

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The October 13, 2016, regular meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00 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 Megan Cotanch.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Not Present: Sue LaVaccare.

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Robert Gamboa.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2016, meeting were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by James Duke Mason, with Robert Gamboa abstaining.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lee Walkup, chair of Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the Oct. 29 Congress of Boards and Commissions; said ballots for the Nov. 8 national election are being mailed; urged people to get out the vote for their candidate or cause; and said free flu shots will be available at the Library Community Meeting Room on Oct. 22.
2. Carlton Rucker, residential supervisor at the LA LGBT Center's Youth Center, spoke about their music program, and invited support from the Board and the City.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Lucas John asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Brandi Bledsoe, 32, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Jazz Alford, 30, of North Carolina, trans women who died this month.

Kate Eggert noted today is the anniversary of the death of Matt Shepard (1976-1998).

Robert Gamboa spoke about his friend, John Napier, who passed away at the age of 33.

Ruth Tittle, who has served on the Board since Dec. 4, 2000, said this would be her last meeting. She said she has appreciated serving on the Board, and sees it as a good opportunity for someone new to serve. The Board congratulated her on her many years of service.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. BISEXUAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Staff distributed copies of "Toward Inclusion – The City of West Hollywood and the Bisexual / Pansexual / Fluid Community," a staff report going to the City Council at its October 17 meeting. Staff will work with the City Clerk regarding the procedure for adding two West Hollywood residents to the Advisory Board's Bisexual Committee.

B. WORKPLAN PRIORITIZATION

The Advisory Board conducted an exercise to prioritize issues for its workplan. Staff collected the responses and will summarize them for a report to the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Elizabeth Savage said that items from the Advisory Board – the Bisexual report and the CITYx1 Thanksgiving event, are going to the City Council, as is an item for the City to have a grant agreement to help fund a scan of services for LGBTQ youth. A copy of the LGBTQ scan staff report will be sent to the Board.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

An item to consider support for the music program of the LA LGBT Center's Youth Services was placed on the next agenda.

Lucas John asked about connection with the LA Diversity Film Fest. Staff said they have spoken with representatives of this group, and discussed possible use of City facilities.

Kate Eggert spoke about historical preservation efforts for The Factory.

Marquita Thomas thanked those who were able to attend the Mega-Mixer of the LA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. There is consideration of sponsoring a prom in May 2017.

Ruth Tittle reflected on having served on this Board for 16 years. She said she is remaining on the board of the AIDS Monument Foundation.

Robert Gamboa thanked Ruth Tittle for her work on the Board, including making new members feel welcome. He spoke about the Safe WeHo Leadership Council, and about #BOOM!, which is coming up on New Year's Eve. He spoke about Breast Cancer Awareness Month; the Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles playing at First Congregational Church; and Sample Saturday on Oct. 22.

James Duke Mason thanked Ruth Tittle for her guidance and wisdom. He was just back from Orlando, where he visited the Pulse nightclub, and met staff including Barbara Poma, the owner. He spoke about a demonstration to be held on Saturday in front of the Beverly Hills Hotel, which is still subject to a boycott because it is owned by the Sultan of Brunei, through the Dorchester Collection.

Marquita Thomas and Robert Oliver also thanked Ruth Tittle, and said they were glad to have had the opportunity to work with her.

A. PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON REPORT

There was no additional report.

B. LIAISON REPORTS

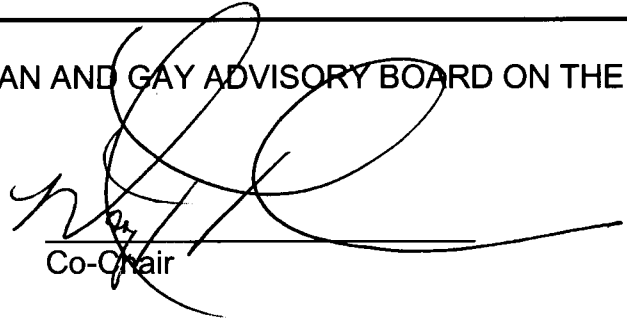
Kate Eggert was designated as liaison to Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm in memory of Brandi Bledsoe and Jazz Alford.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2016, in the First-Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2016



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison