

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 8, 2015
LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The October 8, 2015, meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, by Ivy Bottini, the longest-serving member, due to new appointments by which the previous co-chairs, Enrique Reveles and Laura Wise, did not continue on the Board.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ruth Tittle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ivy Bottini, Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John Junkin, James Duke Mason, Robert B. Oliver, Marquita Thomas, Ruth Tittle

Not Present: Beth Bishop, Matt Palazzolo

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Hon. John Duran, City Councilmember, and staff liaisons Jeff Book and John Erickson.

II. **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

James Duke Mason, Marquita Thomas, and Robert B. Oliver were installed as members of the Advisory Board by the Hon. John Duran, City Councilmember.

Councilmember Duran addressed the Advisory Board, thanking the outgoing co-chairs, and congratulating the incoming members.

III. **AGENDA AND MINUTES**

A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Staff suggested moving Agenda Item VIII, Election of Officers, to this place in the meeting, due to the absence of elected co-chairs. After discussion, Robert Gamboa moved to approve the agenda with Item VIII moved up to this time. This was seconded by Kate Eggert and approved 6 yes, 1 no (Lucas John Junkin), and 1 abstaining (Marquita Thomas).

VIII. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Officers for the term running until July 2016 were elected.

For the position of male co-chair, Lucas John Junkin nominated Robert Gamboa, who accepted. Robert Gamboa nominated Lucas John Junkin, who declined. In the absence of further nominations, James Duke Mason moved to close nominations and declare Robert Gamboa elected. This was seconded by Lucas John Junkin and unanimously approved.

For the position of female co-chair, Ruth Tittle nominated Kate Eggert, who accepted. Robert Gamboa nominated Ruth Tittle, who declined. In the absence of further nominations, the Advisory Board voted unanimously to close nominations and declare Kate Eggert elected.

Robert Gamboa and Kate Eggert presided for the remainder of the meeting.

III. AGENDA AND MINUTES (resumed)

B. MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2015

Kate Eggert noted a correction in the minutes – that the historical list that The Factory has been placed on is the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. With that correction, she moved approval of the minutes of August 13, 2015. This was seconded by Robert Oliver and approved. Abstentions were entered for James Duke Mason, Robert Oliver, and Marquita Thomas, because they were not yet members at that meeting.

C. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Ivy Bottini requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Hope Hendricks.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Walkup, liaison from Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the It Gets Better concert at The Wallis in Beverly Hills.

Nir Zilberman raised a concern that bisexuals are not included in the name or mission of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. He thanked City Manager Paul Arevalo and Mayor Lindsey Horvath for their work.

David Reid asked the Advisory Board to endorse the use of Fiesta Hall as a black box space for showing names by AIDS Watch.

Enrique Reveles, former member and co-chair of the Advisory Board, said it had been a wonderful experience to be on the Board. A resident for more than 35 years, he thanked his fellow members and staff.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Before commencing New Business, Robert Gamboa invited newly appointed members to briefly introduce themselves. They all spoke briefly about their backgrounds.

A. C.I.T.Y.x1 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY EVENT

Carlos Sosa of C.I.T.Y.x1 thanked the Advisory Board for their past support of this event – with the Advisory Board’s recommendation, the City Council has approved support each year since 2009 – and asked for their consideration for the upcoming event as well. Nadia Sutton, former member of this Advisory Board, has helped produce the event.

Ivy Bottini moved to recommend to the City Council that the City reimburse up to \$700 in food costs for the Thanksgiving event. This was seconded by James Duke Mason and approved without objection, with Marquita Thomas abstaining.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LGBT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FACTORY

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman spoke about a need to place more emphasis on people’s lives than on a building, and about his concern that too much of the Board’s monthly meeting is taken up with procedural matters.

The Advisory Board discussed the historical significance of The Factory to the Gay and Lesbian community.

Lucas John moved to table this item. The motion to table was seconded by Ruth Tittle, and approved.

B. LGBT HISTORY KIOSKS

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman said that money counts in what happens in the City. He suggested building an LGBT Museum.

Kate Eggert provided a handout on historical kiosks, such as the ones built in downtown Los Angeles near Angels Flight. She said the Advisory Board needs to think about what exactly it wants in terms of kiosks, including location and content.

Public Comment: Cynthia Blatt said the Advisory Board should not be influenced by the amount of money backing development interests in the city.

Lucas John said the Advisory Board should focus on the future, while making sure that our history is documented. He suggested meeting with management staff at the City to discuss next steps for this project.

The topic was carried over to the next agenda.

C. LESBIAN SPACE

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman said it was painful when The Palms closed. He clarified his previous remarks, that he is not opposed to saving The Factory.

The Advisory Board discussed the lack of lesbian spaces in the city, and talked about reinvigorating the Lesbian Visibility Committee and working more closely with Christopher Street West for the Dyke March and the purple party. Kate Eggert discussed having a "Dykes and Dogs" event.

D. INTERSECTION OF SANTA MONICA AND SAN VICENTE BLVDS

Public Comment:

Nir Zilberman said he is disappointed that the Board is ignoring Love No Hate, and asked the Board to wake up.

Larry Block congratulated the new members of the Board, and the new co-chairs. He spoke about the importance of recognizing the Santa Monica-San Vicente intersection.

David Reid said the City Council has changed since the last time this idea was brought forward. He asked for consideration of renaming a portion of San Vicente Blvd. as West Hollywood Way.

Lucas John recommended bringing this item back next month to see what has been done about it in the meantime.

The hour of 9 pm having arrived, James Duke Mason moved to extend the meeting. This was seconded and approved.

E. PRE- AND POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PREP)

Lucas John moved to table this item. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and unanimously approved.

VII. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

There were no reports at this time.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Lucas John asked that the seating arrangement be changed so that members don't have their backs to the podium.

Robert Oliver complimented the proposal on historical kiosks, and said he believes they should be permanent.

Ruth Tittle said that if the C.I.T.Y.x1 item is approved by the City Council, she will make the purchase and be reimbursed by the City, as has occurred in previous years. With regard to historical kiosks, she spoke about work being done by the AIDS Memorial Board, which is looking into technology for installations. She also spoke about Capitol Drugs receiving an award from the Disabilities Advisory Board.

Ivy Bottini announced that she has resigned from the Advisory Board effective the next day, October 9.

Robert Gamboa thanked Ivy Bottini for her 17 years of service on the Advisory Board, saying she has been a key voice on many issues.

Marquita Thomas said she will abstain on votes which require prior knowledge. She also thanked Ivy Bottini, having first met her 10 years ago due to the Dyke March.

Marquita Thomas noted that half the budget for the C.I.T.Y.x1 event is facilities, and wondered if the City could arrange to have space donated. Staff said they would check on this and report back.

Kate Eggert said that Ivy Bottini will be missed on the Board.

Robert Gamboa discussed raising money for Aid for AIDS; the AIDS Walk this weekend; welcoming three new members; and having coffee with new members.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

James Duke Mason moved to place on the next agenda the possibility of adding Bisexual to the title and mission of the Advisory Board. This was seconded by Robert Oliver and approved.

Robert Gamboa moved to place the topic of holding AIDS Watch in Fiesta Hall on the agenda. This was seconded by Lucas John and approved.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff noted that the December meeting should include adoption of a calendar for the 2016 Rainbow Key Awards, and that the Board should hold a workplan/study session in the next couple of months.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Victor Omelczenko, member of Public Facilities Commission, welcomed the new Board members. He thanked Abbe Land and Lindsey Horvath for the Bike Task Force. He said staff had indicated at the last meeting that they would return to the Advisory Board with information on whether the Board can sponsor a letter-writing campaign with regard to The Factory. He also thanked Ivy Bottini for her many years of service.

Cynthia Blatt called to the Board's attention that Nir Zilberman had just offered use of the Love No Hate space. She said she was honored to be a friend of Ivy Bottini. Cathy Blaivas welcomed the new members and agreed with remarks made in appreciation to Ivy Bottini. She said the City owes Ivy Bottini a great deal.

Nir Zilberman said he will remember Ivy Bottini, because people like her made the difference in the 1980s.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm in memory of Hope Hendricks and in celebration of Ivy Bottini's 17 years of service on the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.

Robert Gumbon
Co-Chair

Attest:

J. Book
Staff Liaison