

**MINUTES  
TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

**\*TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Rostovsky called the meeting to order at 6pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Rostovsky led the pledge of allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL –**

PRESENT:           **Member Deaton  
Member De La Cruz  
Member Samala  
Member Wen  
Vice Chair Sanchez  
Chair Rostovsky**

ABSENT:           **Member Monroy**

4. **ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER**  
Councilmember Sepi Shyne administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Member Blossom-Christhelle Brown.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
**ACTION:** The Transgender Advisory Board approved the agenda of the January 6, 2021 meeting. **Motioned by Vice Chair Sanchez, seconded by Member Samala and approved unanimously.**
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**ACTION:** The Transgender Advisory Board approved the minutes of the December 2, 2020 regular meeting. **Motioned by Member Samala, seconded by Vice Chair Sanchez and approved unanimously.**
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair of LGAB, asked the Board if they would be interested in a co-sponsorship of a community forum partnership with the TAB.

Dr. Shannon Kozlovich, Program Manager of Equality California, addressed the TAB about tobacco control and the effects it has on the transgender community.

Ashlei Shyne, resident, congratulated her sister, Member Brown, on being sworn in.

## **8. MEMBER COMMENTS**

Member Wen wished everyone a Happy New Year and commented on the events in the recent news. He welcomed Member Brown to the Board. Member Wen acknowledged Councilmember Shyne and thanked the speakers from public comment. He also provided the board with an update on Climate Action Plan liaison work that he has been involved in. Member Wen requested a quarterly report agenda item on transgender medical service providers addressing health matters, local and around the world. He spoke on the possibility of working with billboard companies so that hate speech is avoided. Lastly, he asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of four (4) transgender community members: Kimberly Fial, Jaheim Pugh Jaheim Barbie, Courtney “Eshay” Kay and Alexandria Winchester.

Member Deaton wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed new Councilmember Shyne and her spouse and thanked WAB Co-Chair Gamboa for his attendance. She provided TAB with an update on WAB’s V-Day event which would include an event for transgender fallen women needing feedback on a flag. She expressed a need for a subcommittee dedicated to Trans Safety like WAB has for women’s safety. Lastly, Member Deaton requested direction on how to establish a workplan and shared TDOV ideas.

Member Brown expressed her gratefulness to be joining the board on today, officially. She also shared how the recent new events were affecting her.

Member Samala thanked new Councilmember Shyne for attending the meeting and welcomed Member Brown to the Board.

Vice Chair Sanchez welcomed Member Brown to the Board and thanked everyone who spoke during public comments. She talked about a recent experience with the medical field and how insensitive the languages, policies and procedures are to the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming/Gender Non-Binary community. Vice Chair Sanchez also talked about the effects of COVID on Community and challenged the Board to use their voice to be educate others on the benefit of the vaccination. Lastly, she requested the Board to start exploring what systemic racism actually looks like in the trans community and how it impacts others.

Chair Rostovsky spoke in support of a subcommittee for Trans Safety. He addressed the hate speech in a billboard on the outside of the City's border. Chair Rostovsky asked Community to use their voice for change and welcomed everyone to reach out to the Board for liaison work they can do to help make a difference.

Hernan Molina, TAB Staff Liaison, provided an update on the billboard.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 9.A. Transgender Day of Visibility Round Table – March 2021

The Transgender Advisory Board discussed how to best observe Transgender Day of Visibility, which is officially observed on March 31, 2021

**ACTIONS:** 1) Considered different options for the City of West Hollywood and its Transgender Advisory Board to observe Transgender Day of Visibility, including but not limited to hosting a round table/public forum on trans-specific legislative initiatives at the state and federal levels; 2) Created a sub-committee and appointed three (3) board members to plan and develop a round table/ public forum along with City staff; 3) Explored partnering with organizations working to raise the visibility of the transgender community and the challenges it faces. **Received and filed. No action required.**

Chair Rostovsky reminded the Board of previous conversations of a Visibility Roundtable.

Member Deaton supported the idea of a roundtable and asked who the target audience is. She expressed the importance of collaborating with other agencies / Boards.

Member Brown shared her support to a roundtable and the importance of setting the intentions of the roundtable with accurate representation for all siblings in the Community.

Member Wen spoke with the national organizer for TDOV March and they have shown interest in a collaboration. He mentioned having a forum that talks about how community members can advocate when they are in front of a legislature.

Chair Rostovsky asked to agendaize the program Member Wen is talking about so that it can be an invite that gets catered to with detail and not rushed for TDOV.

Member Deaton said to agendaize "Committee and Liaison Report" as a regular ongoing agenda item.

Staff proposed, in place of a roundtable, there be a news segment report to help community understand legislation. Staff proposed creating a subcommittee and coming back to the board.

Member Deaton shared that we need to remember this the one time the community gets to be seen in a positive light.

Subcommittee for TDOV Roundtable is Chair Rostovsky, Member Wen and Member Brown.

#### **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Dee Saunders, Recording Secretary, wished everyone a Happy New Year, welcomed Member Brown to the Board and encouraged everyone to continue to take care of themselves.

#### **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Seven Graham, West Hollywood resident, welcomed Member Brown and thanked the Board for their work on behalf of Community. They expressed interest in serving the Community as a Board Member and staff directed them to reach out to Council.

#### **13. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Member Samala wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged them to stay safe.

Member Brown thanked the Board for their work and shared how grateful she is to see what 2021 has in store.

Member Deaton asked to have a regular agenda item after “Unfinished Business” that is for liaison updates, for Members who are doing collaborative work with other Boards/Commissions and support agencies. Lastly, she wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Member Wen welcomed Member Brown and thanked the Board for a wonderful meeting. Lastly, he shared how he is looking forward to the work that will be done in 2021.

Vice Chair Sanchez shared an upcoming virtual talent show and encouraged LA area Community members to participate. Lastly, she wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to practice self-care.

Chair Rostovsky welcomed Member Brown and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Transgender Advisory Board adjourned **at 7:33pm** to its next meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM via teleconference.

Jacob Rostovsky  
Transgender Advisory Board Chair

Hernan Molina  
Staff Liaison

**A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.**

***(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore, the recordings are not of commercial quality.)***