

**MINUTES  
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The November 12, 2015, meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:01 pm by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Helen Collins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Beth Bishop, Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, James Duke Mason, Robert Oliver, Matt Palazzolo, Elizabeth Persen, Marquita Thomas, Ruth Tittle. Marquita Thomas joined the Meeting in progress.

Not Present: None

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were staff members Helen Collins and Jeff Book.

**C. INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER**

Elizabeth Persen was installed as a member of the Advisory Board.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved on a motion by Ruth Tittle, seconded by James Duke Mason.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2015, were approved on a motion by Ruth Tittle, seconded by Beth Bishop, with Matt Palazzolo and Elizabeth Persen abstaining.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. James Wen, Transgender Advisory Board, invited Board Members to the Transgender Day of Remembrance event on Friday, Nov. 20, and updated the Board on the End Racial Profiling Act, which the City has already endorsed, and the Equality Act.

2. Nir Zilberman thanked Board Members for attending an event at Love No Hate in honor of Ivy Bottini. He spoke about the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles; thanked James Duke Mason for asking for the agenda item on the bisexual community; and said fewer LGBT people are staying in West Hollywood because it has become a boring city, and that the City needs to be more welcoming to all.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

### **3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. WERLE BUILDING**

Jeff Book provided some background on the history of the Werle Building at 626 N. Robertson Blvd. (at El Tovar Place), which is the former workshop/studio of Daniel Werle, a fashion designer noted for gowns, such as those favored by Loretta Young during the days of her TV show.

Helen Collins showed current and projected images of the floor plan and exterior, and said plans now call for basically a full renovation of the building, with usable exterior space at two locations upstairs. The proposal is scheduled to go to the City Council in December. If the project is approved, current occupants would be temporarily relocated during construction. Details of proposed relocation are still being finalized.

Board Members expressed interest that recovery groups not have a negative impact from the project, and that their temporary relocation be as close as possible to the current space.

Matt Palazzolo moved to recommend to the City Council that the City move forward with this project, taking into account the needs of the Recovery Center and access to the Mazer Archives. This was seconded by Lucas John and unanimously approved.

#### **B. LGBT HISTORY KIOSKS**

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman said LGBT history kiosks are not a bad idea, but there are more urgent things to consider.

Public Comment: Victor Omelczenko said Public Facilities Commission had been briefed about the City's Street Media project, led by Francisco Contreras and Kate Mayerson, which will include an Ad Hoc Committee. He said perhaps someone from this Advisory Board should be included in the Ad Hoc Committee.

Public Comment: Andy Sacher, with The Lavender Effect, said his non-profit agency is interested in working with the Advisory Board on developing historical kiosks, and asked to be placed on the December 2015 agenda for a more extensive presentation in this regard.

Board Discussion: Kate Eggert said she has a meeting planned with staff of the non-profit organization which helped do Angel's Flight kiosks in downtown LA.

Robert Gamboa moved to communicate the Board's desire to have a representative included on the Ad Hoc Committee, and that this representative be Kate Eggert. This was seconded by Beth Bishop and unanimously approved.

#### **C. INTERSECTION OF SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD AND SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

Robert Gamboa spoke about the Board's 2013 recommendation to City Council that the City begin a public process to rename and/or recognize the LGBT

historical significance of the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards. He said the City Council declined the proposal at that time, saying the timing was not right, in part because a Business Improvement District (BID) was under consideration.

Public Comment: David Reid asked that any new proposal on this subject include a recommendation to rename San Vicente Boulevard as West Hollywood Way.

Robert Gamboa moved to resubmit to the City Council the same request as before, because the timing may be different now. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and unanimously approved.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. CONSIDERATION OF INCLUDING "BISEXUAL" IN THE NAME AND MISSION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman spoke in favor of adding 'bisexual' to the Board's name and mission, saying that there should be one board for all LGBT together, and that by excluding bisexuals we are taking their pride away from them.

Public Comment: Jimmy Palmieri, Human Services Commission, said that this is a Gay and Lesbian advisory board, and the Transgender Advisory Board was formed to make educated decisions on transgender subjects. He said if bisexual people want to have their own board, the City should do that, but that it would not be serving bisexual people well to have their issues combined with others.

Board Discussion: Board Members discussed pros and cons of adding the term 'bisexual' to the name and mission of this board. Beth Bishop spoke against having a separate board, because younger people are moving toward not defining themselves in these ways, and we need to have one larger board. Lucas John said he didn't support this proposal at this time. James Duke Mason said whatever action the Board takes should be moving toward greater inclusiveness, and that the Board could ask the City Council to begin a Bisexual Task Force. Marquita Thomas said that the Board is barely able to get through the agenda it already has, without adding an additional subject.

James Duke Mason moved to ask the City Council to consider whether there is a need to form a Bisexual Task Force to do a needs assessment of the bisexual community.

Ruth Tittle said she supports the idea of asking the City Council to consider a Bisexual Task Force, but that she had joined a Lesbian and Gay board. Matt Palazzolo suggested that Board Members talk to their own Councilmembers to see if there is a need for this in the community, and if so, to possibly come back with it in the future. Beth Bishop said the Board spends a large majority of its time on gay issues, and that people of all orientations might be better served by having one large board. Robert Oliver said members were appointed to represent their particular identity as gay or lesbian, and that he didn't want to

presume to speak on someone else's identity. He seconded the motion by James Duke Mason.

Public Comment: James Wen, chair of Transgender Advisory Board, said that we are moving toward having one voice as a community, and would like to help people form an LGBT task force, seeing the changing nature of the community.

The motion was approved 9 to 1, with Lucas John voting no.

**B. AIDS WATCH**

Public Comment:

1. Nir Zilberman expressed strong disagreement with remarks by some members of the Board during the previous item.
2. David Reid said although he had started a year ahead of time in requesting access to Fiesta Hall for AIDS Watch, the request bogged down in bureaucracy. The 24-hour program will be shown at Love No Hate, 7992 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Robert Gamboa moved to support AIDS Watch in all of its locations this year, including the scroll of names at City Hall, in the Council Chambers, and at Love No Hate. This was seconded by Ruth Tittle and unanimously approved.

**C. 2016 RAINBOW KEY AWARDS**

Matt Palazzolo moved to accept the schedule recommended by staff for nominations by the public, review by the Advisory Board, and recommendations to City Council for the 2016 Rainbow Key Awards. This was seconded by Lucas John and unanimously approved.

Nominations will be opened December 1 and closed February 1. The Advisory Board will review and make recommendations at its February meeting. The recommendations, together with all nominations, will be presented to the City Council at the next available meeting, with awards presented in June 2016.

**D. STUDY SESSION**

Matt Palazzolo moved to hold the study session to create a workplan for the Board at the Board's regular January meeting, with facilitation by the Board's co-chairs, Kate Eggert and Robert Gamboa. This was seconded by Kate Eggert and unanimously approved.

**E. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Staff said that Public Safety is planning to attend the December meeting of the Advisory Board, and asked the Board for input on what items they would like to see discussed. Board Members mentioned these items: (1) discussion of mugging, stabbing, and vandalism that has occurred primarily in the Norma Triangle; (2) pros and cons of expanding camera presence in public areas of the City; (3) the role of security ambassadors on bikes, and whether crime rates have gone up or down since this program was implemented; (4) times of day, and a map of the routes, of the bike ambassadors; (5) if possible to determine, what share of crimes are alcohol-related, separated by Part 1 and Part 2 crimes.

**F. LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Robert Gamboa moved to designate Robert Oliver as liaison to the Public Safety Commission. This was seconded by James Duke Mason and unanimously approved.

The Advisory Board designated James Duke Mason as liaison to the Rent Stabilization Commission by consensus.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

There were no Excluded Consent items.

**6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no additional items from staff.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Victor Omelczenko said the Recovery community and the Mazer Archives had helped save the Werle Building when it faced challenges a few years ago. He said a consultant working with the City had used the terms East Side, Midtown, Sunset Strip, and WeHo West to describe various parts of town, and had used the term Rainbow District to refer to the Santa Monica/San Vicente area. He said his sister had visited recently and had the opportunity to see the Halloween event for the first time. He noted Lucas John's appearance on the cover of The Fight Magazine, illustrating an article on PrEP.

**8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Robert Oliver said he had been very uncomfortable during remarks by a public speaker which seemed to be directed to a particular member of the Board. Robert Gamboa said any member or staff should speak up as soon as they are made uncomfortable by a situation, and that the Board has the ability to request the Sheriff's Department to have personnel present.

Marquita Thomas said she attended a West Hollywood tourism meeting where development of The Factory property was discussed, and she asked where the Board's interest in preserving the building stood. Kate Eggert said that further action is pending release of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and that the item will return on the agenda at that time.

James Duke Mason spoke regarding safety at public meetings, and the possibility of having a deputy present at every meeting.

Beth Bishop said she hopes we can be more inclusive, and said she didn't know how that looks in terms of advisory boards.

Matt Palazzolo welcomed new members, since he was away last month.

Kate Eggert welcomed Elizabeth Persen. She discussed Killjoy's Kastle, the lesbian feminist event held in Plummer Park over Halloween, and said she was elated the City had permitted this, and that she would like to see the event return in the future.

Kate Eggert moved to place on the next agenda a discussion of what the Board can do for Ivy Bottini, in recognition of her many years of service on the Board. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and unanimously approved.

Ruth Tittle spoke about World AIDS Day events.

Robert Gamboa welcomed Elizabeth Persen. With regard to issues for the Board to consider, he asked that the Board to include the topic of asking what can be done to make West Hollywood more LGBT. He spoke about #BOOM!, the Sober New Year's Eve event being held on Dec. 31.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

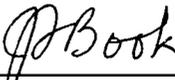
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

---

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

  
Co-Chair

Attest:

  
Staff Liaison