

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

THURSDAY, March 31, 2005 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 Chairperson Madeleine Rackley at 7:05 PM.

A. Oath of Office to new Boardmember
Hernan Molina, Deputy to Mayor Duran administered the oath of office to Kelly Alexander.

B. Roll Call

Kelly Alexander	Present	✓
Nicole C. Curran	Present	✓
Debra Farmer	Present	✓
Lyndia Lowy	Absent	✓
Rae Mitchell	Present	✓
Marcy Norton	Present	✓
Judith Resell	Present	<i>excused</i>
Madeleine Rackley, Chair	Present	✓
Heidi Schroeder	Present	✓
Renee Dake Wilson, Vice Chair	Present	✓

Staff: Lisa Marie Belsanti

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of February 24, 2005: Approved by consensus.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mais Jasser, Femme Film Festival producer, commented about the success of their recent reception and outreach for boardmembers.

Peggy Goldwin, US Committee on United Nations Fund and Population, Spoke about the agency and the upcoming Human Rights Speaker Series event and art exhibit opening on April 11th and 12th at the Pacific Design Center.

Justine Sarver, Planned Parenthood of California, spoke about a ballot initiative to require any minor to have parental consent for abortion procedure that will be on the November 2005 or June 2006 and asked for support opposing the initiative.

Amy Exelby, Planned Parenthood of CA, announced an upcoming event for activists, including a film screening at the Pacific Design Center on May 7th and bingo night at the Wyndm Bel Age in Brentwood.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee Reports:

Update reports on current Board projects.

1. Women's History Month 2005

The Board conducted a debriefing of the month's activities. Overall feed back was favorable. The Saturday's int eh Park event was well attended and kept WAB members busy. The Women's History Month banners looked good. The Women in Leadership Swords was very successful and raised \$1,200 for Amnesty International. The Board gave special acknowledgement to staff for all their efforts. Unfortunately International Women's' Day was cancelled but there will be other opportunities to work with Amnesty International in the near future. The reception and tour for the Rosewood Elementary School kids who created the art books for the lobby display is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th at from 11 – 1 pm at City Hall. WAB members are encouraged to attend.

2. Status of Women in West Hollywood

Renee Dake Wilson gave a brief preview of the pending report from the Sub-Committee.

3. V-Day 2005

It was reported that \$6,500 was raised for women's services by from the benefit performance of the *Vagina Monologues*.

B. BOARD LIAISON UPDATES

Boardmembers volunteered to serve as liaisons to other City Board's and Commissions.

Judith Resell, Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission
Nicole Curran, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board
Lyndia Lowy, Russian Advisory Board and P
Marcy Norton, Public Safety Commission
Renne Dake Wilson, Planning Commission

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Kids Fair

Hedi Schroeder reported about the activities planned by the Subcommittee. Boardmembers Renee Dake Wilson, Madeleine Rackley, Heidi Schroeder and Rae Mitchell will all be volunteering at the fair.

B. Lesbian Visibility Programming

Sue Sexton of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and the Lesbian Visibility Committee, spoke in support of the Board co-sponsoring two upcoming Lesbian Visibility events, a film screening and the dyke march. Filmmaker Betsy Kalin, spoke about her documentary film on lesbian tantra entitled "Hearts Cracked Open." The film screening is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th at 7pm at the Pacific Design Center. Judith Resell made a motion to co-sponsor the screening of "Hearts Cracked Open," the motion was seconded by Rene Dake Wilson and passed 9-0. It was mentioned that in order for Boardmembers to attend the event, the WAB meeting would have be rescheduled and staff was directed to add this to the April meeting agenda. The Dyke March, is scheduled for Friday June 10th at 7pm.

Judith Resell made a motion in support of the Dyke March, the motion was seconded by Lyndia Lowy and passed 9-0.

C. Spring Into Action For Women's Health Month

The Board discussed programming regarding Women's health and safety issues planned for the months of April and May in collaboration with various agencies. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and another outreach activity for sexual assault prevention, "Know Before You Go", is scheduled for Friday April 22nd at 8pm. Madeleine Rackley, Judith Resell and Nicole Curran volunteered to participate on behalf of the WAB. During the month of May for National Women's Health Month, there will be information kiosks set up at various locations in the City. It was suggested that the Cedar Sinai Hospital be approached to do heart screenings during the month as well. There is a press conference tentatively planned to kick-off the various activities. Rich Ryan, Community Relations Program Coordinator, will be providing details.

D. Legislative Issues

The Board discussed the following legislative item affecting women.

1. The Child Custody Protection Act

Nicole Curran made a motion opposing the Child Custody Protection Act, the motion was seconded by Renee Dake Wilson and passed 9-0.

2. Healthy Families Program

Tabled

E. Review of Calendar of Events:

The Board discussed Denim Day and inquired if the City provided flyers and conducted outreach to the community.

F. Annual Rotation of Chairs

The Board discussed a City Council proposal to require the rotation of Board and Commission Chairs each year. Chairperson Rackley will be sharing the Board's feedback at the Board and Commission Chairs meeting next month.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Nicole Curran requested discussion of AB 291 be added to the next agenda.

Marcy Norton announce that she will email information regarding some upcoming events to boardmembers

Lynda Lowy announced an upcoming concert of the West Hollywood Chorale.

VIII ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

None.

IX ADJOURNMENT

The Women's Advisory Board adjourned at 9:05 PM to their next regular meeting at 7pm on **April 26, 2005** in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.