

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2009
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Dan Berkowitz at 7:10 p.m., Thursday, February 12, 2009, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Bryeon Earle, Bill Gordon, David “Tradd” Keaton, Ben McCormick, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton.

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, with unanimous agreement that item 5.A. would be taken up between item III and item IV.

D. MINUTES

Approval of minutes was deferred.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lindsay Horvath, Women’s Advisory Board member and liaison to LGAB, distributed a list of events for the upcoming Women’s History Month.

Enrique Ornelas, 2009 captain of West Hollywood Cheerleaders, introduced himself and spoke briefly about their program.

III. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Nadia Sutton is working with the Women’s Advisory Board.

Elisabeth Sandberg attended a Public Safety Commission meeting. She spoke about recent attacks on gay men, and distributed handouts from the Public Safety staff.

Bryeon Earle spoke about coordinating LGAB speakers at Council meetings. Ben McCormick spoke this week, and Dan Berkowitz will speak on February 17.

David "Tradd" Keaton said Rent Stabilization Commission meets tonight and also in two Weeks. He met with the Lesbian and Gay Chamber of Commerce; went to the kickoff for the Postcards project; is staying in touch with Equal Roots; attended a Christopher Street West meeting; and noted that tomorrow is Freedom to Marry day at the Beverly Hills Courthouse.

Sue Sexton noted the LEX exhibit item was passed by Council, and opens on March 14. There is a city election on March 3. She spoke about an arts event at Plummer Park this weekend, and about the historical event held at the Black Cat (Le Barcito), featuring Lillian Faderman, Troy Perry, and others.

Ben McCormick attended Planning Commission and Public Facilities, which dealt with the Transgender Memorial. He also spoke on the LEX item at City Council.

Dan Berkowitz said the Events Committee is aiming for June 24 for Comedy Night at the Macha Theatre. He said the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights is doing readings June 10 and 17 at Celebration Theatre; noted that the women's safer sex packets committee is meeting next week; and reviewed a list of LGBT-related agencies.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

Corey Roskin distributed a list of gay- and lesbian-related panels and authors who have appeared in previous years, and said the 2009 Book Fair is in early planning. Ben McCormick spoke about expanding the LGBT area, and providing an LGAB presence to connect with authors. Nadia Sutton suggested having a panel moderated by Ivy Bottini or Dan Berkowitz. Ivy Bottini said the GenderPlay exhibit could provide an interesting topic for a panel.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SPONSORSHIP OF CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE DEBATE

Ivy Bottini reported on discussions about sponsoring a City Council candidate debate prior to the March 3 election. A community event is now being planned by neighborhood organizations, with input from the League of Women Voters.

B. CITY COMMENDATIONS FOR GED GRADUATES

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

C. EXPANDING CLUB FREEDOM EVENTS

The Advisory Board asked for information about what is involved in putting on the alcohol- and substance-free Club Freedom event for New Year's Eve, and whether it would be possible to expand this to other nights of the year. Staff will research and ask those with information to attend an upcoming meeting.

D. BRINGING OUTFEST TO WEST HOLLYWOOD

Tradd Keaton spoke to Jeffrey Prang about this idea, and received positive Response. Dan Berkowitz will check on how community sponsorships for Outfest events work, and whether this is a possibility for LGAB.

E. GAY MEN'S FORUM

Hernan Molina said a Gay Men's Forum is being planned for May 2, using feedback from last year's event. There will be a review of community history and breakout sessions on issues of current relevance. Further information will be provided when available.

F. TELEVISED MEETING

Hernan Molina said plans are underway for televising a meeting of LGAB, on May 26. The Advisory Board discussed what topic and format should be adopted for that meeting.

G. 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF STONEWALL

Hernan Molina said that he and Fran Solomon have been speaking with the Gay & Lesbian Center about recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall events in New York, and they will also involve CSW in planning, and provide more information in the future.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 8:25 p.m.

B. WOMEN'S SAFER SEX PACKETS

Dan Berkowitz said the committee dealing with this will be meeting to review contents for the packets. They may have a draft by the next meeting.

C. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Dan Berkowitz said a slate of proposed honorees will be prepared for the March meeting. The Advisory Board reviewed recommendations that have been received from the public for this year's awards.

D. PROPOSITION 8

This topic was held over to a later meeting.

There was additional public comment from two students working in social work programs at USC.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Nadia Sutton spoke about a letter of a person being denied visitation rights in a hospital.

Tradd Keaton said Fr. Geoff Farrow will be at Hollywood United Methodist this week.

Dan Berkowitz noted his one-man performance piece, "Crime and Punishment – The Musical," will premiere in New York later this year.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. in memory of Lawrence King.