

**MINUTES  
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The February 11, 2016, meeting of the City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:02 pm by Co-Chair Robert Gamboa.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. Lee Walkup led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, Lucas John, James Duke Mason, Robert Oliver, Marquita Thomas, Ruth Tittle.

Not Present: Beth Bishop, Matt Palazzolo.

A quorum was present at all times. There is one vacancy on the Board. Also present were staff members Corri Planck, Derek Murray, Gloria Aviles and Jeff Book.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With consensus agreement to move 4A, 4B and 4C ahead of 3A, the agenda was approved on a motion by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Robert Oliver.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2016, were approved on a motion by James Duke Mason, seconded by Marquita Thomas.

**E. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Lucas John requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Coe Holbrook, longtime resident who often commented at City Council meetings. Robert Gamboa requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Raymond Rector, longtime supporter of LA PRIDE.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Craig Bowers, member of Christopher Street West's board of

directors, asked for CSW to be placed on the Board's agenda for March, so they can share plans for the 2016 LA PRIDE TLGB Pride, to be held June 12-14 in West Hollywood.

2. James Wen, chair of Transgender Advisory Board, spoke about the trans voter education and empowerment day, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park.
3. A. Lee Walkup spoke about the Senior and Disabilities boards cooperating on a town hall on pharmaceutical pricing, possibly in April. He discussed One Billion Rising, International Condom Day, the LA Marathon, and WHAM, West Hollywood Advocates for Metro.
4. Karen Sedgley introduced herself as an insurance agent working with health insurance and long-term care. She has an interest in working with the LGBT community on these issues, for themselves and their parents.
5. Nir Zilberman said he met with the City Manager and Mayor Pro Tem Meister today. He said three main concerns for him are bringing gay and lesbian homeless to the attention of the community, bringing back consideration of including bisexuality as a topic for the board, and making sure that homeless people are understood as individuals, instead of assuming that all are alike.
6. Jimmy Palmieri, chair of Human Services Commission, spoke about the public hearing process for 2016-2019 Social Services funding, and said the Commission this week recommended about \$39,000 to assist Aid for AIDS (AFA) in relocating to larger space.

## **2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

## **4. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SOCIAL SERVICES RFP (REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS) PROCESS**

Corri Planck and Derek Murray provided a training in the process leading to 2016-2019 Social Services funding, including public hearings on social services priorities, discussion with boards and commissions, and a wide variety of input from community studies and other statistical sources. They asked for the Board's input on three questions in particular, regarding what the social services needs of the gay and lesbian community are, whether these needs have changed recently, and what barriers to services may exist for the community.

The Board responded by reiterating many of the brainstorming topics from the January meeting of the Board, with a particular focus on LGBT homeless, youth trafficking, senior services, affordable housing, improved community awareness of PrEP, assistance for residents who are removed from their homes under the Ellis Act, support for caregivers, mental health support, and preserving the LGBT identity of West Hollywood.

Public Comment: Nir Zilberman apologized to anyone he may have offended in previous appearances. With regard to social services funding, he supported new emphasis on homeless issues and mental health concerns, and asked that discussion be focused on the solutions to these problems, not simply on pointing them out as problems.

Co-Chairs Kate Eggert and Robert Gamboa will represent LGAB at the Human Services Commission meeting on March 8, 2016.

**B. LESBIAN SPEAKERS SERIES**

Corri Planck provided an update on the City's Lesbian Speakers Series, and distributed information on upcoming programs. Kate Eggert expressed interest in the Board co-sponsoring some of the programs.

**C. LIVE LOVE THRIVE CONFERENCE**

Catherine Gray of 365karma.com presented her plans for a women's conference to be held in Council Chambers in November, featuring the inspirational examples of women who have overcome adversity. She said the Women's Advisory Board had voted to recommend City cooperation with the conference. Lucas John moved to recommend to the City Council that the City cooperate by waiving fees and other appropriate support. This was seconded by Ruth Tittle, and approved.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS**

Under the procedures adopted by the City Council a few years ago, the request for nominations for the 2016 Rainbow Key Awards was issued in December 2015, publicized through the City's press contacts and distribution lists, with additional outreach to former award recipients. Twenty-one nominations were received by the end of the request period, which closed on February 1, 2016.

The 21 nominations, in order of receipt, were: (1) Sofia Gelman; (2) Jay Kohorn; (3) Jim Chud; (4) Ruth Williams [2 nominations], (5) Richard Noble, (6) Arnold Pomerantz, (7) GLIDE, Gays and Lesbians Initiating Dialogue for Education [Michael Eselun, Judy Chiasson and Rebecca

Weinreich]; (8) Jennifer Leitham; (9) Steven Reigns; (10) Raffi and Nanar Tokatlian; (11) West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation; (12) Killjoy's Kastle, Deirdre Logue and Allyson Mitchell, creators; (13) Dr. Marie Cartier; (14) Terry Wolverton; (15) Wilson Cruz; (16) Carol Taylor Di-Pietro; (17) Dante Alencastre; (18) REACH LA, Realistic Education in Action Coalition to Foster Health; (19) Mark Lehman; (20) Leslie Jordan; and (21) Eric Paul Leue.

The Board went through the list of nominations, one at a time, and then narrowed the list from 21 to a smaller group which would be given further consideration.

Public Comment: James Wen spoke about Jennifer Leitham, the trans jazz musician.

Under the bylaws requirement that the meeting is to last two hours unless extended by vote, Kate Eggert moved to extend the meeting until 9:15 pm if necessary. This was seconded by Robert Gamboa and approved.

After further discussion, Robert Gamboa moved a group of 5 nominees to be recommended to the City Council. The group was seconded by Lucas John, and unanimously approved.

The recommendations for Rainbow Key Awards were:

Jay Kohorn, civil rights attorney  
Ruth Williams, community leader  
West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation  
Carol Taylor-DiPietro, who helped initiate Gay Days at Disneyland  
Mark Lehman, chair of the AIDS Monument Foundation

As provided in the City Council's policy on Rainbow Keys, these recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council along with the entire group of 21 nominations, for the City Council's review and decision.

After discussion, Robert Gamboa moved to hold the 2016 Rainbow Key Awards on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, in the City Council chambers. This was seconded by Kate Eggert and approved.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

**6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no additional items from staff.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**A. LIAISON REPORTS**

Kate Eggert moved to place an update from the historical kiosk committee on the April agenda. This was seconded by James Duke Mason and approved. Kate Eggert asked if one of the City staff working on the street media project could attend and present an update then also.

**B. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Marquita Thomas thanked Councilmember John D'Amico and the Public Safety Division for following up on her social media post about her experience in walking on Santa Monica Boulevard.

Marquita Thomas moved to add the LA PRIDE item to the next agenda, as requested earlier in the meeting. This was seconded by Robert Oliver and approved.

Robert Gamboa said he attended Human Services Commission this week. He said he is working with a Safe WeHo group that will be meeting at 5:30 pm on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016, in the Library Community Meeting Room.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm in memory of Coe Holbrook and Raymond Rector.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2016.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Chair

Attest:



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Staff Liaison