

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024**

**West Hollywood City Hall Community Conference Room
at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Maysky called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – Chair Maysky read the Land Acknowledgement
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Maysky led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Diana Volman, Eugene Maysky, Liudmila Raskin, Lyubov Levitan, Raisa Aguf, Sasha Razor.

ABSENT: German Simakovski .

ALSO, PRESENT: Staff liaison Tatyana Rodzinek

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
SUBJECT: *The Russian-speaking Advisory Board was requested to approve the agenda.*
ACTION: Approve the Agenda of Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Motion by member Levitan to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Volman, 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 previous meeting.*
ACTION: Approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024, Russian-speaking Advisory Board Special meeting. Motion by Chair Maysky to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Aguf, motion passed by a roll call vote.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
George Nickel, 19-year West Hollywood resident, shared concerns about rising crime rates on the east side of the city. Mr. Nickel also said that he is planning to run for the City Council and said that if elected he will be focusing on certain issues that the West Hollywood community is facing.
8. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**
There were no comments from the board members.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.A. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board continued discussion on the upcoming National Night Out Event.

ACTION: No action taken. Staff informed the board about the total budget for the National Night Out 2024, which is \$7,000 to spend on merchandise, giveaways, entertainment and food for the event.

- The board discussed the location of a community event, which is going to be at the same location – Fuller Lawn adjacent to the Community Gardens.
- The board members will contact various performers to provide entertainment for the event.
- The board members discussed potential nonprofit organizations to invite to a community event.

9.B. FOLLOW UP ON THE VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 2024

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board discussed the **VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 2024 and made recommendations for the year of 2025**

Board members discussed ideas for Victory in Europe anniversary event in 2025, including educational exhibits and commemoration of veterans.

Board members discussed planning for a memorial event in May, including possible musical performances of a children's choir.

Maysky suggests infusing educational content into Victory in Europe Day celebrations to inform future generations.

ACTION: Chair Maysky made a motion to continue celebration of the Victory in Europe Day. **Diana Volman seconded the motion.** Motion passed by a roll call vote.

9.C. FOLLOW UP ON THE 2024 WEST HOLLYWOOD RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH AND DISCUSSING IDEAS FOR 2025 EVENTS

Subject: The Russian-speaking Advisory Board discussed the 2024 cultural events that highlighted the cultural heritage of the Russian-speaking Community and Russian-speaking Community Awards Presentation. The board members shared insights from their experience organizing and attending classical music concerts, emphasizing the importance of several key aspects that can significantly impact the success and audience perception of an event. Key points include pre-planning the concert program, ensuring thorough preparation for event hosting, creating an engaging atmosphere in the foyer, and maintaining a balance between organization and audience needs. The goal is to provide a well-organized, enjoyable experience for both performers and attendees.

Board members discussed ways of preserving cultural heritage and adding a historical context to the activities of the month

Raisa and Diana praised the event's organization and performers.

ACTION: Board members discussed the events and provided recommendations on the following events:

Maysky Classical Night, Russian-speaking Community Awards Presentations. No action taken.

9.D. RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD'S INITIATIVES

Subject: Russian-speaking Advisory Board followed up on the previously proposed initiatives.

Board Members proposed providing new migrants with information on essential services like language support, legal aid, and employment resources.

Members discussed the draft of the brochure and made suggestions on additional information such as adding available computer education classes for youth, information about free museums, public safety information and services for LGBTQ+ community members.

Board members talked about supporting LGBTQ+ immigrants facing trauma and discrimination. Members discussed a gap in serving a specific ethnic minority group.

Member Maysky shared his experience and pictures of 80 Russian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian refugees marching in Pride Parade.

Member Maysky described the trauma faced by migrant children in detention, including abuse and mistreatment by CBP officers and spoke about the need to build a shelter for traumatized children.

ACTION: No Action Taken

9.E. UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Subject: Board members will receive updates from the liaisons to other boards and commissions.

ACTION: There were no updates.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Lubov Levitan talked about computer Classes for students

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Nickel, 19-year West Hollywood resident, shared concerns about rising crime rates on the east side of the city.

The speaker reflected on personal experiences and cultural issues in West Hollywood.

Alexander Kakehashi, historian and teacher discussed sharing Russian culture with children through books and events. Mr. Kakehashi also talked about donations of books to a raffle for the LGBTQ+ community, hoping to teach children about Russian culture through pictures and stories.

13. RUSSIAN SPEAKING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no comments

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** The Russian Advisory Board adjourned at 8:35 PM to a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, **July 16, 2024**, beginning at 7PM at West Hollywood City Hall in Community Conference Room, 1st floor at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE RUSSIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 16th DAY OF JULY 2024.

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

STAFF LIAISON