

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 2009
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

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, September 17, 2009, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Bryeon Earle, David “Tradd” Keaton, Rev. Pat Langlois, Ben McCormick, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, Ruth Tittle. Rev. Pat Langlois joined the meeting in progress.

A quorum was present at all times. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was also present. Mayor Abbe Land was present for part of the meeting.

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 to postpone items V-A (June Mazer Archives), and to add an urgency item regarding the challenge to Maine’s marriage equality law.

D. MINUTES

Minutes of the July meeting were amended to include notation of Mayor Land’s thanking the Advisory Board for the Pride events in June. The minutes of the June 11, 2009, meeting were approved on a motion by Ivy Bottini, seconded by Ben McCormick. The minutes of the July 9, 2009, meeting were approved on a motion by David “Tradd” Keaton, seconded by Sue Sexton. The minutes of the August 13, 2009, meeting were approved on a motion by Bryeon Earle, seconded by Ben McCormick, with Dan Berkowitz abstaining due to absence.

II. REMARKS FROM MAYOR

Mayor Abbe Land welcomed the newly reappointed boardmembers, and said she hopes the board will work well together. She said City Council is continuing to review advisory board bylaws as well as the overall purpose and mission of the advisory boards. She said City Council and the board should consider encouraging rotation in the leadership of the board, so that more members have an opportunity to develop these skills. Mayor Land also discussed encouraging cultural competency toward the LGBT community among medical providers, spoke about the family summit and teen summit coming up, and congratulated Ivy Bottini on her current art show.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Michael Haas spoke about scheduling conflicts between the Rainbow group of seniors and programs at the Gay & Lesbian Center. He wondered if the Advisory Board could assist or provide mediation with these issues. The topic was placed on the next agenda.

Carlos Sosa from CITY X1 youth group spoke about their upcoming Thanksgiving event on Saturday, Nov. 21, and their holiday event on Dec. 19. The topic of whether and how to help this event was placed on the next agenda.

Mike Ai, Chris Smith and Tanner Efinger spoke about a new space for grassroots LGBT activism, located at 8106 Santa Monica Boulevard. They are in need of office equipment, desks, and help with renovations.

IV. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Nadia Sutton spoke about Equal Roots and the Out West training boot camp.

Bryeon Earle said the Prop 8 task force met at Bill Gordon's home and recommended sponsoring a public informational meeting in early November at which activist groups could describe what they are doing with regard to repealing Prop 8. David "Tradd" Keaton said that given time constraints, perhaps the meeting should be held in January instead. This topic was placed on the next agenda.

An events task force was formed, consisting of Ivy Bottini, Sue Sexton, Ben McCormick, Dan Berkowitz, Nadia Sutton, and David "Tradd" Keaton.

David "Tradd" Keaton distributed new postcards from the Postcards to the President project.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Lesbian Visibility Committee is working on its bylaws and procedures, and is collaborating with Lavender L.A. on an exhibit downtown. She also said she cannot continue as liaison to Public Safety Commission.

Ruth Tittle said she did not attend Human Services Commission because it met on the same night as the City Council this month.

Dan Berkowitz said he did not attend the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission because he was out of town.

Sue Sexton spoke with members of the Transgender task force regarding the Aug. 26 murder of a transgender woman. They are planning a Nov. 20 candlelight remembrance. Dan Berkowitz read a message the Transgender group thanking the Advisory Board for their support of making their group an advisory board and no longer a task force.

Ben McCormick spoke about the upcoming Book Fair, at which the Advisory Board will be sponsoring a lounge area for some of the guests. Members were asked to bring any handouts that would like handed out, and Ben McCormick will be recruiting volunteers to help with the hosting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. JUNE MAZER ARCHIVE

This item was postponed.

B. RISE UP AND SHOUT!

The Advisory Board discussed this event, which will be held in October. Elisabeth Sandberg moved to recommend that the City Council co-sponsor the event, with no fiscal component. This was seconded by Ben McCormick and approved.

C. NAMING OF LIBRARY COLLECTION

This item was postponed.

D. MAINE QUESTION 1

David "Tradd" Keaton moved to recommend to City Council that they oppose Question 1, the effort to rescind equal marriage, on the Nov. 3, 2009, ballot in the State of Maine. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

E. NATIONAL EQUALITY MARCH

David "Tradd" Keaton moved to recommend to City Council that they endorse the National Equality March on Washington, D.C., which is planned for Oct. 10-11, 2009. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

F. ROTATION OF MODERATING DUTIES

Ivy Bottini recommended discussing this in the retreat, and this was agreed.

G. ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT

Ivy Bottini recommended holding a retreat in November. The secretary said that the City had asked the Advisory Board to consider holding this on a weeknight evening instead of a weekend day, perhaps in lieu of their regular November meeting, with the City providing a facilitator for discussion.

After discussion, Ivy Bottini moved to hold the retreat in lieu of the November general meeting, beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, at a location to be determined. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved. The Advisory Board would like to hold this event at a hotel or equivalent facility, with dinner provided due to the time of the meeting.

Development of topics for the facilitator was placed on the next agenda.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. STAGED READING OF "DEAR HARVEY"

Dan Berkowitz said he had spoken with Celebration Theatre about their previous reading of the play, which had drawn about 45 people and been well received. He said they are planning a new presentation and a possible tour. Board members discussed whether to produce an event in conjunction with this play, then voted by straw poll to not proceed with it.

B. AIDS MEMORIAL

Ivy Bottini said she and Dan Berkowitz are meeting with Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission and the Public Facilities Commission to discuss this project.

C. ROCKSTAR BEVERAGES

In the absence of Bill Gordon, who was going to do research on the company and the issue presented at the last meeting, the topic was carried over to the next meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

David "Tradd" Keaton asked for reports from the Prop 8 task force and the task force working on the public meeting with activist groups to be on the next agenda.

David "Tradd" Keaton asked for the next agenda to include recommending to Council that they conduct a press conference or similar event highlighting how to develop good relationships with police and sheriffs, in light of bad experiences around the country that

have been in the news this month.

Ruth Tittle spoke about the Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing garden party to be held Oct. 11, honoring Sharon Gless and Leeza Gibbons. She also spoke about not forgetting the important role of Harvey Milk, and the need for youth to learn about his life and develop support for equality.

Nadia Sutton spoke about PAWS L.A., which is holding a dinner on Oct. 29 with Lily Tomlin. She also urged board members to see Ivy Bottini's current art show.

Dan Berkowitz discussed the recent process of reappointments to the board, and thanked board members who demonstrated their support and friendship for him. He asked those who were concerned about the appointments to put this behind them and concentrate on doing positive things together as a board.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.