

**MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The February 9, 2017, regular meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:07 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 Corey Roskin.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Not Present: Lucas John, Sue LaVaccare

There is one vacancy on the Board at this time.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; and staff members Corey Roskin, Jeff Book, and John Erickson.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting was moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2017, were approved on a motion by Robert Gamboa, seconded by James Duke Mason, with Megan Cotanch and Matt Palazzolo abstaining.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. John Asuncion said he is doing a reality show with episodes set in West Hollywood and that he hopes the City will be proud of the result.

2. James Wen spoke in support of a Rainbow Key award for Michaela Mendelsohn, who helped with Trans Voter Empowerment and is an example of a transgender lesbian woman.

3. Nadia Sutton spoke in support of a Rainbow Key award for Michaela Mendelsohn, who mentored many trans women. She congratulated Robert Gamboa and James Duke Mason on the rally held Thursday.

4. Jimmy Palmieri invited Board Members to the 10th anniversary screening of "Tweakers" on Feb. 17. Regarding Rainbow Key awards, he

spoke in support of Cleve Jones, Ruth Tittle, Steven Reigns, Eric Paul Leue, and Darrel Cummings.

5. Lee Walkup spoke about the voter registration deadline; Measure H on homeless services; the Pharma town hall; and the Senior Health Fair coming up in April.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Robert Oliver asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of the six victims of a terror attack in Quebec; Ibrahima Barry, Mamadou Tanou Barry, Khaled Belkacemi, Abdelkrim Hassane, Azzeddine Soufiane, and Aboubaker Thabti. James Duke Mason asked that the meeting be adjourned in acknowledgment of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling to continue the temporary restraining order against the Administration's travel ban, and in appreciation of former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST UPDATE

Chris Classen, president of LA Pride, spoke about challenges of planning to have all of the same elements as the last Pride Festival, while losing 70% of space in West Hollywood Park due to construction. He said the event will be called LA Pride Festival and Parade this year. He invited people to the redesigned website at lapride.org.

Board members agreed by consensus to hold a special public meeting regarding Christopher Street West and 2017 LA Pride, in the Library Community Meeting Room, at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. DYKE MARCH AND LESBIAN PROGRAMMING

Elizabeth Savage introduced the subject and Social Services staff gave an update on upcoming lesbian programming, including Sister Spit and Margaret Cho. Lambda LitFest Los Angeles will be held the week of March 6-12. Board members discussed the best approach for Dyke March this year, and liked the idea of gathering at the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial, and proceeding toward the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards. Board members provided suggestions for speakers. The Board will address the subject again in March.

B. MISSION STATEMENT FOR LESBIAN VISIBILITY

Public Comment: Mike Wojtkielewicz spoke about West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, a 2003 needs assessment , and requirements for HOPWA.

Board members reviewed drafts from Sue LaVaccare and Kate Eggert, and discussed the purpose of the Lesbian Visibility Committee. The Board settled on this as a mission statement: "To establish, elevate, and strengthen lesbian visibility in the City of West Hollywood through events, safe spaces, policy and advocacy for the purpose of bringing together a diverse community of lesbians."

C. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

LGAB received 17 nominations for the 2017 Rainbow Key Awards. Members placed this topic on their March 9 agenda, to make recommendations regarding this year's awards then. The Board suggested June 14 and June 21 as possible dates for the presentations, with a meet-and-greet at 6 pm, followed by the awards presentation at 7 pm.

The nominations received are: Ally Bolour, Dr. Marie Cartier, Donato Crowley, Wilson Cruz, Darrel Cummings, GLIDE, Cleve Jones, JQ International, Steven J. Kay, Eric Paul Leue, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Michaela Mendelsohn, Puck Markham, Steven Reigns, Ruth Tittle, Rev. Jerrell Wells, and Terry Wolverton. [Note: an additional nomination, for LGBT researcher Judith Bradford, has been received since the meeting.]

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff called to the Board's attention SB 219 (Wiener), requiring long-term care facilities to refer to residents using the name and pronouns of their choosing; and SB 239 (Wiener), to modernize laws that stigmatize people living with HIV.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Wojtkielewicz said the Werle Building will be a great facility, as it is being renovated to be ADA-compliant. He spoke about Stephanie Harker and Cathy Blaivas, recipients of the Lovedy Brydon Award. He spoke about the LA LGBT Center's "F*ck W/Out Fear" campaign.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON REPORT

Robert Gamboa said Public Safety and Human Services Commissions meet next week.

B. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no additional liaison reports.

Board members discussed the Feb. 22 "Love Is All You Need?" screening, and volunteered to serve as hosts. They thanked Matt Palazzolo for preparing the flyer.

Robert Gamboa noted that there have two months in a row, December 2016 and January 2017, with no DUI arrests in West Hollywood. He noted community interest in continuing the rallies, of the kind that was held last week. He spoke about the 10th anniversary "Tweakers" screening.

Robert Gamboa requested that the LGAB place on its agenda to hold periodic meetings at the Library Community Meeting Room to provide a forum for community members to voice frustrations with the Trump Administration. There was no objection and this was placed on the agenda.

Robert Gamboa asked for the topic of supporting an active shooter training for the community to be placed on an upcoming agenda. There was no objection and this was placed on the agenda.

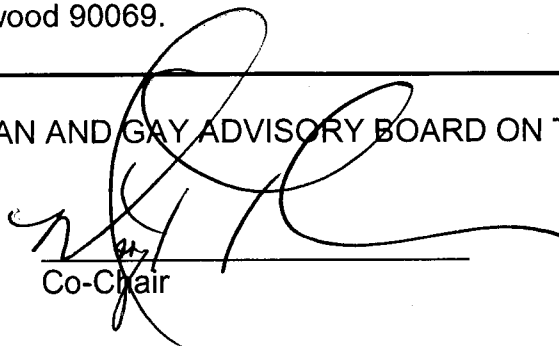
James Duke Mason spoke about organizing the recent rally with Robert Gamboa, and thanked Kristin Cook and the Sheriffs' Department for their help.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in acknowledgment of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling to continue the temporary restraining order against the Administration's travel ban; in appreciation of former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates; and in memory of the six victims of a shooting in Quebec on January 29, 2017: Ibrahima Barry, Mamadou Tanou Barry, Khaled Belkacemi, Abdelkrim Hassane, Azzeddine Soufiane, and Aboubaker Thabti.

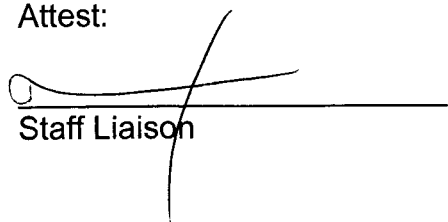
The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017, in the First-Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 9TH DAY OF MARCH 2017



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison