

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JULY 17, 2008
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Jimmy Palmieri at 7:05 p.m., Thursday, July 17, 2008, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Chris Clarkin, Bryeon Earle, Bill Gordon, Ben McCormick, Jimmy Palmieri, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, Ruth Tittle. A quorum was present at all times. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was also present.

B. POSTING OF AGENDA

Staff reported that the agenda had been posted at City Hall and other locations as required.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Ben McCormick, the Advisory Board added an urgency item regarding the Hyatt San Diego, determining by unanimous vote that action was required prior to the next meeting, and that the need for action arose after preparation of the agenda for this meeting.

The Advisory Board also voted to add to the agenda an urgency item regarding Proposition 8, determining by unanimous vote that action was required prior to the next meeting, and that the need for action arose after preparation of the agenda for this meeting.

D. MINUTES

The minutes of the May 2008 meeting were approved on a motion by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Sue Sexton, with Elisabeth Sandberg abstaining due to absence from that meeting. The minutes of the June 2008 meeting were approved on a motion by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Nadia Sutton.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. TOM OF FINLAND FOUNDATION

The administrator of the Tom of Finland Foundation spoke about the 14th annual Erotic Arts Festival, scheduled for West Hollywood Park auditorium on Oct. 4-5, 2008. After discussion, on a motion by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, the Advisory Board voted to support the Festival as in previous years, and to ask the City Council to do the same.

B. AGING AND HIV

Hernan Molina, Deputy to Councilmember John Duran, reflected on current research on HIV and aging, including effects on the brain, and the potential of a town hall meeting on these issues. After discussion, including observation by Bill Gordon that a town hall should reach out to the families of people dealing with these issues, the Advisory Board voted to proceed with a town hall on this subject, pursuant to a motion by Dan Berkowitz, seconded by Ben McCormick. The motion included direction that a video of the event be taken, which can be made into a DVD for appropriate distribution. A committee consisting of Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Chris Clarkin, Bill Gordon, Ben McCormick, and Jimmy Palmieri, with Ruth Tittle as alternate, was created.

C. RAINBOW KEY

Board members discussed ratification of a Rainbow Key award for Chris Clarkin. This was moved by Ruth Tittle, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, and approved on a vote of 8 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstaining.

Staff noted that Rainbow Key awards should be presented to City Council for approval following Advisory Board approval. The Rainbow Key process will be placed on the agenda for upcoming review and improvement, with board members reviewing existing procedures and forms.

Elisabeth Sandberg discussed the importance of inviting young people to the Rainbow Key luncheon, which provides an invaluable educational opportunity.

Dan Berkowitz provided an overview of expenditures for the 2008 event.

D. YOUTH PANEL

This item was postponed.

E. BOOK FAIR

This item was postponed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROPOSED MEMORIAL GIFT

Staff read a letter from James Fuhrman regarding a proposed memorial for Morris Kight. Staff will bring further information on city procedures for memorials and dedications to a future meeting.

B. HYATT SAN DIEGO

The Advisory Board discussed reports that the owner of the Hyatt San Diego had become a major donor to the Yes on 8 campaign, and that groups are calling for a boycott of this facility in reaction. On a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Bill Gordon, the Advisory Board voted to authorize the co-chairs to do a letter to the owner on behalf of the Advisory Board, with copies to Hyatt corporate offices.

C. PROPOSITION 8

Staff reviewed options and limitations on city support for propositions. On a motion by Sue Sexton, seconded by Bill Gordon, the Advisory Board voted to take a position of opposition to Proposition 8 regarding same-sex marriage, and to encourage the City Council to do the same.

V. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Ruth Tittle attended the Human Services Commission, and spoke on Aid for AIDS.

Dan Berkowitz spoke about the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, and noted that June 2009 is the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riot in New York.

Nadia Sutton spoke about the Women's Advisory Board.

Chris Clarkin spoke about the Public Safety Commission and Neighborhood Watches. He also discussed reports that Svyatoslav Sementsov, recent recipient of a Rainbow Key, was attacked in Minsk.

Sue Sexton spoke about the No on 8 effort at the City Council meeting, and about working with Jeanne Cordova on a display for the One Institute.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the Lesbian Social Forum held at USC, about the

showing of “A Place to Live” at Outfest, about a meeting of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, and about a performance by Serafemme.

VI. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

The floor was opened for nominations for female co-chair. Sue Sexton nominated Ivy Bottini, and there were no other nominations. A motion to close nominations and declare Ivy Bottini elected was approved unanimously.

The floor was opened for nominations for male co-chair. Chris Clarkin nominated Dan Berkowitz, and Jimmy Palmieri nominated Chris Clarkin. Chris Clarkin declined the nomination. A motion to close nominations and declare Dan Berkowitz elected was approved unanimously.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

The board voted to place the topics of lesbian sex packets and a workplan/retreat planning session on the next agenda.

The board voted to place the topic of discussion of a marriage forum focusing on examples of couples who have married on the next agenda, pursuant to a motion by Ruth Tittle, seconded by Bill Gordon.

Jimmy Palmieri spoke about screenings of “Tweakers,” including a world meth conference.

Ruth Tittle and other board members thanked the 2007-08 co-chairs, Jimmy Palmieri and Ivy Bottini, for their work. She also discussed the state budget process and cuts to MediCal, which have a direct impact on availability and cost of medicines, as well as a financial impact on pharmacies.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reported on the social services funding process, with programs for 2008-2010 currently being considered by the Human Services Commission, and on the repeal of the mandatory HIV travel ban. Staff will provide the advisory board with a copy of social services agencies seeking funding.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.