

MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
7:00 PM
FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Co-Chairs James Duke Mason and Megan Cotanch called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – John Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Megan Cotanch, John Erickson, Jason Frazier,
Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, Sue LaVaccare,
James Duke Mason, Marquita Thomas.

ABSENT: Samantha D. Lavin, Lauren Costine.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Book, David Escobedo.

City Clerk Yvonne Quarker and Deputy City Clerk Melissa Crowder were also present.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on a motion by John Erickson, seconded by Jason Frazier.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2017, meeting was made by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Marquita Thomas, and approved.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Karen Eyres, interim vice president for Hollywood NOW, spoke on the Consent Calendar Item B support for a performance of "The Vagina Monologues." Karen spoke on the nature of the event and asked for the support of the Board.
2. Helen Collins, Department of Public Works staff member, spoke on the completion and grand re-opening of the Werle Building.

3. Carlos Sosa, Executive Director of C.I.T.Y.x1 Youth Group, spoke about their Thanksgiving event. Carlos asked for the Board's support of the event, which will benefit youth from shelters and youth from LGBTQi community. This would be the 13th year the City has supported this program.
4. Michael Che, Arts Division staff, spoke regarding the art programs taking place in the City, including presentations by Ramiro Gomez, the Drag Queen Story Hour, and Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre
5. David Reid, resident, spoke regarding adding the word "Pride" to the name of West Hollywood Park, for branding and sending a message to the community. He spoke on the timing and effect that this would have on social media.

F. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

John Erickson requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of lesbian historian Kate Millett, and of Edith Windsor, who was the lead plaintiff in the 2013 Supreme Court case, United States v. Windsor.

Marquita Thomas requested that the Board adjourn in memory of Derricka Lee Banner, who was the 20th Transgender person to die in the United States in 2017.

Sue LaVaccare requested that the Board adjourn in memory of lesbian filmmaker J. D. Disalvatore.

James Duke Mason requested that the Board adjourn in memory of the actor Michael E. R. Walker.

Robert Gamboa asked for the Board to have a tour of the completed Werle Building.

Marquita Thomas moved that the request from C.I.T.Y.x1 be placed on next month's agenda. This was seconded by John Erickson, and passed unanimously.

In response to a question from John Erickson, Helen Collins gave details as to the number of rooms and groups that will be using the Werle Building. She also spoke on the technical aspects of the rooms.

James Duke Mason spoke on the rebranding of West Hollywood Park and the LGBT Signage committee.

Staff requested that Items 4.A. and 4.B. be moved up on the agenda as a courtesy to guests. This was unanimously approved.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

James Duke Mason moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Robert Gamboa seconded, and this passed unanimously.

A. "CELEBRATE BISEXUALITY DAY"

ACTION: The Board recommended that the City recognize Sept. 23 as "Celebrate Bisexuality Day." [Staff Update: The City Council presented this proclamation at its Sept. 18 meeting.]

B. PERFORMANCE OF "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES"

ACTION: The Board endorsed the planned February 2018 Hollywood NOW performance of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," and asked for this to be conveyed to the group.

The next two items were intentionally taken out of agenda order, as a courtesy to guests.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018 ONE CITY ONE PRIDE GRANT REVIEW (PRIDE MONTH)

Michael Che invited the Board to designate a representative to serve on the review committee for One City One Pride arts grants. The review committee will meet on November 2 to rate the applications.

John Erickson asked how the Board could be more visible at events. Michael Che said that the Board is welcome to participate in events and promotion. He will distribute a schedule to the Board.

ACTION: John Erickson volunteered to serve as the LGAB's designee, and this was unanimously approved.

B. PULSE NIGHTCLUB REMEMBRANCE PLAQUE

Helen Collins said the City is planning to place a plaque in memory of the Pulse Nightclub attack on June 12, 2016, in Orlando, Florida. She spoke about the approval process for plaques or monuments, and asked for the Board's input on location. The wording of the plaque has not yet been determined.

John Erickson recommended having the plaque on a raised surface so people will not walk over it. Lucas John recommended a location in West Hollywood Park, and consideration of unique design

incorporating a rainbow. Marquita Thomas spoke about the high impact this memorial may have, and said the location will be an important decision.

ACTION: The Board unanimously approved placing a discussion of location of the Pulse Nightclub remembrance plaque on the next agenda.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

John Erickson asked the City Clerk if the Board is able to recommend to the City Council that they support specific bills in Congress or the State Legislature and instruct the City's our lobbyist to support them as well. The City Clerk said this could be done but the Board should work through staff to determine if the City already supports the legislation. The Board discussed ways to increase awareness of pending legislation and how they can have a constructive impact on it.

B. CONNECTION WITH THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

Robert Gamboa said the Board continues to be interested in connecting with members of the Bisexual community. If the City agrees to provide a proclamation for Celebrate Bisexuality Day, John Erickson will invite Mimi Hoang and Robert Ozn to accept it.

C. SCHEDULING A WORKPLAN STUDY SESSION

The Board discussed the schedule for a workplan study session to be held separately from the regular Commission meeting. Oct. 16 is still the preferred date. Since the City Hall community meeting room is unavailable then, staff will look for an alternate location.

4. NEW BUSINESS

C. TELEVISED MEETING

Staff updated the Board that a televised meeting must be approved by the City Council. John Erickson supported having a televised meeting for transparency and visibility, such as the meeting at which Rainbow Key and Melissa Etheridge Award nominees are considered. He said members of the City Council or local organizations could be invited, and information about PEP and PrEP could be provided. James Duke Mason supported having a televised meeting of consideration of Rainbow Key nominees, to show how these decisions are reached.

ACTION: The Board will ask the City Council to approve televising

the February 2018 meeting of the Board, which is scheduled to consider Rainbow Key nominations. This was moved by John Erickson, seconded by Megan Cotanch, and passed unanimously.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reported that Board Member Lauren Costine has asked for an item on the next agenda to discuss sponsoring Charlene Liu, founder of Shanghai Pride, to visit the United States in June 2018, perhaps in cooperation with other groups.

Staff announced that programs of Be Well WeHo are occurring. Flyers were distributed, and information is available online.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON REPORT

There was no report from liaison to the Public Safety Commission. The Board discussed whether it was necessary to continue having this liaison listed separately on the agenda. John Erickson moved to condense the Public Safety liaison report with other liaison reports. This was seconded by Marquita Thomas and approved unanimously.

B. OTHER LIAISON REPORTS

Marquita Thomas spoke about attending a Business License Commission meeting which addressed conditional use permits for extended hours. John Erickson spoke about attending the Transgender Advisory Board, where an FBI representative spoke.

C. OTHER ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

John Erickson asked that co-sponsorship of Zoe Nicholson's project to bring increased attention to the work of Alice Paul (1885-1977) be placed on the next agenda. This was seconded by Megan Cotanch, and unanimously approved. [Staff update: due to the artist's schedule, this has been postponed.]

John Erickson asked that a discussion be placed on the next agenda regarding sponsoring a screening of "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson" (2017, directed by David France) in conjunction with Harvey Milk Day. This was seconded by James

Duke Mason and unanimously approved.

Jason Frazier spoke about the LA LGBT Center's 48th Anniversary Gala and Vanguard Awards, being held Sept. 23 at the Beverly Hilton, and honoring Ari Emmanuel, co-CEO of WME-IMG, and Valerie Jarrett, former senior advisor to President Obama. The LA LGBT Center is also presenting the 25th Anniversary Models of Pride, an all-day LGBTQ Youth Conference, at the University of Southern California, on Oct. 29, 2017.

Sue LaVaccare spoke about the "Will & Grace" viewing party being given by Human Rights Campaign at The Abbey on Sept. 28.

Robert Gamboa spoke about the recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, and about organizing a group where people can share reactions to events such as these. He also spoke about giving a speech on suicide prevention.

Megan Cotanch spoke about the training for Commission and Advisory Board members provided recently by the City, and asked if materials can be provided to members who may have missed it. She also spoke about security at meetings. The Co-Chairs, Megan Cotanch and James Duke Mason, also received a training in chairing meetings from the City.

The Board discussed ways to increase connections between the City Council and the Advisory Board.

Staff said that Councilmember John D'Amico and Mayor Pro Tempore John Duran would like to speak to the October 12 meeting of the Board regarding the 2018 CSW PRIDE event. Lucas John spoke about the need to maintain clear awareness that CSW is in charge of the event. James Duke Mason moved to place the discussion with the Councilmembers on the agenda. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and unanimously approved.

Marquita Thomas spoke about Equality California's Los Angeles Equality Awards, to be held Sept. 16, with the keynote address from Congressman Adam Schiff, who represents West Hollywood. She also spoke about the 5th Annual LGBT Mega Mixer, being planned by the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce for October 4 at the W Hollywood; and about the Live Love Thrive Women's Conference planned for November 3-4 in the City Council Chambers.

John Erickson moved that the Event and Film Services Division of

the Economic Development Department be requested to give a presentation to the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board before the end of 2017 on current requirements for special events in the City. This was seconded by Marquita Thomas, and passed unanimously.

Sue LaVaccare spoke about an event held Sept. 17 by OutRight Action International (formerly the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission), and about an event featuring Congressman Mark Takano.

James Duke Mason spoke about the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporations' 6th Annual Gala, to be held October 19 at The London West Hollywood.

Robert Gamboa moved to place on the next agenda Lauren Costine's requested item about sponsoring a trip to the United States by Charlene Liu, founder of Shanghai Pride. This was seconded by Marquita Thomas and passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:51 pm in memory of Kate Millett, Edith Windsor, Derricka Lee Banner, J. D. Disalvatore, and Michael E. R. Walker.


The next regular meeting is at 7 pm, Tuesday, October 12, 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 12TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2017.



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison