

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – MAY 8, 2014**  
**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Amy Ruskin at 7:03 pm, Thursday, May 8, 2014, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg, Jeffrey Waack

Not Present: Ivy Bottini, Ruth Tittle, Laura Wise

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Jeff Book, staff liaison, and Mike Che, Cultural Affairs Coordinator.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

C. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

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

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Robert Gamboa moved to amend the agenda by dividing Item V.C. (LA PRIDE Festival 2014) into two items, V.C.1, dealing with #Sizzle at LA PRIDE, and V.C.2, dealing with the LA PRIDE Test Kitchen, moving these items above V.A. in sequence, and approving the agenda as amended. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved.

E. MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2014

The minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2014, were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Jeffrey Waack.

F. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Robert Gamboa requested that the meeting be adjourned in happiness for mothers, in recognition of Mother's Day, May 11, 2014.

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Hillel Wasserman of Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles spoke about the group's outreach to find LGBT people willing to serve as Big Brothers or Big Sisters under their program. He would like to provide additional information through an agenda item at an upcoming meeting.

Lee Walkup, liaison from Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the May 7 meeting of the steering committee for West Hollywood Park Phase II plans.

Selena Small, Women for Sobriety Center, spoke in support of #SIZZLE! at LA PRIDE, and asked the Advisory Board to support the project.

Larry Block, owner of Block Party on Santa Monica Boulevard, spoke in support of #SIZZLE!

Mike Rizzo, manager of crystal meth recovery services at the Gay & Lesbian Center, said they are the lead agency preparing #SIZZLE! for the LA PRIDE Festival, and will be contributing \$10,000 toward costs. He also thanked the Advisory Board for supporting #BOOM!, the sober event on New Year's Eve.

Jimmy Palmieri, founder of Tweakers, spoke in support of #SIZZLE!, and described plans for red and white booths that will stand out in LA PRIDE. He said Christopher Street West has been very gracious in providing space for the event, and urged the Advisory Board to support the project.

Amy Veselo, Women for Sobriety Center, spoke in support of #SIZZLE!

Shirley Harris, director of Women for Sobriety Center, spoke in support of #SIZZLE!

Amy Rafkin, Women for Sobriety Center, spoke in support of #SIZZLE!

Mike Che, Cultural Affairs Coordinator for the City, spoke about this year's plans for One City One Pride, including "One Night," a May 31 event by ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, recreating an event held at the opening of the Pacific Design Center's green building.

Andrea Smith, Women for Sobriety Center, spoke in support of #SIZZLE!

David Frantz, curator at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, provided further information on the "One Night" program.

## III. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

Robert Gamboa said the new Addiction, Recovery and Sexual Health committee will meet tomorrow, May 10, at 4:30 pm in the Sky Room at West Hollywood Park, on topics including a cure of Hepatitis C, binge drinking, bedbugs, meth recovery, sober sex, and HIV undetectability in sero-discordant relationships.

Robert Gamboa said that an event for lesbians is being considered as part of outreach, and will come back on a future agenda. He also spoke about perhaps having an International Awareness Day, to educate about the conditions faced by LGBT people around the world.

Robert Gamboa said staff has advised how to proceed on the Video Project.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. EVOLUTION OF US

Matt Palazzolo thanked this board, the Transgender Advisory Board, and everyone who helped with the “Evolution of Us” program, which was a great success, although everyone wished publicity could be improved, and more could have attended. TransPride LA is being held June 13-14 and Christopher Argyros is interested in the Advisory Board participating. Advisory Board members thanked Matt and Drían Juarez for their work in producing the event.

B. RAINBOW KEY

In the absence of reports from those who were researching catering, awards and other aspects of the Rainbow Key program, the co-chairs and staff will discuss finalizing these preparations in the next few days.

C. UTILITY BOX DECORATION

Elisabeth Sandberg and the staff liaison said the Utility Box project is moving forward in hopes that they may be installed by the time of LA PRIDE.

D. CONNECT OUR STORIES

Enrique Reveles suggested rescheduling this item for July, and there was no objection.

V. NEW BUSINESS

C. 1. LA PRIDE FESTIVAL: #SIZZLE!

Robert Gamboa reported on this collaborative effort to create a safe space for sober enjoyment of the LA PRIDE festival, as described in previous comments, and moved to recommend that the City sponsor #SIZZLE! with \$1,500 in support from the Gay & Lesbian Programs line item. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg. Matt Palazzolo recommended looking at all current requests for funding support before acting on any, and there was no objection. The motion was withdrawn pending additional discussion.

2. LA PRIDE FESTIVAL: TEST KITCHEN

Matt Palazzolo, who is also a CSW board member, spoke about plans for the LA PRIDE Test Kitchen, which will invite LGBT (and allied) chefs from California and the nation to create a food attraction. The area is intended to be family-friendly and not alcohol-related. He requested that the Board recommend that the City sponsor the Test Kitchen with \$1,500 in support from the Gay & Lesbian Programs line item.

A. ONE CITY ONE PRIDE / ONE NIGHT

Mike Che said the Advisory Board has supported a number of events related to One City One Pride over the years, including INSTALL:WeHo and the gay play reading festivals. On behalf of One City One Pride, he requested that the Board recommend \$3,400 in funds from the Gay & Lesbian Programs line item be used in support of the ONE Archives' One Night project.

David Frantz of ONE Archives spoke about the One Night project, which recreates a video art installation from the dedication of the Green Building of the Pacific Design Center, and is planned for 8 to 11 pm on May 31.

The staff liaison said the Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization had recommended that \$5,000 from the line item be earmarked for expenses related to the 2014 Rainbow Key Awards, and that he thought she was skeptical of additional funding for PRIDE-related events due to the enormous contribution and support that the City already provides to PRIDE.

Enrique Reveles expressed concern that arts staff was requesting support for funding for One City One Pride-related events, one month after telling the Board that they would not need to request such support this year.

Board members discussed various combinations of funding recommendations, and reached a consensus for the following:

\$1,250	Test Kitchen
\$1,500	#SIZZLE!
\$2,150	ONE Night
\$3,500	Rainbow Key expenses
\$1,000	Retained for unanticipated expenses

If all recommendations were adopted, this equals the \$9,400 balance in the Gay & Lesbian Programs line item for FY 2013-2014, at this time.

Matt Palazzolo and Robert

This was moved by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and approved without objection. Matt Palazzolo commented that although Board members understood concerns about providing additional funding to PRIDE-related events, these were projects that would benefit the City and which developed out of the City's desire for a more diverse group of activities at PRIDE.

B. FESTIVAL OF RUSSIAN STYLE

The Advisory Board discussed sponsoring a table at the Festival of Russian Style on May 18, but decided not to, since members were unavailable to staff it.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Elisabeth Sandberg congratulated the June Mazer Lesbian Archives, which has been working with UCLA to digitize its collection for permanence and safekeeping. She also spoke about a May 24 Lambda Literary reading by author Dennis Altman, and about a lesbian conference being organized for June 21 at the Harmony Gold theatre.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Gamboa noted questions raised this week about patronizing the Beverly Hills Hotel, which is owned by Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei, and asked for this to be on the next agenda. There was no objection.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed magnets that the City will be giving away at its booth at LA PRIDE.

Staff noted there is a statewide election on June 3.

In response to a question about whether Advisory Board members are permitted to accept free admission to the LA PRIDE festival due to their sponsorship of #SIZZLE! and the Test Kitchen.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Walkup spoke about AIDS LifeCycle, which is traveling from San Francisco to Los Angeles June 1-7 this year. He also spoke about the Sultan of Brunei; maintaining the live cablecasting of the PRIDE parade; and about the success of the Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization in accomplishing the maximum possible with limited resources. Robert Gamboa noted he is participating in AIDS LifeCycle this year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm in recognition of Mother's Day.

*Signed,*



Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair



Amy Ruskin, Co-Chair