussed the feasibility of there being another community meeting before the upcoming Medicare deadline on May 15th.

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

The *Know Before You Go* sexual assault prevention outreach event has been cancelled because the guest speakers were unable to attend. Rich Ryan will be rescheduling it tentatively for June.

D. Board Retreat

The retreat questionnaire was redistributed to Boardmembers. It was requested that questionnaires be submitted to staff by the Board's May meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative Issues

No discussion.

B. Decorum at City Meetings

Madeleine Rackley initiated a discussion about the decorum of the public at City Council meetings and ways to respond to recent incidents, including derogatory language directed at Councilmember Land. The Board discussed concerns over the usage of language by members of the public that demeaned women, specifically women in leadership positions. Marcy Norton made a motion directing Chairperson Madeleine Rackley to make a comment on behalf of the WAB at the upcoming City Council meeting regarding decorum. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Middler and passed unanimously.

C. West Hollywood Dyke March, June 9th

Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator, reported on plans for this year's lesbian pride event, which will include an after party with several bands. There will be a focus of women's rights and Senator Shelia Kuehl has been confirmed as a guest speaker. Marcy Norton made a motion in support of the Dyke March, the motion was seconded by Stephanie Middler and passed unanimously. The Board was encouraged to participate in the march. It was suggested that boardmembers could be available to assist if needed.

D. Review of Calendar of Events

Madeleine Rackley reminded boardmembers about the upcoming election of officers in July. Marcy Norton commented that the City's annual book fair will be held earlier than usual on September 17th and suggested that the Board begin looking at how they can participate this year. Madeleine Rackley requested Marcy Norton to report back next month with a proposal.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Marcy Norton

Encouraged boardmembers to look at the City's website for more information about the book fair and announced that there will also be a dedicated site for the bookfair this year.

Heidi Schroeder

Announced that Rae Mitchell will be turning 85 and is also receiving a Seniors are Special award at the May 1st Council meeting.

Lyndia Lowy

Commented about the immigration march/boycott and suggested that the Board might consider addressing the topic of immigration and women of West Hollywood.

VIII ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

None.

IX ADJOURNMENT

The Women's Advisory Board adjourned at 8:36 PM to their next regular meeting at 7pm on **May 25, 2006, 2006** in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.