

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 13, 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 Robert Gamboa at 7:09 pm, Thursday, March 13, 2014, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Ruth Tittle, Laura Wise

Not Present: Amy Ruskin, Jeffrey Waack

A quorum was present at all times. Also present was Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, and Jeff Book, staff liaison. Staff member Michael Che was present for part of the meeting.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lee Walkup.

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

The agenda was approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Matt Palazzolo.

E. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2014

The minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2014, were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Enrique Reveles, with Ivy Bottini and Ruth Tittle abstaining due to absence.

F. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

There were no adjournment requests.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Che, who is coordinating One City One Pride events, reported on upcoming arts opportunities, and provided a handout of activities.

Lee Walkup, liaison from the Senior Advisory Board, spoke about the Gay Men's Chorus planning to welcome the sister of an early member of the Chorus who was known as "Reba." He noted that Lambda Legal has filed additional cases in state court challenging bans on marriage. With regard to the Book Fair, he urged the Advisory Board to support holding an event in September, and said that Council will be considering this April 7.

III. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

On the Utility Box project, Elizabeth Savage said that terms of the contract with the artist are being completed, and that the project would be moving forward shortly.

On the Video Project, Elizabeth Savage said the City Council had approved the project in concept, and that returning to them with a more detailed proposal on use of funds, and project logistics, is the next step. A meeting will be held with the co-chairs and the Public Information Manager.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CONNECT OUR STORIES

The Advisory Board continued preparations for the March 24 event sponsored jointly with the Russian and Transgender advisory boards, to be held at 7 pm in the Library Community Meeting Room. Elizabeth Savage said there are plans for a cultural counter, with diverse materials from various groups. Catering will be by Mari Vanna, 8475 Melrose Place, a restaurant that specializes in Russian dishes.

Robert Gamboa moved that he and Ivy Bottini be the panelists to speak at this event on behalf of the Advisory Board. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

Moderation will be shared among the boards. Laura Wise will be the moderator for LGAB. The planned format begins with remarks by panelists, discussion by attendees, and a reception.

B. RAINBOW KEY

The Advisory Board did extensive planning for a June event presenting Rainbow Key Awards, and members assigned responsibility for various aspects of the program, including:

Letter notifying honorees of the award – Robert Gamboa and Amy Ruskin

Confirming attendance of Prop 8 honorees – Robert Gamboa

Confirming attendance of Gay Men's Chorus, inviting them to sing, and checking on any technical needs they have – Matt Palazzolo

Confirming attendance of Kim Rocco Shields, inviting her to show a clip from "Love Is All You Need?" and checking on any technical needs for that – Laura Wise

Confirming attendance of NCJW – Robert Gamboa

Confirming attendance of Noelle Carter and Valerie Moore – Elisabeth Sandberg

Emceeding the event – Robert Gamboa and Amy Ruskin
Checking on catering – Laura Wise
Asking honorees for bio information – Board members
Press releases – Staff
Invitations to City Council – Staff
Printed program for the event – To be determined
Photography – Various quotes will be gathered
Flowers – Quote for single display will be gathered
Step & Repeat – Staff will check on availability

The Advisory Board preferred Tuesday, June 17, as the date for the event, pending availability of the Council Chambers.

C. JOINT PROJECT WITH TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Palazzolo reported on work he has done with Drían Juarez to prepare a joint project for these boards. The proposal is for “The Evolution of Us,” an evaluation of gender identity and related matters, which will also be sponsored by CSW. The proposed program is for refreshments, introduction by the Mayor or appropriate official, Keynote remarks by Buck Angel (in person or by video), a brief version of “Trans 101,” a speed mixer focusing on impressions of gender and sexual identity (for those who want to participate), a short video featuring members of the boards and others, and a panel discussion of identities. The Transgender Advisory Board has already approved this. Coordination with local businesses for gift bags is also planned.

Matt Palazzolo moved to approve co-sponsoring this event, and to request approval from City Council (if not already approved) for expenditure of \$400 for food and up to \$1,000 in an honorarium for the keynote speaker, from Lesbian and Gay Programs line item. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

In discussion on when to hold the event, the group settled on late April. Staff will check on availability of the Council chambers on April 23 or 30. These dates were moved by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, and approved.

D. YOUTH OUTREACH

Staff presented the draft text of a press release inviting applications to serve as non-voting Youth Member of the Advisory Board, which the City anticipates issuing tomorrow, March 14.

Since participation from youth ages 15 to 18 is being requested, Ruth Tittle asked if some kind of parental approval or waiver is needed. Staff said they would check on this.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. ADDICTION, RECOVERY AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Robert Gamboa reported that he and Ruth Tittle are proposing a new phase of activity for a committee on Addiction, Recovery and Sexual Health (ARSH), and moved to create this committee. This was seconded by Paul Chavez and approved. The ARSH committee will address the following topics: Hepatitis C cure; Binge drinking; Homeless people affected by bedbugs; Meth abuse; Healthy sex; The City having nothing to serve the needs of those who don't drink or do drugs; Preventive measures for addiction; What it means in practice to be HIV positive undetectable; and sero-discordant relationships.

Robert Gamboa, Ruth Tittle, Ivy Bottini, Laura Wise and Matt Palazzolo expressed interest in being on the committee, which is limited to a maximum of five LGAB members and may not include non-members as voting participants in its meetings. Robert Gamboa moved approval of that group of committee members, which was seconded by Enrique Reveles, and approved.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ruth Tittle spoke about Capitol Drugs Sample Saturday and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Health Fair, which will be held from noon to 4 pm on Saturday, March 22, 2014. She also spoke about her vacation on a live-aboard dive ship in the Dominican Republic, and said the chef, who is transgender, may be visiting during Pride. She asked if there were any objection to the chef riding with the Advisory Board in the parade, and there were not any.

Robert Gamboa spoke about the Los Angeles Gay Freedom Band's performance scheduled for 3 pm, March 16, 2014, at First Congregational Church, 540 S. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles. He also spoke about the LA Revolution marching band, which is recruiting for percussionist, color guard, and other positions.

The 19th Women in Leadership Awards are coming up on Thursday, March 20, and among the honorees is Sue Sexton, former member of LGAB.

Ruth Tittle spoke about Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing opening a 40-unit intergenerational housing area on April 1, for which they received 500 applications.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ivy Bottini said she would like to see two youth members, one female and one male. She moved to place this on the next agenda, and there was no objection.

Robert Gamboa requested that the treatment of gays and lesbians in Nigeria be placed on the next agenda. There was no objection.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff distributed copies of a Council report and resolution regarding the treatment of gays and lesbians under the law of Uganda.

Elizabeth Savage thanked the Board for the work they have been accomplishing, and spoke about the Women's Leadership event and the work of the Homeless Services Subcommittee of the Human Services Commission.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Signed,



Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair



Amy Ruskih, Co-Chair