

MINUTES
LGBTQ+ ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, January 12, 2023
7:00 PM

****Teleconference Meeting***

1. CALL TO ORDER - Co-Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Co-Chair Jenkins read the City’s Land Acknowledgement.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Board Member Frazier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Board Member Deitch, Board Member Frazier, Board Member Cheng, Co-Chair Jenkins, Co-Chair Miss Tiger, Board Member Sotile, and Board Member Paris

ABSENT: Board Member Gamboa

ALSO PRESENT: Yvonne Quarker, City of West Hollywood Community Services Director, Andi Lovano, City of West Hollywood Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, Jennifer Del Toro, Community & Legislative Affairs Supervisor.

D. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 12, 2023, MEETING AGENDA

ACTION: Motion to approve the Agenda of Thursday, January 12, 2023. Motion by Board Member Frazier, seconded by Board Member Sotile.

E. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2022, MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of November 10, 2022. Motion by Board Member Sotile, seconded by Board Member Cheng, and approved, noting the abstention by Board Member Frazier.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing on Potential Barriers to Accessing Pre and Post Exposure (PrEP/PEP) therapies to prevent HIV infection

The Board received information from the City's Governmental Affairs Liaison, Hernan Molina, on a Council-approved motion, which directed staff to organize a public hearing to identify potential barriers to accessing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

Board Member Frazier asked when the public hearing would take place and how many pharmacies were located in West Hollywood. Governmental Affairs Liaison, Hernan Molina informed the Board that the hearing would take place on February 23rd, and there are approximately 7 to 8 pharmacies located within West Hollywood.

Board Member Paris joined the meeting at 7:16pm

Board Member Deitch inquired about the complaints the pharmacists had with the bill and how she and other board members could access and view the complaints. Governmental Affairs Liaison, Hernan Molina will provide the Board with the analyses on SB 159.

Board Member Sotile asked whether pharmacies were required to conduct specific training and asked how the City was ensuring locations in the City were meeting training requirements.

Board Member Paris asked for clarification on the purpose and intent of the hearing and the effectiveness of the senate bill.

Co-Chair Miss Tiger thanked Hernan and shared experiences from community members who were not able to access certain services and medication because pharmacists delivered incorrect information.

Co-Chair Jenkins asked for clarification about the timing of the transition of the Advisory Board to the Commission and how that would affect the Board selecting a representative at the public hearing.

ACTION: Co-Chair Miss Tiger, Board Member Frazier, and Board Member Paris were selected to be the representatives of the Board at the public hearing. Motion by Co-Chair Jenkins, seconded by Board Member Deitch and approved.

B. Rainbow Key Awards – Budget and Update

Andi Lovano, Community & Legislative Affairs Manager, provided an update on the budget for the Rainbow Key Awards and the award nominations received thus far. Staff informed the board that the total budget allocation for the Rainbow Key Awards is \$5,000, and the total spent to date is \$4,700. Staff also notified the Board that they have allocated more funding towards graphics/marketing for this year to draw awareness about the nomination period. As of January 11th, the Board has received 6 nominations in total.

Staff also informed the Board that graphics and logos have been created for the nomination period, and forms are available on the City's website. Additionally, the City released a press release on December 1st to notify the community of the dates for the nomination period, and has already started marketing on social media channels. Local newspapers have circulated this information as well.

Board Member Frazier noted that the nomination numbers were low and asked if and how the Board could explore creating a video with West Hollywood's Public Access team to bring more awareness to the Rainbow Key Awards. Staff will confer with the Communications team and provide an update to the Board.

Board Member Deitch asked if more money could be allocated for advertising the event.

Board Member Sotile asked about the specific dates for the nomination period and asked if any local news channels could speak about the Rainbow Key Awards. Staff apprised the Board on the City's media protocols. Staff will follow-up with the Communications team and provide further updates to the Board.

Board Member Cheng asked for an overview of Rainbow Key Awards as one of the newest additions to the Board.

Board Member Paris inquired about whether further outreach was planned for the nomination period, and if more language could be included in future LA Blade ads. Board Member Paris also suggested that the newly formed LGBTQ+ Commission leverage the Advisory Board's relationship with the publication and utilize the marketing and outreach opportunities to bring more awareness to the event as well as future events. Staff informed the Board that they will follow up with the Communications team about the LA Blade ads request.

Co-Chair Miss Tiger suggested the Board reassess the budget for food and reallocate more funding to marketing/advertising. In addition, Co-Chair Miss Tiger recommended that the Board utilize free ways to advertise the event like the West Hollywood library and other public spaces.

Co-Chair Jenkins asked for clarification on whether the Board was still nominating Leslie Jordan, if they were still planning to place a limit of five physical awards.

C. Drag Laureate Program

The Board discussed the Drag Laureate Program and considered whether to withdraw support or provide suggestions and recommendations to enhance the program. Staff informed the Board that the Economic Development Department is evaluating the program in its current form and expects to bring revisions to City Council in February. Additionally, staff notified the Board that they were open to designating a representative to speak on behalf of the Board at the City Council meeting in February, and encouraged the Board to discuss what they would like to see with the

program moving forward.

Co-Chair Miss Tiger was not in favor of Board supporting considering the amount of time spent trying to work with staff to improve the program with no results.

Board Member Frazier, and Board Member Deitch echoed Co-Chair Miss Tiger's sentiments and were not in favor of the Board supporting the program.

Board Member Sotile was in favor of the Board continuing its support and providing suggestions on how to strengthen the program moving forward.

Board Member Cheng inquired whether funds were allocated for this year's program, and if they could be rolled over to next years budget to increase the overall budget.

ACTION: Motion to withdraw support for the Drag Laureate Program in its current form by Co-Chair Miss Tiger, seconded by Board Member Cheng, and approved, noting the no vote by Board Member Sotile.

Staff will provide supplemental memo summarizing the Board's thoughts.

ACTION: Motion for memo to include only statement of non-support without any suggested recommendations by Co-Chair Jenkins, seconded by Co-Chair Miss Tiger, and approved, noting the no vote by Board Member Sotile.

ACTION: Motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes by Co-Chair Jenkins, seconded by Board Member Frazier, and approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

A. Liaison Reports

None.

B. Subcommittees And Ad-Hoc Working Groups Reports

Board Member Cheng provided updates about the Legislative Committee's interest in agendizing an item to discuss CERT trainings, self-defense, and active-shooter defense trainings, in addition to an item designating West Hollywood as a sanctuary City of abortion and gender equity. Board Member Cheng also suggested the Board discuss an item to enhance connection to social service programs, make sexual assault and rape kits available at bars and social institutions, and encouraged the Board to explore anti-hate protections.

Board Member Deitch asked the Board to agendize an item about public safety in the LGBTQ+ community in West Hollywood for their next meeting.

Board Member Paris recommended that the Board allow the Commission to select the Awardees for this year's Rainbow Key Awards in light of the February meeting being the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's final meeting before their transition to a Commission.

Staff informed the Board that the City's Public Safety Commission was responsible for evaluating and recommending ways to enhance public safety in the City and suggested the Board designate a liaison to speak at an upcoming Public Safety Commission meeting to share issues and concerns on behalf of the Board. Staff also informed the Board that West Hollywood was already a sanctuary City and strong advocate of women's rights.

ACTION: Motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes by Co-Chair Jenkins, seconded by Board Member Cheng, and approved.

ACTION: Motion to agendaize an item to discuss how the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board can better address the safety of West Hollywood's LGBTQ+ community, seconded by Board Member Cheng, and approved noting the no votes by Co-Chair Jenkins and Board Member Sotile.

Co-Chair Miss Tiger – provided an update on the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee selected a curator and team that will be assisting the City in the upcoming LGBTQ+ festival as part of upcoming Pride programming.

C. Other Items From Board Members

Board Member Frazier welcomed Board Member Cheng and asked the Board to adjourn in memory of Carol Cook, actress and HIV activist, and the first recipient of the Board's Rainbow Key Awards in 1983.

Board Member Deitch also asked the Board to adjourn in the memory of Carol Cook.

Board Member Sotile asked the Board to adjourn in memory of Lisa Marie Presley and Georgia Holt, Cher's mother. Board Member Sotile also congratulated the incoming Councilmembers.

Board Member Cheng thanked the Board for the discussions throughout the meeting and their support for a discussion about public safety in the LGBTQ+ community.

Board Member Paris thanked the board for the discussions and asked the Board to adjourn in memory of Mat Palazzolo.

Co-Chair Miss Tiger thanked the Board for their discussion and support.

Co-Chair Jenkins thanked City staff and the Board for their support of the City X.1 Youth Group Thanksgiving meal and asked staff to prepare the agenda packet earlier for next meeting.

6. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Yvonne Quarker, Community Services Director, provided an update on the July 14th meeting minutes, and informed the Board that the City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, will provide language at the Board's meeting in February. Staff will provide the updated language to the Board via email in advance of the meeting.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board adjourned in memory of Carol Cook, Lisa Marie Presley, Georgia Holt, and Mat Palazzolo at 9:30pm to its next meeting via teleconference on Thursday, February 9, 2023.

DRAFT