

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 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-chair Jeff Yarbrough at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 9, 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, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, Ruth Tittle, and Jeff Yarbrough. A quorum was present at all times. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was also present.

B. POSTING OF AGENDA

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Advisory Board added the following items to the agenda on an urgency basis, finding that the need for action had arisen since the preparation of the agenda: IV. B. Request for Rehearsal Space for “Bluebonnet Court.” IV. C. Recommendation of approval for Tom of Finland Erotic Art Fair Weekend, planned for Oct. 6-8, 2006. IV. D. Emergency preparedness report. The agenda was approved as amended.

D. MINUTES

The Advisory Board received the minutes of the January 12, 2006, meeting, and will review them for action at the next meeting.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chuck Stewart, chair of Stop Hate, Educate!, discussed the LGBT dance festival being planned for July 15. Consideration of endorsement and co-sponsorship will be added to the March 9 agenda.

III. RAINBOW KEY NOMINATIONS

Jimmy Palmieri nominated Demetri Moshoyannis, former executive director of Being Alive: People with HIV/AIDS Action Coalition, for the Rainbow Key. Moshoyannis is now the executive director of Folsom Street Events, in San Francisco. The nomination was seconded by Chris Clarkin, and approved. Staff will look into whether this award can be presented when Moshoyannis is in Los Angeles, or should be sent to him.

Staff reported that the Rainbow Key for Lovedy Brydon is tentatively scheduled for presentation at the City Council meeting of Monday, March 6, which is the first Council meeting during Women's History Month of 2006.

Ivy Bottini asked whether the late Betty Berzon had previously been awarded the Rainbow Key. Staff will check.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

1. LEGISLATIVE

Scott Mann reported on the new non-discrimination law that has taken effect in Washington state, on new ballot amendments being considered in Colorado, and on publicity being received by same-sex penguin couples in Germany.

2. LESBIAN VISIBILITY

The committee met prior to the meeting. Sue Sexton reported that the committee participated in a study session as part of the community study currently being performed by the Social Services division.

3. LGBT YOUTH

Jimmy Palmieri reported on preparations for periodic meetings of representatives from LGBT youth groups, on a model similar to that used for the Children's Roundtable, enabling the groups to work cooperatively. He also reported that C.I.T.Y. x1 held very good events around the holidays.

4. RAPID RESPONSE ISSUES TEAM

This report was deferred, because the emergency preparedness report appears elsewhere on the agenda.

5. LESBIAN AND GAY HEALTH ISSUES

Chris Clarkin reported that staff reports providing background on the marijuana distribution centers have been collected, and will be distributed to members for their review. The topic will be placed on the March 9 agenda for further action.

6. CHAIRS MEETING

No additional report.

7. CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

Chris Clarkin reported that CSW organized a world-class conference on improving pride events, which also had the effect of supporting development of West Hollywood as a vacation destination. There was excellent response from conference attendees.

8. HALLOWEEN CARNAVAL

The committee will report to a subsequent advisory board meeting.

B. “BLUEBONNET COURT”

On a motion by Jeff Yarbrough, seconded by Sue Sexton, this item was tabled to the next meeting. In the meantime, copies of the script will be provided to advisory board members who wish to read it.

C. TOM OF FINLAND

On a motion by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Ruth Tittle, the Advisory Board recommended that the City Council approve plans for the fourth annual Erotic Art Weekend, sponsored by the Tom of Finland Foundation.

D. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Advisory Board approved the report prepared by the Rapid Response issues team, for forwarding to City Council with recommendation that this information be included in future emergency preparedness materials distributed by the City, because of its particular value to the gay and lesbian community.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIDS RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Michelle Simek, community educator with the AIDS Research Alliance, provided

a general update on the work and activities of this organization, which sponsors research toward a cure, prevention, and other aspects of HIV/AIDS. The group was founded in 1989, and continues its work today.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Marian Jones reported on readings planned for Feb. 18 and 25. Also, the Ivy Theatre is looking for lesbian playwrights for an upcoming class.

Jimmy Palmieri noted that the West Hollywood Independent has picked up his column, and that he will be writing on the emergency preparedness item soon.

Dan Berkowitz reported on a bad experience with Body Builders Gym, at 2516 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles.

Nadia Sutton thanked Jimmy Palmieri for his article on Betty Berzon.

Ruth Tittle also thanked Jimmy Palmieri for his writing, and noted that the GLEH Elder Housing building is going up. It will be four stories, with 104 units, for ages 55 and older, with opening anticipated a year from now. GLEH now has both Los Angeles and national boards, with Ruth Tittle serving on both.

Sue Sexton attended the Stonewall Democratic Club's Stoney Awards, at which Jeff Book was named member of the year.

Ivy Bottini said that Sen. Sheila Kuehl has notified her of her selection as Woman of the Year for the 23rd State Senate district. Further information will be provided. Also, the website featuring Ivy's paintings – ivybottini.com – is now on the Web.

Elisabeth Sandberg said that the Valley chapter of Southern California Women for Understanding is doing a program called Bridges, which will help bring older and younger women together.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed an item from Josh Kurpies regarding the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. in memory of Betty Berzon.

The next regular meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 9, 2006, in the Community Conference Room.