

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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 7:03 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, Lyubov Levitan, Myroslava Rytko, Raisa Aguf, Eugene Maysky, Liudmila Raskin, German Simakovski.

**ABSENT:** Sasha Razor.

**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, May 20, 2025, regular Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting.*  
**ACTION:** Motion by member Aguf to approve the minutes, seconded by member Rytko, 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 April 15, 2025, Russian-speaking Advisory Board meeting.*  
**ACTION:** Motion by member Maysky to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Rytko, motion passed by a roll call vote.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
Carly Silverman introduced Bright Action Communities, partnering with the City of West Hollywood to create a climate action platform. Carly explained the platform's features, including household profiles, carbon calculators, and a sign-up drive with gift card incentives. Staff requested Carly to email platform information for those without access to the chat box.
8. **RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**  
**Member Maysky** spoke about resources for new immigrants.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 9.A. VOLUNTEER OUTREACH FOR SENIOR MEAL SITES

**Subject:** The Russian-speaking Advisory Board received information from **Stratton Harrison**, Congregate Meal Site Supervisor at JFS. Stratton introduced the senior nutrition program, which includes 13 meal sites across Los Angeles. **Stratton Harrison** said that volunteers are needed for serving lunches, making phone calls, translating flyers, and other tasks, and wanted to reach out to the Russian-speaking community

**ACTION:** Received, asked questions. The board members said that they would distribute the information. Tatyana Rodzinek said that she would send the information out to the community.

### 9.B. MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO VICTIMS OF POLITICAL REPRESSIONS

**Subject:** The board members received proposal from the community initiative group 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.

Sam Erokhin proposed establishing a monument to Alexei Navalny in West Hollywood to honor his legacy and inspire democracy. The monument would be funded by private donors and government grants, with the design to be approved by the city.

Eugene and Diana express concerns about the divisive nature of singling out Navalny and suggest a more inclusive monument to all victims of political repression.

Tatyana Rodzinek reads public comments from the community, which support a more inclusive memorial to avoid political polarization.

Eugene suggests starting a petition on change.org to gauge community support for the monument.

**ACTION:** Diana Volman made a motion to recommend reconsidering the monument proposal and explore more inclusive options. Seconded by member Levitan. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

## 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 10.A. FOLLOW UP ON YOM HASHOAH EVENT 2025

**SUBJECT:** Russian-speaking Advisory Board discussed the Yom HaShoah event and made recommendations for the future. Board members spoke about the educational value of the event and emphasized the importance of attracting more young people to participate in the event. Diana also spoke about the continuous work with schools and universities.

**Member Rytko** spoke about the importance of including still living Holocaust Survivors and their grandchildren and great grandchildren into the educational campaign as they are the last generation of holocaust survivors who could share their memories.

**ACTION:** Member Maysky made a motion to prepare a letter to send to educational institutions and start discussion on the event of 2026. Seconded by Chair Volman, motion passed by a roll call vote

#### **10.B. FOLLOW UP VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 2025**

**SUBJECT:** Russian-speaking Advisory Board followed up on the Victory in Europe Day Event and Board members spoke about the educational value of the event and emphasized the importance of attracting more young people to participate in the event.

**ACTION:** No Action Taken.

#### **10.C. FOLLOW UP ON THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY AWARDS PRESENTATION AND CLASSICAL NIGHT CONCERT**

**SUBJECT:** The Russian-Speaking Advisory Board discussed the Awards Presentation Event and the Classical Night Concert. Diana Volman shared insights regarding the Classical Night Concert programming, emphasizing that in addition to introducing the performers, careful and thorough preparation of the concert program itself will be essential.

**Member** Aguf praised the event.

**ACTION:** No action taken

#### **10.D. FOLLOW UP ON THE WEST HOLLYWOOD RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH 2025 EVENTS**

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

**ACTION:** No Action taken

#### **10.E. 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.

#### **10.F. 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.

#### **10.G. 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 9:17 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **June 17, 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 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

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STAFF LIAISON