

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL
1ST FLOOR – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90069**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Egbuniwe called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Read by Chair Egbuniwe

“The West Hollywood LGBTQ+ Commission acknowledges that the land on which we gather and that is currently known as the City of West Hollywood is the occupied, unceded, seized territory of the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kizh peoples.”

B. ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED LGBTQ+ COMMISSION MEMBER

The Oath of Office was administered to newly appointed member Michael Roberts by Councilmember Heilman.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. ROLL CALL

Present Commission Chair Chiedu Egbuniwe
Commission Vice Chair Amber Whittington
Commissioner Ron Cortes
Commissioner Michael Roberts
Commissioner Alec White

Absent: Commissioner NiK Kacy
Commissioner Renee Sotile

Also Present: Commission Liaison Jennifer Del Toro
Recording Secretary Moya Márquez
Community Services Director Yvonne Quarker
Councilmember John Heilman

E. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 14, 2024 AGENDA

The Commission was asked to approve the March 14, 2024 Meeting Agenda as posted.

ACTION: Approval of the March 14, 2024 Agenda as posted was **motioned by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Whittington, and approved unanimously.**

F. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2024 MINUTES

The Commission was asked to approve the February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: Approval of the February 8, 2024, meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Whittington, and approved unanimously.**

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

The Commission received a schedule of the City's Advisory Board and Commission Meetings and were asked to discuss if any LGBTQ+ Commissioner wishes to serve as an official liaison from the LGBTQ+ Commission to another City Advisory Board or Commission.

ACTION: The Commission agreed by consensus to table this item to the April 11, 2024 meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS – LIST OF 2024 NOMINATIONS FOR REVIEW

The Commission received a list of all eligible nominations (of which there are 23) received for the 2024 Rainbow Key Awards. The Commission was asked to return prepared to the April 11, 2024 meeting to make no more than 5 awardee recommendations, based on the City's award guidelines.

Commissioner Cortes asked when the Rainbow Key Awards will be held in 2024. Staff Liaison Del Toro explained that staff is open to any time the Commission proposes, provided there is availability of event space and staff time.

ACTION: Received and filed.

B. LESBIAN & QUEER WOMEN'S VISIBILITY WEEK

The Commission received an update from staff on the upcoming Lesbian &

Queer Women's Visibility Week, and were asked to consider forming a Subcommittee to help organize the event.

Staff is currently working with community partners including Fan Girl Café and the L Project to bring events to the City during this week. At this time, staff is looking at having three events (one event will be held at Fan Girl Café, one event will be a film screening, and one event will be a park day).

Vice Chair Whittington and Commissioner Roberts expressed interest in being part of the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS: 1) Received and filed the verbal report from staff.
2) Approval of the creation of a Lesbian and Queer Women Visibility Week Subcommittee consisting of Commission Vice Chair Whittington and Commissioner Roberts, was **motioned by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Egbuniwe and approved unanimously.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Green, Co-Chair Pro Tempore of the LA County Commission on HIV, notified the Commission of current initiatives, as well as shared that the County Commission has various vacancies.

5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner White shared that he reviewed the Rainbow Key Award nominees and is excited to have a discussion the following month. He also congratulated Commissioner Roberts for his appointment.

Commissioner Cortes shared that he was able to attend the last two concerts as part of the City's WeHo Sounds program. He also explained that he was interested in information about a LGBTQ+ Homeless inclement weather shelter. He also congratulated Commissioner Roberts for his appointment.

Commissioner Roberts expressed his enthusiasm for being on the Commission. He shared that he was interested in information about the City's relationship with local businesses and what, if any, inclusivity incentives can be shared with businesses.

Vice-Chair Whittington congratulated Commissioner Roberts on his appointment. She also encouraged her colleagues to volunteer for the Rainbow Key Awards Subcommittee. She shared that she would discuss with staff ways to hold local businesses accountable for discrimination.

Chair Egbuniwe congratulated Commissioner Roberts on his appointment. He also shared that the Women's Advisory Board had previously created programs

to encourage training for local bars and nightclubs on nighttime safety. He also shared that he was recently on a City panel to encourage the community to create a new strategic plan for the City.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, shared that staff will be providing a presentation at the April meeting on various social services that the City provides. She also shared that moving forward, members of the public will be able to call in to provide public comment via Zoom. Finally, she shared that a request for information was received for costs related to the Rainbow Key Awards. The total was \$4,362 for the Rainbow Key Awards, including performers, rentals, technical assistance, food, flowers, and award manufacturing.

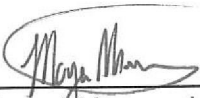
7. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to be held in West Hollywood City Hall - 1st Floor Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION ON THIS 11th DAY OF APRIL 2024.



Chiedu Egbuniwe | Commission Chair



Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary