

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MAY 8, 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 Ivy Bottini at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 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, Rev. Pat Langlois, Ben McCormick, 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

An urgency item to discuss a response to an anticipated California Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage was added to the agenda, with the advisory board finding that the need for action arose after the preparation of the agenda, and that action was needed prior to the next meeting. With this addition, the agenda was approved.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MARCH AND APRIL EVENTS

Dan Berkowitz reported on the recent movie screening and panel discussions sponsored by the advisory board.

Ben McCormick asked how the board should respond to the challenge raised at the recent town hall regarding a panel of persons 25 years old and younger. Bill

Gordon suggested October as a time for a youth panel to be held, and the board placed this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Bryeon Earle said how important it is to hear both from elders, about how things were at one time, and from younger people, about how it is now.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUPREME COURT RULING

The advisory board reviewed various options for responding to an anticipated California Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, including whether to participate in an event being planned by Lambda Legal for 7 p.m. on the day of the ruling, or to hold a concurrent or sequential event of its own.

After extensive discussion, Bill Gordon moved to authorize Ivy Bottini to contact Lambda and Council offices to express concern about whether the plaintiffs and grassroots activists would be among the speakers at their event, and to say that if they are, the advisory board would like to be a co-sponsor of the event. This was seconded by Chris Clarkin, and approved.

Pat Langlois moved that if negotiations with Lambda proved fruitless, then a committee of six members will organize a rally and press conference to be held before the Lambda-planned event. This was seconded by Ruth Tittle and approved. Volunteers for the committee were Ivy Bottini, Pat Langlois, Ruth Tittle, Dan Berkowitz, Sue Sexton, and Bryeon Earle.

B. TRIBE YOUTH GROUP

Pat Langlois said the group is in discussions for possible meeting locations. This item was re-agendized for the next meeting.

V. RAINBOW KEY

Dan Berkowitz reported on plans for this year's event, to be held Wednesday, June 11, at the Hyatt West Hollywood. He asked board members to provide him with names and addresses of people who should be invited to attend.

VI. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Nadia Sutton discussed the Women's Advisory Board and the recent women's leadership event.

Chris Clarkin discussed the Transgender Task Force.

Ruth Tittle spoke about the Human Services Commission, which meets May 13.

Sue Sexton said that Abbe Land has a new deputy, Corri Planck.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

The topic of the advisory board's participation in the West Hollywood Book Fair (set for Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008) was added to the next agenda.

The board discussed participation in the June 8 pride parade. Current plans are for all advisory boards to participate on a boards and commissions float. The board designated this as an urgency item, and Bill Gordon moved to authorize Ivy Bottini to contact Council to receive their authorization for city support for a separate parade entry for the advisory board. This was seconded by Pat Langlois, and approved.

Ruth Tittle welcomed Bryeon Earle to the board.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board was adjourned at 9:40 p.m., in memory of Eder Piedras Arce (1966-2008), with notification to his partner, Erik Dahlgren.

The next regular meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2008, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.