

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2007
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 Chris Clarkin at 7:07 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2007, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Chris Clarkin, Bill Gordon, Scott Mann, Jimmy Palmieri, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, Ruth Tittle, and Jeff Yarbrough. Not Present: Marian Jones. A quorum was present. Councilmember John Duran, Council Deputy Hernan Molina, Social Services Administrator Daphne Dennis, Facilities & Field Services Division Manager Sam Baxter, and Jeff Book, staff liaison, were 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

The agenda was approved as presented.

D. MINUTES

Minutes were deferred.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE

Councilmember Duran introduced presentations from law enforcement and criminal justice perspectives.

Irene Wacobayashi, head deputy district attorney at the Beverly Hills courthouse, spoke about the connection between meth, theft, and property crime; about the effects of Proposition 36; about the way possession is charged and how such determinations are made; about the number of cases handled by dismissal prior to conviction, if the person cooperates with a plan.

Deputy Trent Miles spoke about the sheriff's zero tolerance policy on meth, and the importance of education in dealing with the situation. He said the sheriff cannot stop the problem by enforcement alone, but combined community support will be required.

Councilmember Duran said a fourth town hall meeting on meth is planned for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, at West Hollywood Park.

B. AIDS MEMORIAL / LESBIAN AND GAY MUSEUM

Sam Baxter said that in 2004 the Council adopted a policy on memorials, tribute trees, and plaques, outlining a process for their consideration and adoption. The process, set out in Resolution 04-3135, calls for proposals to be submitted to the city clerk, followed by review by a city committee, leading eventually to adoption.

Chris Clarkin asked if there was a Public Facilities Commission member who could work with LGAB on this idea, and Sam Baxter said he would raise this at the April 11 meeting of the commission.

Ivy Bottini asked if this idea should be considered part of the corridor project, and Sam Baxter said we should discuss this with Francie Stefan and CDD staff to see about that.

C. HOMELESS YOUTH / FAMILY

Daphne Dennis provided a handout from NGLTF with data on homeless youth, and discussed the City's support for the youth program at the Gay & Lesbian Center, which includes an outreach team, day program, and 20-bed shelter.

She said a homeless census conducted two months ago in the city showed 100 people at that time, all of whom were adults, and almost all of whom also presented issues of mental health or substance abuse.

With regard to family-related programming, she said the city conducts some of these in-house, and also supports programs at the Center and other facilities. The recreation brochure describes a wide variety of family-oriented activities. The children's roundtable, held on third Thursdays during the school year, brings providers together under city auspices, to share ideas and projects.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

V. RAINBOW KEY

Dan Berkowitz reported on the committee meeting which reviewed ideas for the proposed Rainbow Key luncheon. There was discussion of whether it would be appropriate for the award to be given to people in the arts who have done significant service to the gay and lesbian community. Staff will research the original scope and intent of the award.

VI. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Elisabeth Sandberg reported on contacts with Mayor Heilman's office.

Dan Berkowitz spoke about the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission and Public Safety Commission, and said their televised meeting had worked well, and that LGAB should do the same.

Jimmy Palmieri introduced Suzanne Dietrich of the Disability Advisory Board, and said that plans for a June event with youth are moving forward.

Nadia Sutton spoke about the Women in Leadership conference, and about women's health issues, including tobacco and substance abuse.

Ivy Bottini spoke about a letter to Congress, asking to address them on the status of lesbian health.

Ruth Tittle attended the Human Services Commission, which heard from representatives of social services agencies.

Sue Sexton spoke about Women's History Month events.

Bill Gordon spoke about contacts with Councilmember Guarriello's office.

Jeff Yarbrough is working with Jeff Prang's office.

Scott Mann is working with John Duran's office.

There was no chairs meeting this month.

Chris Clarkin said the liaison committee with Russian Advisory Board had met, and is working on that proposed event.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dan Berkowitz spoke about having LGAB members speak to Council at each of its meetings, to increase awareness of LGAB participation and activities. Members were asked to bring their calendars to the next meeting, to help schedule these appearances.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next regular meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 2007, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.