

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2011
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 Matt Palazzolo at 7:04 p.m., Thursday, October 13, 2011, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Creo Bettencourt, Ivy Bottini, Lucas John, Shawn Mimbs, Matt Palazzolo, Jimmy Palmieri, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, and Ruth Tittle.

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 on a motion by Enrique Reveles, seconded by Matt Palazzolo.

D. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Sept. 8, 2011, meeting were approved on a motion by Sue Sexton, seconded by Enrique Reveles.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Adjournment requests were made for Ben McCormick's mother, Councilmember Abbe Land's father, and Frank Kameny.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Dan Berkowitz, former member of the Advisory Board, invited members to Drama Lama Ding Dong!, a day-long event by the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights, to be held Oct. 15 at Plummer Park. He said he was honored to have served on the board, including two years as co-chair. He urged Board members to do things and not simply talk about them. He said his greatest disappointment on the Board was not being able to fully examine why the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission had declined to support the Tom of Finland Foundation arts event this year.

Nadia Sutton thanked the Board for supporting the C.I.T.Y.x1 Thanksgiving event again this year. She spoke about the After-Census event being held Oct. 26, to discuss data regarding the LGBT community, and about AIDS Walk. She said it had been great to be on this Board, and she would soon be joining the Women's Advisory Board.

Ben Coleman said he has initiated a Keep Weho Safe page on Facebook, and he would like to see street safety and personal safety on the list of task forces for the Advisory Board. He said funding for officers on bikes could help deter street fights and robberies. He would like gay and lesbian patrons of local businesses to lobby them to support a Business Improvement District.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Ivy Bottini said she would like to remove the gay and lesbian museum from the list of task forces, because one is underway with a non-profit corporation, and will be located in Hollywood. There was no objection.

Ruth Tittle said the AIDS memorial task force met with members of the Friends of the AIDS Memorial, and work continues. Ivy Bottini said the design is planned to be open to Competition, and that the Friends of the AIDS Memorial members have been a big help in moving the project forward.

Sue Sexton spoke about the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20, including a march from Plummer Park to Crescent Heights. She said a joint meeting with the Transgender Advisory Board has been temporarily put on hold due to the board reorganizations, and consideration is being given to a social event that would bring the groups together.

Andrew Oldershaw introduced himself to the members of the Board. Mayor Duran plans to appoint Jimmy Palmieri to the Human Services Commission, and Andrew Oldershaw to the Advisory Board.

Advisory Board members agreed to serve in the following task force and liaison positions:

- Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission – Lucas John
- Business License Commission – Lucas John
- Historic Preservation Commission – Shawn Mimbs
- Human Services Commission – Ruth Tittle
- Lesbian Visibility Committee – Ruth Tittle
- Planning Commission – Lucas John
- Project Advisory Committee – Shawn Mimbs
- Public Safety Commission – Enrique Reveles
- Russian Advisory Board – Lucas John
- Transgender Advisory Board – Sue Sexton
- Transportation Commission – Matt Palazzolo
- Women's Advisory Board – Sue Sexton

- Rainbow Key – Lucas John, Sue Sexton
- Pride Month Activities – Shawn Mimbs, Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle

Book Fair – Elisabeth Sandberg, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles
AIDS Memorial – Ivy Bottini, Shawn Mimbs, Matt Palazzolo,
Enrique Reveles, Ruth Tittle
Marketing – Andrew Oldershaw, Lucas John
Harvey Milk Day – Shawn Mimbs, Robert Gamboa.
Bullying/Safety – Lucas John (chair), Andrew Oldershaw, Robert Gamboa,
Jimmy Palmieri, Ben McCormick, Enrique Reveles, Matt Palazzolo,
Ivy Bottini
Addiction, Recovery and HIV – Andrew Oldershaw (chair), Robert Gamboa,
Ruth Tittle, Jimmy Palmieri

Liaisons were not named at this time for the Disabilities Advisory Board, Public Facilities Commission, Rent Stabilization Commission, or Senior Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board watched the “It Gets Better” video of Jamey Rodemeyer, a 14-year-old from Williamsville, N.Y., who died by suicide on Oct. 23, 2011, after what his parents and friends said were years of bullying.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. ENTRANCE MARKERS FOR THE CITY

Shawn Mimbs presented an idea for distinctive entrance markers at key entry points to the city, including a welcome, founding date, rainbow flags, U.S. and California flags, and perhaps recognition of a unique aspect of the community, such as historic rock and roll venues on Sunset Blvd., LGBT clubs and sites on western Santa Monica Blvd., the Russian community on eastern Santa Monica Blvd., and similar aspects.

Advisory Board members spoke in support of the idea. Shawn Mimbs, Andrew Oldershaw, and Ivy Bottini said they would pursue the idea with the Public Facilities Commission and staff.

B. ANTI-BULLYING

This was addressed under Item III above.

C. GENERAL SAFETY/STREET SAFETY

This was addressed under Item III above.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RETREAT/WORKPLAN

The Advisory Board discussed scheduling a retreat to develop a workplan for the remainder of 2011-2012. The retreat was set for the next regular meeting date, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, in the Senior Lounge at Plummer Park Community Center, if available. Lucas John and Matt Palazzolo were designated as a task force to discuss alternate arrangements if that space is unavailable.

B. WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

Pursuant to Council instructions to evaluate events after they are held, the Advisory Board discussed participation in the recent West Hollywood Book Fair, held Oct. 2 in the new Library and West Hollywood Park. Members said the banner and a microphone are needed for future occasions, and that they would like to see the Advisory Board's area become a more formal part of the Book Fair.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Sue Sexton spoke about events being held by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a and a post-Census event focusing on LGBT data.

Matt Palazzolo spoke about the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act, which requires textbooks and social studies curricula in California public schools to include the political, economic and social contributions of LGBT people and persons with disabilities. A petition drive to challenge the act by referendum has apparently failed to gather enough signatures.

Ruth Tittle noted that Ivy Bottini was honored at the recent Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing event, and received a proclamation from Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti.

Jimmy Palmieri said it had been good to work with Advisory Board members, and that he would be beginning work on the Human Services Commission.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about hosting a Muslim scholar.

Ivy Bottini noted that her daughter, from Danbury, CT, is moving to California.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said the annual Congress of Commissions and Advisory Boards will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the new Library, and that a format different from previous years is being developed.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9.12 p.m. in memory of Ben McCormick's mother; Councilmember Abbe Land's father; Frank Kameny; and Jamey Rodemeyer.

Signed:

Elisabeth Sandberg, Co-Chair

Matt Palazzolo, Co-Chair