

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 10, 2005
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 Ivy Bottini at 7:10 p.m., Thursday, March 10, 2005, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members present were Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Chris Clarkin, Bill Gordon, Scott Mann, Jimmy Palmieri, Elisabeth Sandberg, Susan Sexton, Nadia Sutton, Ruth Title, and Jeff Yarbrough. A quorum was present at all times. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was present.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With the inclusion of corrections noted by Jimmy Palmieri, the minutes of the December 2004 and February 2005 meetings were approved on a motion by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Bill Gordon, with Elisabeth Sandberg abstaining with regard to February.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Harrison (Harry) Kline-Aguado, liaison from the Disability Advisory Board, introduced himself and distributed his card, and brochures about disability services. He will be included on agenda distribution.

Ivy Bottini introduced Marian Jones, a friend and former Los Angeles resident who is considering moving back to the city.

III. RAINBOW KEY NOMINATIONS

The Advisory Board discussed the purpose of the Rainbow Key awards, and will be making more decisions in the future. Staff will review records for any pending awards and make sure they are presented, as well as distributing recommendation forms to members, so they can be considering future recipients.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Advisory Board reviewed memberships on its various committees, and considered ways to reorganize them.

1. MEDIA

No report.

2. LEGISLATIVE

No report.

3. LESBIAN VISIBILITY

Susan Sexton and Nadia Sutton reported the committee is moving ahead with program ideas for the year.

4. LGBT YOUTH

Jimmy Palmieri said the City has donated a large number of city-related items to the Jeff Griffith Youth Center.

5. RAPID RESPONSE ISSUES TEAM

The Advisory Board discussed holding public meetings with regard to crystal methamphetamine, the possible new strain of HIV, and barebacking. The Rapid Response and Health committees will look into these, and plan further action. Members of Rapid Response are Jimmy Palmieri, Dan Berkowitz, Nadia Sutton, Sue Sexton, Ivy Bottini, and Scott Mann.

6. OUTREACH

The subcommittee is still waiting for city action on its request for intern assistance.

7. LESBIAN AND GAY HEALTH ISSUES

See above.

B. LIAISON REPORTS

1. PUBLIC SAFETY

Chris Clarkin will get copies of items from the Public Safety Commission for the Advisory Board's information.

2. CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

Chris Clarkin and Bill Gordon have discussed possible collaborations between CSW and LGAB.

Chris Clarkin said there will be a 35-day series of events in the 35 days before Pride this year, to recognize the festival's 35th anniversary. The events may include an art show, with possible extension to an art tent at the festival. CSW will be meeting with City staff on March 22.

Jeff Book reported that the City said there was no budget for a separate float for LGAB in the Pride parade, that the City is still planning to have board and commission members ride together in some common vehicle, and that the City is considering improving the quality of its main entry in the parade. Bill Gordon and others said it was outrageous that LGAB does not have a distinctive role in the parade, given the nature and history of the event. Board members will pursue this further with staff and city officials.

3. CHAIRS MEETING

The chairs meeting is upcoming.

C. TOM OF FINLAND

Dan Berkowitz presented the proposal for the 2005 Tom of Finland art fair, which the Advisory Board voted to support and recommend Council support of, as they did last year, on a motion by Chris Clarkin, seconded by Scott Mann, and unanimously approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. YOM HASHOAH

Jeff Book reported on the upcoming Yom Hashoah event in Plummer Park. Fran Solomon has asked the Advisory Board to expand its role in the event this year, with anyone interested in volunteering asked to contact Chris Worland at City Hall. The Advisory Board was interested in participating in event planning for next year's commemoration.

B. WEST HOLLYWOOD AS LGBT DESTINATION

James Kampas, director of tourism and marketing for the West Hollywood Convention & Visitors Bureau, spoke to the Advisory Board about their publicity campaigns and other outreach to encourage visitors to choose West Hollywood. Brad Burlingame is the president of CVB, which has eight staffers and is funded by a 1.5% tax on hotel stays by non-residents (another 12% TOT, or transient occupancy tax, goes directly to the City). Their annual budget is approximately \$1.25 million.

The Advisory Board recommended greatly improving communications between councilmembers and the CVB so that everyone will be aware of their programs. LGAB will have an ongoing relationship with CVB in pursuit of improving the City's standing as an LGBT destination. It was also recommended that the city's status as a pet-friendly community be included in public relations materials.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Jimmy Palmieri noted that Jeff Stryker will be on his cable show on March 16.

Sue Sexton said she had heard that Walgreens has purchased the small strip mall near Crescent Heights, and had directed the shops there to remove any gay-related literature from their premises. Staff will write to Walgreens and request an immediate response to this.

Nadia Sutton asked for an updated membership list.

Chris Clarkin asked if LGAB members can receive copies of photographs that Richard Settle takes of them for the City. He also noted that LGAB never had its photo made for the City's 20th anniversary commemoration, and asked if this could still be done.

There was also discussion of encouraging the U.S. Postal Service to list the 90069 zip code as West Hollywood instead of Los Angeles.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Advisory Board was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2005, in the Community Conference Room.