

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The March 10, 2016, meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:03 pm by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Andy Sacher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, James Duke Mason,
Matt Palazzolo, Marquita Thomas, Ruth Tittle.

Not Present: Kate Eggert, Robert Oliver.

A quorum was present at all times. There are two vacancies on the Board. Also present were staff members Jeff Book and John Erickson.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With consensus agreement to move 4 (New Business) ahead of 3 (Unfinished Business), the agenda was approved on a motion by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Lucas John.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2016

The minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2016, were approved on a motion by Ruth Tittle, seconded by Marquita Thomas, with Matt Palazzolo abstaining.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nir Zilberman said he was very disappointed that former First Lady Nancy Reagan, who died this week, was not mentioned at the City Council meeting. Secondly, he asked what has happened to Ivy Bottini, and said that city lawyers shut her up and she had to leave. Lastly, he said it was a pleasure to meet Capt. Holly Perez today, and that the Sheriff's Department should work on meth and other problems in West Hollywood.
2. Adilah Barnes of the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival invited LGAB members to the Festival's one-day program on April 30, which will begin at Plummer Park and conclude at the Actor's Company, 916 N. Formosa. It is a free program co-sponsored by the City, and RSVP is required to 818-760-0408.
3. Lee Walkup, Senior Advisory Board chair and liaison, spoke about

the Human Services Commission meeting on March 8, 2016, which involved discussion with chairs of advisory boards and commissions on their ideas for social services program priorities. He spoke about the pharmaceutical pricing forum that is planned by Senior and Disabilities Advisory Boards for April. He said he was pleased to meet Capt. Perez.

4. Mike Che distributed information on One City One Pride, and spoke about the Brief History of Drag display, the Stuart Timmons LGBT history tour, and the Summer Sounds program with Jennifer Leitham. April is National Poetry Month, and applications to be the next City Poet will be open on April 1.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

James Duke Mason asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. WEST HOLLYWOOD SHERIFF

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman said he enjoyed meeting Capt. Perez earlier today. He said we need to take responsibility for our actions. He said Sheriff's officers are not our babysitters, and we should respect and work with the Sheriff's Department.

Capt. Holly Perez said she is in her fourth week on the job. She said West Hollywood is an amazing city except for traffic. Some issues already identified for action include increasing foot patrols by officers, and considering bicycle patrols for the spring. Board Members congratulated Capt. Perez. Lucas John asked her to check on Sheriff's officers driving over curbs to get to parking spots, which he felt set a bad example for the community.

B. CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

Chris Classen, president of CSW, said this year's LGBT Pride Festival will be held June 10-12, 2016. He introduced Craig Bowers, who is overseeing production of the festival and parade. Craig Bowers said the event will be recommended to the City Council on March 21, and will continue the practice of beginning on Friday evening, and lasting through most of Sunday on the festival weekend. They seek to have many communities represented in the festival. Performers will be announced beginning a few weeks from now. He said there are an estimated 519,000 LGBT persons in Greater Los Angeles. Attendance at the festival last year was around 50,000.

Board Members thanked the CSW leaders for presenting this information to LGAB, said they were encouraged by an improved event last year, and are looking forward to this year very much. Robert Gamboa said he has met with CSW about #SIZZLE! and other opportunities to provide sober areas for celebration. Craig Bowers said they are also considering how to include areas that are intended for families.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. WORKPLAN DEVELOPMENT

Staff introduced the list of topics raised at the study session in January, and said the Board was invited to create up to a 2-year work plan. Board Members discussed the ambitious list of issues and settled on the following general schedule, subject to adjustment as necessary. This work plan was moved by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Marquita Thomas, and unanimously approved.

April 2016 - Homelessness (identifying current services which are doing a good job); lesbian and gay youth homelessness; Rainbow Key preparation. (A report tracking activity on previous LGAB actions was added to the April agenda later in this meeting.)

May 2016 - "PCL" (preps/condom/lube) as a way of providing the safest possible sexual experience; Rainbow Key preparation.

June 2016 - Affordability of West Hollywood for rentals, housing, business, and non-profits, and the impact on the gay and lesbian community. The Board is interested in speaking directly with the City Lobbyist, Helyne Meshar, perhaps by Skype or video link, regarding the impact of the Ellis Act on the gay and lesbian community, and what is being done about it.

July 2016 - LGBT Youth. Election of Officers (scheduled).

August 2016 - Catch-up on items from previous meetings.

September 2016 - Social Services-related items not covered in earlier meetings.

October 2016 - Lesbian and Gay Identity issues.

November 2016 - Consideration of revising the Mission Statement of LGAB.

B. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Staff reported that the City Council approved LGAB's recommendations for this year's Rainbow Key awards, and that two members of City Council said they didn't think the Board's Rainbow Key recommendations need to come before the City Council in the future. Robert Gamboa reviewed some of the history of the award presentations, for information of newer members. Board Members began accepting duties for various aspects of the program, including awards (Robert Gamboa), food (Lucas John), flowers (Marquita Thomas), flyer (Matt Palazzolo), cake (James Duke Mason).

Chief contacts for the award recipients were set as follows: Marquita Thomas for Jay M. Kohorn; Robert Gamboa for Ruth Williams; James Duke Mason for West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation; Kate Eggert for Carol Taylor-DiPietro; and Ruth Tittle for Mark Lehman.

Planning will continue at each LGAB meeting until the awards presentation on June 22 in the City Council Chambers.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

John Erickson provided information on Women's History Month activities and spoke about the two new banners on City streets this year, recognizing Connie Norman and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nir Zilberman spoke about homeless persons in the City, and said that while multi-year work plans are fine, we need to focus on people who are in trouble now.
2. Karen Eyres, Women's Advisory Board member, said that since LGAB is expressing interest in gay and lesbian youth, there are opportunities to help at the LGBT Center Youth program and in the LifeWorks program that helps young people in careers.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

James Duke Mason said he is watching Rent Stabilization Commission meetings, and has nothing directly related to LGAB work to report.

Lucas John attended the Transgender Advisory Board last week, and said he was very struck by the long list of trans people who have been subjected to violence.

Marquita Thomas said James Wen, TAB chair, is looking for a printer who might donate services.

Robert Gamboa spoke about attending the Human Services Commission meeting where chairs of the boards and commissions discussed social services priorities with the HSC members. He said he was honored to be part of the experience because the HSC members clearly engaged with the information brought to them by the boards and commissions, and asked questions to make sure they were understanding the input.

B. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Marquita Thomas spoke about providing career information for lesbian and gay youth.

Lucas John requested that the Board receive a report tracking prior motions and where they stand, so it's easier to follow where the Board's activities stand. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and approved for the next agenda.

Ruth Tittle said "Sample Saturday" will be held outside Capitol Drugs from noon to 4 pm on March 19, with more than 80 vendors participating.

Robert Gamboa spoke about the Safe West Hollywood Leadership Council, which meets next in April, and about the West Hollywood Project, which helps plan the BOOM and SIZZLE sober events. He said that Beth Bishop, who has resigned from LGAB, sends her best to everyone, and is managing two businesses and planning to be married this summer.

9. ADJOURNMENT

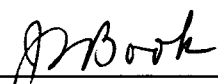
The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. in memory of former First Lady Nancy Davis Reagan.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 14th DAY OF APRIL 2016.



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison