

**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2019
7 PM
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa.

1. A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Giugni led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Lauren Costine, Marna Deitch, Billy Francesca,
Robert Gamboa, Lucas Junkin, James Duke Mason,
Alana Roshay, Sarah Whitaker

ABSENT: Jason Frazier, Zekiah N. Wright, Esq.

ALSO PRESENT: Corri Planck, David Giugni, Corey Roskin,
Joan Mithers, Jeff Book

Board Member Whitaker joined the meeting at 7:30 pm.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda of Thursday, December 12, 2019, noting that New Business Items 4A, 4B, and 4C will be taken up prior to Items 3A, 3B, and 3C. Motion by Co-Chair Roshay, seconded by Board Member Costine, and approved 7 to 0.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approval of the minutes for October 10, 2019, was deferred to the next meeting.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Alexis Sanchez spoke on alcohol- and drug-free events on behalf of the West Hollywood Project. #BOOM! will be held New Year's Eve at West Hollywood Park Auditorium. Safe WeHo Community Coalition meets next week. Naming a liaison to Transgender Advisory Board would facilitate collaboration.

2. David Britz spoke about creating a Rainbow District; about good ideas that don't get followed through on; about Seattle's Gay City University, with volunteers teaching classes and passing along the history; and about West Hollywood becoming a community focused on wealthier people.

3. Sue Sexton, former Advisory Board co-chair, asked for the meeting to adjourn in memory of Steve Ganzell, former co-president of CSW, and in memory of Dan Berkowitz, the Advisory Board's longtime co-chair. She brought greetings from former co-chair Ivy Bottini, now living in Florida, who also asked that the meeting adjourn in memory of Dan Berkowitz.

F. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Francesca asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Jason Bell.

Board Member Costine spoke about working on a community forum.

Board Member Mason spoke about working on a community forum and asked for more information on the City's streetscape project, particularly whether any LGBT-related items were included.

Board Member Deitch spoke about the "Vision 2030" documentary by West Hollywood resident Betsy Kalin, showing on Spectrum's Channel 1.

Co-Chair Roshay asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of the victims of 331 Trans killings in 2019.

Co-Chair Gamboa asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Justin Wells, co-founder of Westwind Recovery, and reiterated the requests in memory of Steve Ganzell, Dan Berkowitz, and Jason Bell.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. LESBIAN SPEAKER SERIES

Corey Roskin spoke about the Lesbian Speaker Series that the City has sponsored each year since 2015, and distributed programming information for the upcoming season. Input is welcome, and speakers are invited from a wide range of topics, not only arts and entertainment.

B. 2019 HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

Corri Planck said 68 surveys were received, which represents more than half of the 131 persons reported in the most recent count of those experiencing homelessness in West Hollywood. Compared to similar information for Los Angeles County, those in West Hollywood were younger, and more likely to identify as LGB. A majority of 55.89% identified as LGB, the first time a majority has responded this way. David Giugni discussed comparing figures with the County and said the report has been presented to the City Council.

Board Member Mason asked if it was known why there was an increase in the share identifying as LGB.

Co-Chair Gamboa asked what the Board's parameters in responding to the information in the report and spoke about adding an item to the Board's workplan regarding homelessness.

C. REPORT ON THE MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM (MET)

Corri Planck said the City funds its own 40-hour/week team at the Sheriff's Office to provide support on mental issues, above and beyond the Los Angeles County team that does this. Board Members spoke about helping

seniors stay in their homes, and about promoting the information that Sheriff's officers in West Hollywood receive training on de-escalating situations that may be affected by mental issues. Staff noted that Board Members were interested in receiving training on next steps in dealing with erratic behavior or those who may have dementia.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Without objection, items were taken up in different order due to time constraints.

C. LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Co-Chair Gamboa moved to create a Rainbow Key committee that will help plan for the next Rainbow Key Awards, tentatively being held in June 2020. This was seconded by Board Member Junkin and approved 8 to 0. The Board approved Board Members Deitch and Francesca as initial members of this committee.

Co-Chair Roshay moved to create the Dyke March and Etheridge Award committee, to lead in planning for the 2020 Dyke March and for presentation of the next Etheridge Award. This was seconded by Board Member Costine and approved 8 to 0. Co-Chair Roshay and Board Members Costine, Deitch, Whitaker, and Wright are the members.

A. LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD WORKPLAN

Board Members discussed the Workplan they began developing at their recent retreat and added at least one strategy or task for each of the identified goals for 2020. Among the topics were a community forum with the Transgender Advisory Board to address issues of identity and progress toward equality; annual programs such as Rainbow Key and the Etheridge Award; a Lesbian Visibility Day in coordination with the Lesbian Speaker Series; and Bi Visibility.

B. UPDATE: CENSUS 2020 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

This item was postponed to a later meeting.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

There were no items on Excluded Consent Calendar.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Corri Planck said Public Facility staff will present an item within 90 days on the Pulse memorial planned for West Hollywood Park. Board Member Mason said this was requested two years ago and asked why it was taking so long. Corri Planck noted the Park has been affected by construction for some time.

Corri Planck said there will be a special push for the Clothing Drive for the LGBT Center's Youth program will be held January 13-21 in the City Hall lobby. Donations can also be dropped off at any time during the year.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this time.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no liaison reports.

B. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Junkin requested for the agenda in January or February to include discussion of why the “God Hates Fags” group has the best position on the Pride parade route. He asked who applies for the space and whether they have a permit for speakers. Corri Planck said staff would find out if this is done by the City or CSW.

Board Member Mason spoke about exhaustion with the number of items from the Advisory Board that have been repeatedly delayed or quashed by the City, including the Pulse memorial and the scholarship in memory of Matt Palazzolo.

Co-Chair Gamboa attended the C.I.T.Y.x1 Youth Group’s pre-Thanks-giving event, saying many young people were present and the City should be proud to support it. Co-Chair Gamboa said Co-Chairs Gamboa and Roshay and Board Member Wright were meeting with Mayor D’Amico to discuss frustration with Advisory Board plans not being accomplished.

Co-Chair Roshay said the Co-Chairs were creating a system that would hold Board Members accountable for following through on items and thanked Human Rights Campaign Los Angeles (HRCLA) for “The L Word: Generation Q Premiere Party,” held December 8 at Palihouse West Hollywood.

Co-Chair Gamboa said the LA LGBT Center is holding a Debate Watch at 6 pm on December 19, 2019.

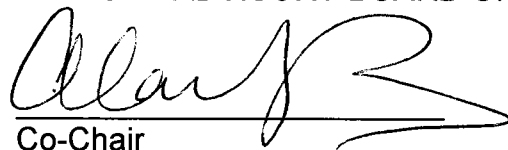
- 9. ADJOURNMENT:** In memory of Steve Ganzell, Dan Berkowitz, Jason Bell, Justin Wells, and the victims of 331 Trans killings in 2019, the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was adjourned at 9:22 pm to its next regular meeting, to be held Thursday, January 9, 2020, beginning at 7:00 pm, in the First-Floor Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 9TH DAY OF JANUARY 2020.

Attest:

Secretary




Co-Chair