

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024**

**West Hollywood City Hall Community Conference Room  
at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Volman called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – Chair Volman read the Land Acknowledgement
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Volman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Diana Volman, Oleg Volovik, Sasha Razor, German Simakovski, Liudmila Raskin, Lyubov Levitan, Raisa Aguf, Myroslava Rytko.

**ABSENT:** Eugene Maysky.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Staff liaison Tatyana Rodzinek

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
**SUBJECT:** *The Russian-speaking Advisory Board was requested to approve the agenda of Tuesday, December 17, 2024 regular Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting.*  
**ACTION:** Motion by member Aguf to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Levitan, motion passed by a roll call vote.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**SUBJECT:** *The Russian-speaking Advisory Board was requested to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024, Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting.*  
**ACTION:** Motion by member Levitan to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Maysky, motion passed by a roll call vote.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**Nadezhda Melamud**, the Los Angeles resident spoke about casting for a short film in Russian language. Nadezhda encouraged the board members to find Russian speaking community members willing to showcase their talent.  
**Leonid Dunaevskiy**, volunteer for the Russian language Library spoke about the library, its programming and their idea to install a little library with Russian Books in Plummer Park. Leonid also talked about Lectures, grants, sponsorships.  
**Mark Gekht**, spoke about the Russian Language Library and events.
8. **RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

## 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 9.A. WEST HOLLYWOOD RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH - DISCUSSION ON 2025 EVENTS

**SUBJECT:** The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the 2025 cultural events that highlight the cultural heritage of the Russian-speaking Community.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** – The board continued its discussion on programming for the event, focusing on the fashion show element.

**Public Comment: Natalia Korol** spoke about her company and said that she would provide the links to the events produced in the past and will provide a budget for "Daughter and Mother Fashion Show".

**Raisa Aguf**, recommended Flamenco Dances group. Raisa also suggested poems dedicated to women.

**Public Comment: Marina Goldshtein** suggested that local literary Club participate in the presentation. Marina also said that JFS will be responsible for flowers.

**Board members** also spoke about inviting artists and vendors, they also spoke about Women's Photo Portrait Contest, they also suggested a Kohout game. Additionally, the contest theme was explored, aiming to celebrate the connections between mothers, daughters, grandchildren, and grandmothers. Suggested ideas included themes like "Mother and Son Bonding," "Share Your Mom's Moment," or other creative concepts to highlight these cherished relationships.

Staff confirmed that Michelle the singer confirmed her participation.

**YOM HASHOAH EVENT** - the board discussed possible options for the screening of a feature film, they also discussed various ideas for the event, such as:

#### 1. Children & Teens

- **Storytelling Circle:** Invite Holocaust survivors or authors of age-appropriate books to share stories.
- **Art Workshop:** Create symbolic art pieces to represent resilience and remembrance.
- **Interactive Museum Experience:** Set up an interactive exhibit featuring personal artifacts or multimedia presentations of survivor stories.

#### 2. Adults & Seniors

- **Keynote Speaker and Panel Discussion:** Feature survivors, historians, and human rights activists discussing the Holocaust's impact and lessons for today.

- **Film Screening and Q&A:** Show a documentary like *The Last Days* or *Shoah*, followed by a discussion with local experts.
- **Candlelight Vigil:** Incorporate music, readings, and the lighting of candles in memory of victims.

### 3. All Ages

- **Community Art Installation:** A collaborative piece where participants can contribute thoughts, poems, or art on tiles or banners.
- **“Yearbook:”** A book compiled of one-page stories of Holocaust survivors (can be online)
- **Short film screening:** If a feature film is too long, a screening of a short film might be a viable solution.
  1. “Shoes”
  2. “Brutus”
  3. “Violin”

**VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY-** Staff informed the board that she contacted the Hollywood American Legion and **Helix Collective Ensemble** who will produce a program for the event and will include the youth element which will add a meaningful and engaging program that could add depth and variety to the event. Chair Volman made a motion to pic a day for screening a movie dedicated to the WWII Anniversary. Member Aguf seconded the motion. Motion passed by a roll call vote. The boardmembers also discussed the following:

1. **Veteran Recognition Ceremony:** a formal ceremony honoring the remaining veterans, presenting them with commemorative medals or certificates.
2. **Documentary Screening:** Screen films or documentaries that highlight World War II history and the contributions of veterans.
3. **Concert Dedicated to the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE day**
4. **Art and Cultural Exhibits:** Collaborate with local schools, including groups like Golden Key Art, to create exhibitions celebrating the sacrifices and legacy of veterans.
5. Collect stories, letters, and memorabilia from veterans and the community to be preserved for future generations.

**CLASSICAL NIGHT CONCERT** – programming will be presented by Eugen Maysky

**The event will also feature Russian-speaking Community Awards Presentation.** Staff will provide a Call for nominations.

**WEHO MISHKA FESTIVAL** - programming will be presented by the producer of the Festival.

**ACTION:** No Action taken

## 9.B. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD'S INITIATIVES

**SUBJECT:** Russian-speaking Advisory Board followed up on the previously proposed initiatives.

**ACTION:** No Action Taken. The board will continue discussion at their next meeting.

**9.C. UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**SUBJECT:** Board members were to receive updates from the liaisons to other boards and commissions.

**ACTION:** There were no updates.

**9.D. COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

**Subject:** Russian-speaking Advisory Board discussed upcoming events.

**ACTION:** There were no events to discuss.

**10. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no items from staff

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

**12. RUSSIAN SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments

- 13. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 8:45 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **January 21, 2025**, beginning at 7PM at West Hollywood City Hall in Community Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

  
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CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STAFF LIAISON