

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2012
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Matt Palazzolo at 7:06 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Lucas John, Shawn Mimbs, Andrew Oldershaw,
Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg,
Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle

Not Present: Creo Bettencourt

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 agenda was approved as posted.

D. MINUTES

The minutes of the Dec. 8, 2011, meeting were approved on a motion by Sue Sexton, seconded by Ruth Tittle.

E. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Ivy Bottini requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Rae Mitchell, and Andrew Oldershaw requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Caroline Thompson

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Christian Calle of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's legal clinic spoke about their services, including the new workers' rights clinic being held by appointment on second and fourth Thursdays each month.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Sue Sexton said a couple of members of the Transgender Advisory Board would like to join the task force on bullying, so their names have been provided to the task force.

Andrew Oldershaw said the Addiction Recovery and Sexual Health task force is considering developing a survey of the community.

Ruth Tittle said the AIDS memorial group, which is no longer an LGAB task force but a community group on which some members of LGAB participate, met yesterday and is considering becoming a corporation soon.

Enrique Reveles spoke about the AIDS memorial group.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Council Deputy Michelle Rex said she and Mike Gerle are developing community meetings, as recommended by Councilmember John D'Amico and approved at the Dec. 19 City Council meeting. Plans are for a gay men's discussion group and lesbian discussion group. They are seeking topics and ideas for the pilot program, which is projected to run for six months as a place for gathering other than bars.

Ivy Bottini recommended labels; the use of language about the gay and lesbian Community; feminism and sexism; having the lesbian and gay participants get together to talk at some point; Alzheimer's Disease in the community; and the renaissance for butches.

Andrew Oldershaw spoke about safety issues, bullying/hate crimes, and generational divisions, and recommended that anonymous questions and asking participants to set aside their potential for being offended be considered for these meetings. He recommended having a host committee, and having the Council members attend.

Lucas John spoke about a jobs program encouraging hiring local residents, such as urging the City to hire local residents for parking enforcement.

Sue Sexton spoke about encouraging people to tell their stories so they will not get lost over time.

Ruth Tittle spoke about gay families with children.

Shawn Mimbs spoke about providing transportation so people will be able to participate in the meetings.

Ivy Bottini and Lucas John discussed women's nights at bars and clubs.

B. COLLABORATIVE EVENT WITH CSW

The Advisory Board talked about sponsoring a collaborative event with

Christopher Street West, whether during Pride Month, for National Coming Out Day, or some other time. The CSW board holds a public meeting monthly, at 7 pm on second Tuesdays, at 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Room 302. Matt Palazzolo will attend as liaison, and talk with them about possibilities.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MISSION STATEMENT

Andrew Oldershaw said four drafts of possible mission statements had been received from members, so far. The item was continued until the next meeting, and members were encouraged to continue submitting ideas.

B. WORKPLAN

Members continued discussion of items they would like to see the Board address this year. Topics included a strong event for Harvey Milk Day (May 22); joint meeting with Transgender Advisory Board; Rainbow Key Awards; possible FBI presentation on outreach to the community; improved visibility and LGBT author presentation at the Book Fair; being more hands-on with the community; a presentation on what is being taught in schools under the new law on not excluding information about gay and lesbian people in history; how the repeal of DADT is being carried out; participating in the community meetings recommended by Councilmember D'Amico; doing something noteworthy in the name of the community, such as an art show that would empower and involve a large number of people.

Tentative workplan items included:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Estimated time</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
Joint Meeting with TAB	Sue Sexton	April	\$0 – 1,000
CSW Collaborative Event	Matt Palazzolo	March	\$0
Rainbow Key	Lucas John, Sue Sexton, Ivy Bottini	June, with honorees recommended to Council by April	\$5,000
Book Fair	Matt Palazzolo, Ben McCormick	September/October, plan by August	\$500
Addiction Recovery & Sexual Health	Andrew Oldershaw	August	TBD
Community Art Project	Andrew Oldershaw	Update by June	TBD

C. LESBIAN VISIBILITY AND DIALOGUE WITH WOMEN

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

D. ROLE OF LABELS

Ivy Bottini said she would like to see a panel discussion, with open discussion from participants, about the role of labels in the community. Matt Palazzolo said this item might be included in the community meetings recommended by Councilmember D'Amico, or the possible art project.

There was discussion of the term "tranny" and opinions on its usage.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ivy Bottini spoke about lesbian participants in a recent California beauty pageant.

Shawn Mimbs and others talked about volunteerism, and how the activist fair the Board once held was not as successful as hoped in terms of outreach.

Sue Sexton noted that Kristy McNichol has come out as a lesbian.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Friends of the Library are seeking volunteers.

Ivy Bottini said there is no Women's Movement section in the library.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke about parking near The Spot, the HIV testing location at Santa Monica and San Vicente boulevards, and about the continued availability of Plummer Park locations for 12-step meetings.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jimmy Palmieri spoke about the most recent Human Services Commission meeting, which allocated funding to residential treatment programs; cuts to state senior services; increased testing numbers at The Spot; MediCal's HMO programs; and a change of focus in HIV/AIDS services, away from prevention, and toward testing and linkage to care, as a result of the national AIDS strategy.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm in memory of Rae Mitchell and Caroline Thompson.

Signed:

Elisabeth Sandberg, Co-Chair

Matt Palazzolo, Co-Chair