

MINUTES
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
OCTOBER 12, 2017

7:00 PM

FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Co-Chair Megan Cotanch called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Sue LaVaccare led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Lauren Costine, Megan Cotanch, John Erickson, Jason Frazier, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, Sue LaVaccare, Samantha D. Lavin, James Duke Mason.

ABSENT: Marquita Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Jeff Book, and David Escobedo..

Mayor Pro Tempore John J. Duran and Councilmember John D'Amico were also present.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on a motion by John Erickson, seconded by James Duke Mason.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2017, meeting was made by John Erickson, seconded by Jason Frazier, and approved.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lee Walkup, West Hollywood resident and Senior Advisory Board liaison, spoke on National Coming Out Day. Walkup spoke on Disability Awareness Month. Walkup spoke on the upcoming Board and Commissions Congress. Walkup spoke regarding on a projected pharma event and the Affordable Care Act.

2. Jaye Johnson, Chair of the Transgender Advisory Board spoke regarding "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson," a film which is on the agenda for consideration tonight. Johnson said the transgender community is calling for a boycott of this film and writing Netflix and asking them to better vet their films.
3. Alexis Sanchez, member of the Transgender Advisory Board, spoke on the Transgender Day of Remembrance and Transgender Awareness Month. Sanchez also spoke on the boycott of "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson."

F. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Robert Gamboa requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Scott "Wolfgang" Herman and Robert Meese. He also requested to adjourn in memory of victims in Puerto Rico, victims of the fires in Anaheim, victims of storms in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana, and victims from the recent shooting in Las Vegas. Staff asked that the board adjourn in memory of composer Michael Friedman.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Consent Calendar was moved by James Duke Mason, seconded by Megan Cotanch, and approved unanimously.

A. CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE C.I.T.Y.X1 THANKSGIVING EVENT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

The Board approved a proposal to ask the City Council to renew the City's co-sponsorship of The C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group's "The Big Feast," their pre-Thanksgiving event for LGBTQ youth.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2017 AND 2018 CSW PRIDE EVENTS

The Board welcomed Councilmember John D'Amico and Mayor Pro Tempore John Duran, who are the City Council's subcommittee for Christopher Street West (CSW). Councilmember D'Amico spoke on the 2017 community meetings, which occurred in response to 2016 LA Pride. He spoke about the updates that CSW gives during Council meetings, and about the protest march held in 2017. Councilmember Duran spoke on changes in CSW, and about the role that criticism of LA Pride has played over the years.

Chris Classen, president of CSW, spoke about previous years of CSW. He spoke about some wanting to continue with the protest-march form of the event. He spoke on the much smaller West Hollywood Park footprint of the Festival during park construction. He spoke on CSW board elections, and asked for ideas on who should be the Grand Marshal this year.

Robert Gamboa asked if community meetings would happen again this year. Classen replied that there are no community meetings planned this year, but he would attend any meeting facilitated by the board.

Megan Cotanch spoke regarding this Board always being seen as representatives of LA Pride. Classen replied that the City and CSW are sometimes erroneously viewed as the same thing.

Councilmember D'Amico spoke on the distinction between programming by the City and by CSW. Councilmember D'Amico spoke on the City's interest in taking more ownership over Friday events, and having LA Pride become part of One City, One Pride. John Erickson spoke on the need for creating the distinction between Friday night programming belonging to the City, and Saturday programming belonging to CSW.

Chris Classen spoke on ticketing information reflecting regional statistics, which may be different from the impression of night life in West Hollywood.

Megan Cotanch spoke regarding the increase of hospitalized incidents from alcohol intake. Chris Classen spoke on safeguards to prevent overserving and underage consumption. He spoke people who may drink before the festival, and felt the uptick in hospitalized incidents from alcohol intake were from the whole city, instead of specifically the festival.

Sue LaVaccare said CSW could promote "not overdrinking" in its messaging. Councilmember D'Amico spoke on an alcohol liaison officer that works with the bars. Councilmember D'Amico also spoke about the marijuana possibly being incorporated into the festival. Councilmember Duran spoke on the preservation of LGBT culture and the importance of commercial businesses focused on LGBT audiences.

John Erickson spoke about the possibility of having a representation of LGAB at CSW meetings.

Councilmember D'Amico spoke on transgender programming and the desire for a greater presence of the Transgender Advisory Board in CSW planning.

Duke Mason spoke regarding commercial and residential changes in the West Hollywood community.

Board Members thanked Mayor Pro Tem Duran, Councilmember D'Amico, and Chris Classen for participating in the meeting.

B. PULSE NIGHTCLUB REMEMBRANCE PLAQUE

The Board had been asked to make a recommendation for the location of a new City plaque remembering the victims of the 2016 shootings at the Pulse Orlando nightclub. A subcommittee reported options.

After discussion, the Board settled on recommending the following language for the plaque:

“In memory of the 49 LGBT people and allies who lost their lives on June 12, 2016, at the Pulse Orlando nightclub in Florida, and of all victims of gun violence.”

The Board would like the plaque to include the names and, space permitting, the ages of the 49 victims at Pulse Orlando.

The Board adopted recommendations on design, in this order:

- (1) A rainbow-tinted metal sphere on a base, with the Pulse heartbeat symbol going all the way around the sphere.
- (2) A triangle-shaped memorial, on top of black marble.
- (3) A rough granite memorial, with the plaque and emblem embedded in it.

The Board adopted recommendations on location, as follows:

- (1) The northeast corner of West Hollywood Park, where the walkway points come together. This would make it the first thing a person sees when walking south toward the park.
- (2) The small extension of West Hollywood Park next to The Abbey, on the east side of Robertson Boulevard.

C. SPONSORSHIP OF VISIT BY CO-FOUNDER OF SHANGHAI PRIDE

Board members discussed the possibility of hosting or co-hosting a Pride Month visit to West Hollywood by Charlene Liu, including the possibility of bringing in additional sponsors; making remarks by the guest part of the Human Rights Speakers Series; and cooperating with the LA LGBT Center, which includes Chinese leaders in its Emerging Leaders program.

D. SCHEDULING A WORKPLAN STUDY SESSION

The Board decided that a workplan study session will be held during their regular meeting time on November 9, 2017.

John Erickson noted the time and made a motion to extending the meeting by 15 minutes. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa, and adopted 8 to 1, with Jason Frazier opposed.

E. PUBLIC MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Robert Gamboa and James Duke Mason reported on behalf of their subcommittee about the desire to hold a public meeting on the subject of the identity and future of the LGBT community. Staff recommended that if the forum is intended to include LGBT, it should include a representative from the Transgender Advisory Board.

Robert Gamboa made a motion to seek collaboration with the Transgender Advisory Board in creating a community forum to gain feedback with a short list of topics. This was seconded by Sue LaVaccare, and unanimously passed. Samantha Lavin was momentarily out of the room at the time this vote was taken.

F. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

John Erickson spoke about the large number of bills that are awaiting signature or veto from Governor Brown.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON

In light of the recent challenges to this movie, John Erickson asked that consideration of sponsoring it be tabled indefinitely. This was seconded by Megan Cotanch and unanimously approved.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke on the One City One Pride Festival and related events. Staff spoke on the health and wellness event hosted by the Disability Advisory Board. Staff spoke on the survey for the HIV Zero Initiative Health Survey. Staff spoke about the upcoming retirement of the Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

Members discussed their attendance and experience at other boards and commissions.

C. OTHER ITEMS FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

John Erickson attended the Women's Advisory Board, and provided information on the Live Love Thrive event, She Tank, and the City's

Matters of Mind forum. He thanked Elizabeth Savage for her service.

Jason Frazier spoke about the LA LGBT Center's October 29 Models of Pride conference and the November 9 Trans Job Fair to be held in the West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

Lauren Costine, Robert Gamboa, Megan Cotanch, Lucas John, James Duke Mason, and Sue LaVaccare all thanked Elizabeth Savage and wished her good fortune on her next adventure.

Robert Gamboa thanked two members of the forthcoming Bisexual subcommittee for attending this meeting.

Megan Cotanch asked that the format for the next Rainbow Keys Awards be added to the study session agenda. There was no objection.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was adjourned at 9:27 pm in memory of Scott "Wolfgang" Herman, Robert Meese, Michael Friedman, and all victims of the hurricanes and storms in Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas, and Louisiana; of the fires in Anaheim; and of the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas.

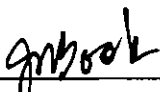
The next regular meeting is at 7 pm, Tuesday, November 9, 2017, in the First Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

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



Co-Chair

Attest:



Staff Liaison