

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The March 9, 2017, 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 repeated.

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

There is one vacancy on the Board at this time.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were David Giugni, Social Services Manager; and David Escobedo.

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 February 9, 2017, were approved.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Robert Oliver requested to adjourn in honor of Dandara Dos Santos, a Brazilian transwoman who was 24 years old when killed for being Trans. Marquita Thomas requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of the transwomen killed during 2017 – Meshia Caldwell, Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow, Jojo Striker, Chyna Gibson, Ciara McElveen, Jaquarrius Holland, and Keke Collier. James Duke Mason requested the meeting be adjourned in recognition of Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who was the sole Member of Congress to boycott Trump's joint address to Congress on February 28, 2017.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DYKE MARCH

David Giugni spoke on the Dyke March. He provided LGAB members with a list of suggested speakers and performers, and spoke on the tone of the Dyke March becoming more of a political movement, due to the current political climate. The proposed route starts at the Sal Guarriello Veteran's Memorial Park at 7:00 pm, and makes a circle back to the Memorial, where there will be some programming. Staff stated that Supervisor Sheila Kuehl is interested in speaking at the event.

Robert Gamboa inquired if the route could be reversed. He said the Sal Guarriello Veteran's Memorial Park is small for the expected turnout, and by reversing the march route, it would bring people back to the festival. Marquita Thomas agreed and felt like there would be more events and businesses to draw the group back, if the beginning and ending point were at San Vicente Blvd. and Santa Monica Blvd. Staff took the suggestion.

Marquita Thomas and Matt Palazzolo felt that including the Dykes on Bikes for this event would be great since there was no longer a parade.

The Advisory Board thanked staff for their work and communication.

B. EVALUATION OF "LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED?" SCREENING

Megan Cotanch said there was a great turnout, and the organizers were appreciative. Robert Gamboa spoke regarding the success of the event. He spoke on the importance of having these sort of events to represent the LGBT community.

C. 2017 RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Board members discussed the nominations received for the 2017 Rainbow Key Awards. Lucas John moved to select seven honorees for 2017: Cleve Jones, JQ International, Eric Paul Leue, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Michaela Mendelsohn, Jewel Thais-Williams, and Ruth Tittle. This was seconded by Marquita Thomas, and approved unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. WORKPLAN UPDATE

Marquita Thomas spoke about Lesbian Space. She also discussed the Lesbian Activist Academy being planned for October, which the Board could co-sponsor instead of beginning their own project.

Matt Palazzolo spoke about the future of the local LGBT community. Robert Gamboa spoke on having members coming to future meeting with specific ideas. Kate Eggert brought up elements of the Dyke March being considered a success in Lesbian Space.

Members spoke about having two temporary workgroups for discussion, prior to the next meeting. The Advisory Board designated Robert Gamboa and James Duke Mason to work on LGBT Future, and Kate Eggert, Robert Oliver, and Megan Cotanch to work on Signage.

Staff updated the Board about the City conducting an active shooter training with businesses. Robert Gamboa requested that Public Safety staff attend the next LGAB and give a short presentation on this.

Staff updated regarding the Board's request to consider sponsoring a space for people to express concerns about the changes happening in the Federal government. Staff said Hernan Molina, who works on legislative issues for the City, could speak at an upcoming meeting. Robert Oliver recommended that the Board work on specific legislative issues. He moved that discussion of legislation be a regular agenda item. This was agreed upon by consensus of the Board.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON REPORT

Robert Gamboa spoke as Public Safety Commission Liaison. He said there was no significant increase in crimes against the LGBT community, but there has been an increase in crimes of opportunity and DUI's.

B. LIAISON REPORTS

Robert Gamboa, liaison to Human Services Commission, spoke about Ascencia, the City's new social services contractor for homeless services.

Board members discussed the role of John Erickson as staff liaison, and the value of having him in that role. Robert Oliver spoke about the urgency of having him back as staff liaison before the Rainbow Key event in June. Robert Gamboa recommended that all Members speak to their council members.

The Board drafted an Emergency Item. Robert Gamboa moved to state the Board's disappointment in having John Erickson removed from the Board, and to request his reassignment to the Board. This was seconded by Kate Eggert. In discussion, on recommendation by Lucas John, the Board by consensus amended the motion to be a request to have John Erickson reassigned to the Board. This passed unanimously.

Robert Oliver spoke on the Los Angeles Walk and Run coming up April 30.

Kate Eggert spoke on the Factory being put on the State Register of Historical Resources.

Members spoke on the lack of quorum for the Community Meeting for Christopher Street West. Attending members heard comments from the public of how this was disrespectful to the public, with the mayor in attendance.

Lucas John asked for an update on funding for the LGBT Music Center Youth's Program, an item the board had passed at a previous meeting.

Members requested a regular item on the agenda which would identify which items are active and which are completed.

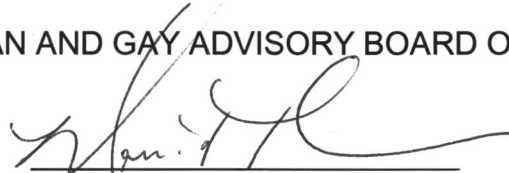
Robert Gamboa spoke on the Gay Freedom Band concert on Sunday.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Dandara Dos Santos, Mesha Caldwell, Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow, Jojo Striker, Chyna Gibson, Ciara McElveen, Jaquarrius Holland, and Keke Collier; and in recognition of Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who was the sole Member of Congress to boycott Trump's joint address to Congress on February 28, 2017.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 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 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2017



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison