

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The August 11, 2016, regular meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:05 pm by Co-Chair Marquita Thomas in the First-Floor Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90069.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lee Walkup.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Megan Cotanch, Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, James Duke Mason, Robert Oliver, Matt Palazzolo, Marquita Thomas.

Not Present: Sue LaVaccare, Ruth Tittle.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, and staff members Jeff Book and John Erickson.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The co-chairs requested that Items 8B (Bisexual Committee Update) and 6 (Items from Staff) be moved to after Item 1E (Public Comment). With this change, the agenda was unanimously approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of July 14, 2016, were approved on a motion by James Duke Mason, seconded by Marquita Thomas.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Andrew Campbell spoke about the City's current arts and cultural opportunities, including a community survey which can be taken online at www.weho.org/theplan. He distributed cards with further information.
2. Lee Walkup, chair of Senior Advisory Board, spoke about an upcoming town hall on pharmaceutical prices; an article in The Advocate on NBC's non-coverage of the record number of out LGBT athletes at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Summer Olympic games; and about TV's failure to identify Dustin Lance Black and Tom Daley as engaged.
3. Carlos Sosa, executive director of C.I.T.Y.x1 youth group, thanked LGAB for recommending, each year since November 2009, that the

City provide financial support to The Big Feast, their pre-Thanksgiving dinner and party for LGBTQ youth and allies ages 14-24. He asked the Board to consider doing this for 2016. Last year the Board recommended, and the City Council approved, reimbursement of up to \$700 in food purchases for this event.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

The Board had a topic which had come up at a previous Board meeting, that is, questions about the Ellis Act. Elizabeth Savage presented information to the Board. The Ellis Act is used when landlords decide to take rental units off the market. They are required to pay a fee to pay for relocation counseling, and direct payment of relocation monies to tenants who will be losing their housing as a result of the action. The tenants are also moved to the top of the inclusionary housing list, if openings are available. There will be a report to the City Council in October 2016 regarding the impact of the Ellis Act in West Hollywood.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

B. BISEXUAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The subcommittee on the bisexual topic met prior to the LGAB meeting, and continued a discussion with members of the bisexual community, which began at the committee meeting in July. Elissa Barrett, who is developing a white paper for the City on this subject, spoke about a variety of ways the bisexual community could be included and represented in the City's structure. She is planning to present her report to LGAB at the September 8 meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER (continued)

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Lucas John requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Erykah Tijerina, a trans woman whose death in El Paso, TX, is being investigated as a murder and a hate crime.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2017 ONE CITY ONE PRIDE GRANT REVIEW (PRIDE MONTH)

Mike Che, economic development and cultural affairs coordinator, spoke about plans for 2017 One City One Pride, to be held from Harvey Milk Day through the end of June. Arts grants are available, and members were asked to publicize and encourage applications. He requested that the Board designate one member to serve on the arts grants review panel. Matt Palazzolo expressed interest, and this was approved by consensus.

of the board.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. "LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED?"

The Board discussed presenting a screening of the feature film "Love Is All You Need?," directed by K. Rocco Shields, who is a Rainbow Key recipient. In discussion they settled on a late Sunday afternoon, at the City Council Chambers, as a good time for the program. By consensus they agreed to recommend that up to \$500, if needed, be allocated for reception expenses. They designated a subcommittee consisting of Megan Cotanch, Kate Eggert, and Lucas John to finalize plans.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. STAFF COMMENTS (continued)

Staff distributed copies of the last adopted workplan and the list of topics raised at the most recent study session. Staff said adoption of a new workplan will be on the agenda in September. Robert Gamboa said the Board could consider focusing on perhaps three issues for the year.

Staff invited members to the Women's Equality Day event, to be held on Friday, August 26, 2016, which will include a showing of "Inez Milholland – Forward Into Light," a new documentary about the suffragist, lawyer, and public speaker, who had a major influence on the women's movement in the United States.

Staff invited members to the GED graduation ceremony to be held at the City Council meeting on August 15.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. David Reid proposed that West Hollywood Park be renamed West Hollywood Pride Park, in tribute to LGBT people who have been killed around the world.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

Robert Gamboa attended the Public Safety Commission, which received the July 2016 update from the Sheriff's Department. There was one homicide in West Hollywood, and the suspected attacker was arrested in Pomona. Staff will provide a chart of liaison opportunities for the next meeting. Current liaisons include Kate Eggert for the Historic Preservation Commission, and Robert Gamboa for Human Services Commission. (Megan Cotanch and Robert Gamboa were already designated as Liaisons to the Public Safety Commission at prior meetings.)

B. (see above)

C. **OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Robert Oliver moved to place the C.I.T.Y.x1 pre-Thanksgiving event on the agenda. This was seconded by Lucas John and approved.

Kate Eggert reported that the State Historical Resources Commission had tied, 3 to 3, on whether to approve The Factory in West Hollywood for designation in the National Register of Historic Places. This blocks the application for now, but there are plans to re-apply.

James Duke Mason spoke about Gus Kenworthy and Caitlyn Jenner attending a birthday party held by the son of the Sultan of Brunei. The Sultan's proclamation of Sharia law led to boycotts of two local properties he owns, the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Bel-Air Hotel. James Duke Mason moved to place on an upcoming agenda a response to this, such as urging them to apologize and donate any proceeds to charity. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa. After discussion, the motion was held over to next month, to see if there are new developments in the situation.

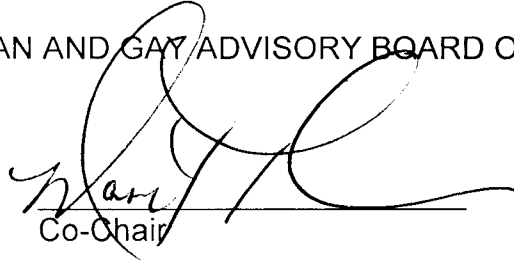
Megan Cotanch spoke about the LGBT Center's Youth Program, which has a list of needs. Robert Gamboa said his band has started a program there recently, and is working with raising funds for them.

The topic of helping the LGBT Center's Youth program was placed on an upcoming agenda.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm, in memory of Erykah Tijerina.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2013.



Mary
Co-Chair

Attest:



John Eubank
Staff Liaison