

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025**

**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 7:10 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, Liudmila Raskin, Lyubov Levitan, Myroslava Rytko.

ABSENT: Sasha Razor, Raisa Aguf, Eugene Maysky, German Simakovski

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, March 18, 2025, regular Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting.*
ACTION: Motion by member Rytko 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 February 18, 2025, Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting.*
ACTION: Motion by member Rytko to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Levitan, motion passed by a roll call vote.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Tair Mamedov, a Los Angeles resident, spoke on behalf of a group of activists from the Russian-speaking community in Los Angeles and the surrounding areas. The community initiative group is proposing the installation of a memorial in West Hollywood to honor Alexei Navalny, the late Russian opposition leader and prominent advocate for democracy and human rights.
The proposed monument would serve as a tribute to Navalny's legacy and his unwavering fight for justice, freedom, and democratic values. The group believes that this project strongly aligns with the City of West Hollywood's commitment to human rights, freedom of expression, and social justice.

8. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.A. FOLLOW UP ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

SUBJECT: The Russian-Speaking Advisory Board provided follow-up feedback on the recent International Women's Day Celebration and shared several thoughtful recommendations for future events.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the event, highlighting its positive impact and praising the overall organization and atmosphere. Special recognition was given to Raisa Aguf for her role as the host; however, she was not present at this meeting. Raisa will have the opportunity to share her reflections and additional input at the next scheduled board meeting.

ACTION: No Action Taken.

9.B. 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.

YOM HASHOAH EVENT - Diana Volman provided the Board with an update on the upcoming event's programming, highlighting key elements of the agenda. She shared that a Holocaust survivor has been invited to speak, offering a meaningful opportunity for attendees—particularly younger audience members—to hear firsthand testimony and engage in a Q&A session.

This portion of the program is intended to foster a deeper understanding of history through personal storytelling and dialogue. Diana will present the finalized program details, including logistical arrangements and timing, at the next board meeting.

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY- Staff informed the board that musical part of the program is ready to go and Helix Collective will perform the greatest hits of the post-WWII era for the dance! Featuring music by Count Basie, Irving Berlin, Edith Piaf, and more!

Dance instructor Amy Lawrence will start the show with a short tutorial on dancing the foxtrot. Beginners to experienced dancers will be ready to dance away the rest of the performance! Join the dancers or take a seat to enjoy the performance from the audience.

CLASSICAL NIGHT IN MAY CONCERT – programming will be presented by Eugene Maysky

The event will also feature Russian-speaking Community Awards Presentation. Board members will select awardees at the next meeting.

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

ACTION: No Action taken

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

Subject: Russian-speaking Advisory Board discussed upcoming events.

ACTION: There were no events to discuss.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

13. RUSSIAN SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no comments

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 8:08 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **April 15, 2025**, beginning at 7PM at West Hollywood City Hall in Community Conference Room, 1st floor at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 15th DAY OF APRIL 2025.



CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



STAFF LIAISON