

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JULY 13, 2006
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL AND INSTALLATION

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chairs Ivy Bottini and Jeff Yarbrough at 7:10 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2006, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Chris Clarkin, Bill Gordon, Marian Jones, Scott Mann, Jimmy Palmieri, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, Ruth Tittle, and Jeff Yarbrough. Not Present: Elisabeth Sandberg. 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

The Advisory Board rearranged the sequence of items under New Business, and the agenda was approved as amended.

D. MINUTES

The minutes of the May 11, 2006, meeting were approved.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nicole Curran of Jewish Family Services spoke about the emergency preparations project of JFS's LIFE program. They are holding community meetings to help residents prepare for disasters.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

1. LEGISLATIVE

Scott Mann noted the recent Massachusetts and Georgia court decisions affecting marriage legislation and litigation.

2. LESBIAN VISIBILITY

Sue Sexton reported on the subcommittee meeting, and said “But I’m a Cheerleader” is being shown in West Hollywood Park at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 14. The subcommittee is also considering a future event regarding lesbian health issues.

3. LGBT YOUTH

A report from C.I.T.Y. x1 appears later on the agenda.

4. RAPID REPSONSE ISSUES TEAM

No new report.

5. LESBIAN AND GAY HEALTH ISSUES

A presentation on the crystal meth issue appears later on the agenda.

6. CHAIRS MEETING

The chairs group did not meet this month.

7. CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

The Advisory Board discussed the Pride Festival, which was held June 10-11. Discussion included LGAB’s role and function in the festival, and ways to improve public awareness of the board and its activities.

It was moved by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Scott Mann, and approved, for the Board to purchase a large banner, no smaller than three feet by eight feet, with a matching pole, and keep the banner available for display and use on appropriate occasions.

A strategic planning subcommittee will focus on how to improve public awareness on a year-round basis. Members are Bill Gordon, Chris Clarkin, Marian Jones, Scott Mann (convener), and Dan Berkowitz.

8. HALLOWEEN CARNAVAL

The Advisory Board's support for scaling back the Halloween event was conveyed to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, which is pursuing this with the Council.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

C. C.I.T.Y. x1 ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Carlos Sosa of C.I.T.Y. x1 said the group will be celebrating its first anniversary with an alcohol- and tobacco-free event called Pop, from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 22, in Plummer Park. The Advisory Board endorsed this event on a motion by Jimmy Palmieri, seconded by Marian Jones, and approved.

A. CRYSTAL METH ISSUE

Jimmy Palmieri presented a rough cut of interviews regarding crystal meth that were gathered for the Tweakers project at the Pride Festival.

Gary R. Cohan, M.D., presented information about the history and virulence of the use of crystal meth, including medical information on the drug's destructive effect on the brain, the effect of meth use on numerous other social problems, including identity theft, property crime, and HIV, and the efficacy of various responses to the issue, including medical and psychological recovery options.

The Advisory Board scheduled a 45-minute discussion of the issue at its September meeting.

B. BEING ALIVE

Rafael Cosio, the new executive director of Being Alive, introduced himself to the Advisory Board and spoke about the diversity of programs the agency is currently conducting, as well as his plans for development there.

D. RAINBOW KEY PROCESS

Jimmy Palmieri spoke about the length of time it took for Demetri Moshoyannis to receive his Rainbow Key award, and the Advisory Board discussed ways to improve and speed up the presentations of these awards. Jeff Book distributed new drafts of the form used to gather information about recipients.

Awards for Sallie Fiske (posthumous), Don Kilhefner, Charles R. Williams of the Williams Project at UCLA Law School, and UCLA instructor Linda Garnett are pending. Ivy Bottini will prepare supporting information for Don Kilhefner and Linda Garnett. Marian Jones will submit a data form on behalf of Rita Gonzales of Bienestar and IMRU. Staff will prepare a data form on behalf of the late Betty

Berzon.

The Advisory Board discussed the possibility of raising the profile of Rainbow Key awards by holding an annual lunch or dinner, at which people who received the award during the preceding year would be honored as a group.

E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jeff Yarbrough thanked the Advisory Board for the opportunity to serve as co-chair for the last few years, and nominated Chris Clarkin for male co-chair of the Advisory Board. This was seconded by Jimmy Palmieri. There were no other nominations, and Chris Clarkin was elected by acclamation.

Sue Sexton nominated Ivy Bottini for female co-chair of the Advisory Board. This was seconded by Nadia Sutton. There were no other nominations, and Ivy Bottini was reelected by acclamation.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dan Berkowitz noted that Ivy Bottini's art will be included in a Tom of Finland show on August 5. He will be out of the state in August, doing a play at Princeton.

Jimmy Palmieri said there will be a fundraiser for Tweakers at Hamburger Mary's, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, with Jeff Stryker and Alison Arnglim as celebrity guests.

Nadia Sutton thanked Jimmy Palmieri for helping to focus public attention on the crystal meth issue.

Ruth Tittle spoke about upcoming events at Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH), which has announced the hiring of Mark Supper as its new executive director.

Sue Sexton spoke about directing the TV coverage of the Pride parade.

Ivy Bottini reminded people to sign up for notice of her 80th birthday celebration, which is being planned by the Ivy Theatre for August 26. People can register online or send the information to Marian Jones.

Ivy Bottini reported on the interesting experience of being grand marshal of Brooklyn Pride.

Chris Clarkin thanked the Advisory Board for the opportunity to serve as co-chair, and discussed some directions for strategic planning for the year.

Scott Mann thanked Jeff Yarbrough for his service as co-chair, and congratulated the new

co-chairs.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jeff Book said that both he and Larissa Fooks will be out of the state during the second week of August, at the time of LGAB's next regular meeting. He will check to see if another staff person can sit in for that meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

The next regular meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 10, 2006, unless either a quorum or staff support is unavailable, in which case the next meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 14, 2006, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.