

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 – 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 White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sotile led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Ron Cortes
Commissioner Chiedu Egbuniwe
Commissioner Steve Peñafiel
Commissioner Amber Whittington
Commission Vice Chair Renee F. Sotile
Commission Chair Alec White

Absent: Commissioner Michael Roberts

Also Present: Commission Liaison Jennifer Del Toro
Recording Secretary Moya Márquez

D. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2026 AGENDA

The Commission was asked to approve the February 12, 2026 Meeting Agenda. Staff requested to table item 3.A. to the March 2026 meeting.

ACTION: Approval of the February 12, 2026 Agenda as amended was motioned by Commissioner Egbuniwe, seconded by Commissioner Peñafiel, and approved unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2026 MINUTES

The Commission was asked to approve the January 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: Approval of the January 8, 2026 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Sotile, seconded by Commissioner Egbuniwe, and approved unanimously.**

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the closure and demolition of historic LGBTQ+ sites. He encouraged the Commission to support the preservation of the Brick Gym at 7811 Santa Monica Boulevard.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS – 2025 AWARDEES CEREMONY

The LGBTQ+ Commission received an update from staff and the Rainbow Key Awards subcommittee and discussed the 2025 Awardees Ceremony, including program components.

The Commission suggested exploring whether Melissa Etheridge or a representative from Audre Lorde's estate could participate as a speaker to help elevate the program and deepen its historical and cultural significance.

Staff provided an overview of the communications plan, which includes bus shelter advertisements, WeHoTV coverage (e.g., video sharing the date of the awards event and red carpet interviews), and an SMS text-message promoting the Rainbow Key Awards event.

Commissioner Penafiel reported that all prospective hosts he contacted have confirmed their availability. Proposed hosts include:

- Bruno, host of the LGBTQ Pride Stage
- Luscious, media personality
- Miss Challey, Beyonce impersonator

Commissioners Whittington, Penafiel, and Cortes volunteered to put together pre-recorded video segments of the awardees to be shown at the awards event, with March 12 identified as the preferred filming deadline and March 21 as a mandatory alternative, if needed.

The proposed event timeline includes a pre-ceremony reception beginning at 4:00 p.m., with the ceremony commencing at 5:00 p.m., and concluding by 7:00 p.m.

ACTION: None. Discussed the ceremony.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. REVIEW OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION'S PURVIEW

This item was tabled to the March 2026 meeting.

ACTION: None. Item was tabled.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, suggested LZ Love or Jackie Beat as entertainers for the Rainbow Key Awards ceremony. Additionally, he spoke on the Commission's workplan and suggested creating a legislative affairs subcommittee to track legislation.

5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ron Cortes shared information on the RFP for the Pride Sober event.

Commissioner Chiedu Egbuniwe shared information on his involvement in an upcoming production of CATS.

Commissioner Steve Peñafiel shared information on the RFP for the Pride Sober event. He also shared that local hair stylist Kim Vo passed away last month. He also shared information on the administration's recent removal of the Pride Flag at the Stonewall National Monument in NYC.

Commissioner Amber Whittington reported on her positive experience representing the City at the Legislative Advocacy Day in Sacramento and shared information about various bills that may be of interest to the Commission. She also expressed concern regarding the proposed placement of harm-reduction vending machines at certain locations, including The Abbey. She noted that she has heard similar concerns from members of the Human Services Commission and requested that this be agendaized for discussion at our next meeting. Staff indicated they would follow up with Human Services staff to determine whether an update or related item would be appropriate to bring forward. The Commission expressed consensus in bringing the matter back for discussion at the next meeting. Additionally, she shared her disappointment regarding the closure of Block Party.

Vice Chair Sotile shared her support of a future item coming back regarding vending machines. She asked to adjourn the meeting in honor of Gudrun Olafsdottir.

ACTION: Consensus on vending machine discussion

Commission Chair Alec White shared information on local events, and encouraged the public to be prepared as local municipalities in the Los Angeles

region are being negatively impacted by actions from federal agencies.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jennifer Del Toro, Staff Liaison, shared that Hernan Molina, the Governmental Affairs Liaison, will be attending the next meeting to discuss upcoming legislation as the deadline for bills is coming up on February 20. She also shared brief information regarding the legislative priorities of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, as presented during the Legislative Advocacy Day in Sacramento.

Jennifer also shared information on upcoming presentations at the March and April meetings which will include April's meeting focusing on Pride and the Sensitivity Training that is led by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. She also shared information about the Cannabis, Culture, and Change Symposium being hosted by Emerald Village on Saturday, February 28 in Council Chambers.

Moya Marquez, Recording Secretary, shared information on the I Love Flagging event taking place in WeHo Park from 12-4PM on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

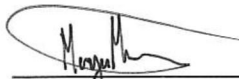
7. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned in memory of Gudrun Olafsdottir at 8:22 pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026, 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 12th DAY OF MARCH 2026.



Alec White | Commission Chair



Moya Márquez | Recording Secretary