

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 8, 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 7:03 p.m., Thursday, October 8, 2009, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Bryeon Earle, Bill Gordon, Ben McCormick, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, 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, with unanimous agreement to delete item IV-C (June Mazer Archives).

D. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the September 17, 2009, meeting were carried over to next month.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ron Lachman, co-president of the Lesbian & Gay Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, introduced himself and said he would be serving as a liaison between that group and the Advisory Board. He said California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno would be speaking at their annual dinner this year.

Ben McCormick provided an update on David “Tradd” Keaton, who was involved in a car accident with an elk. He has also resigned from the board because he is relocating to Tennessee at this time.

III. **TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS**

The events task force will be meeting soon. Dan Berkowitz asked the group to consider doing a follow-up to the Stonewall heritage meeting in lieu of the possible town hall for groups working on Proposition 8 activism.

Bill Gordon and Nadia Sutton are working on whether and how to participate in proposals dealing with repeal of Proposition 8 in 2010.

Ruth Tittle will be liaison to Councilmember Lindsey Horvath. The board will wait for two vacancies to be filled before designating liaisons to the Public Safety Commission and Rent Stabilization Commission.

Ben McCormick reported on the Book Fair, which included a roofed seating area sponsored by the Advisory Board, where authors and others could gather. Nadia Sutton said she worked with authors Mark Thompson and Malcolm Boyd.

Unless the previous banner is located at City Hall, a new banner is needed.

Nadia Sutton spoke about the Equal Roots meeting, and asked about having a legislative report or forming a legislative committee.

Dan Berkowitz spoke about the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission and their performing arts subcommittee. He said Mayor Land is encouraging more emphasis on bringing live theatre to the city. He also discussed the possible lesbian and gay history museum.

Bill Gordon provided a legislative update, including President Obama speaking to the Human Rights Campaign dinner on Oct. 10; responses to the appointment of Paul Kirk as interim Senate replacement for the late Edward Kennedy; same-sex marriage legislation in the District of Columbia; the Foundation for Reconciliation in the Mormon Church, working on reconciling with the gay and lesbian community; Question 1 in Maine; a Microsoft donation in support of domestic partner rights in Washington state; Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert meeting with the gay community; and status of efforts to repeal the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy.

Ruth Tittle said Human Services Commission meets next week; a Family Summit is being held Oct. 24; Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing is expecting more than 500 people at their upcoming event; and Capitol Drugs is considering providing H1N1 flu shots at no charge.

Sue Sexton spoke about the Oct. 14 forum on women accessing health care, about AIDS Walk, and about the Family Summit.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW PROJECT / GAY AND LESBIAN CENTER

Ben McCormick spoke about discussions with Michael Haas, who brought to the Advisory Board his concerns that there was a conflict between the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the Rainbow group of seniors. Ivy Bottini moved that the Board recommend to Mr. Haas that he contact Dispute Resolution Services, a city-funded social services agency. This was seconded by Ben McCormick, and approved.

B. C.I.T.Y x1

Carlos Sosa spoke about the Thanksgiving event being held by C.I.T.Y. x1 from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Plummer Park -- a free event that will be alcohol- and drug-free, focused on LGBT youth ages 14 to 24, with about 200 people expected.

Ben McCormick moved to recommend that the City Council approve reimbursement of up to \$500 for purchase of food for LGBT youth at this event. This was seconded by Bill Gordon and approved. Dan Berkowitz agreed to purchase these items and be reimbursed.

C. JUNE MAZER ARCHIVE

This item was deleted.

D. NAMING OF LIBRARY COLLECTION

With regard to the proposal to recommend that the gay and lesbian collection at the West Hollywood Library be named in honor of Morris Kight, staff reported that naming of library rooms and collections is under the direction of the Library Foundation, which is seeking donations to support the library in exchange for naming privileges. This item was postponed for future consideration, after gathering further information on the naming of collections.

E. CO-SPONSORSHIP OF PRIDE MONTH

Dan Berkowitz said that the performing arts subcommittee of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) was recommending to that commission that all Pride Month arts activities be co-sponsored by ACAC and LGAB. He recommended that LGAB concur in this, if approved by ACAC.

After discussion of what would be entailed in such co-sponsorship, Ben McCormick moved to cooperate with ACAC in this way. This was seconded by Bill Gordon, and approved. Sue Sexton and Bryeon Earle volunteered to attend the performing arts subcommittee, which meets at 5 p.m. on second Thursdays, with Dan Berkowitz.

F. ROTATION OF MODERATING DUTIES

Ivy Bottini recommended making this one of the topics at the retreat. This was moved by Ben McCormick, seconded by Bryeon Earle, and approved.

G. ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT

Staff provided an update on planning for the Nov. 12 board retreat, including discussions with a facilitator of facilitators for the meeting.

Topics brought up for discussion at the retreat included (1) rotation of moderating duties; (2) getting more direction from the City as to what the City wants from the Advisory Board; and (3) whatever items individual members bring up with the facilitators in pre-meeting discussions.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. WORKPLAN

Dan Berkowitz presented a report from the events task force, detailing eight proposed items for the 2009-2010 Advisory Board workplan: (1) a board retreat in November at a projected cost of \$500; (2) an "activist fair" or similar event in January, with projected costs of \$1,000; (3) an event in March or April combining the arts and community concern, such as a film or play reading, followed by a panel discussion, at a projected cost of \$3,000; (4) a televised meeting in May or June on an issue of concern and interest to the community, at a projected cost of \$500; (5) the annual Rainbow Key Luncheon in June, at a projected cost of \$9,000; (6) a lesbian and gay comedy night, such as was presented in 2009, at a projected cost of \$3,000; (7) sponsorship of a reading festival of new gay and lesbian plays, at a projected cost of \$1,000; and (8) support for LGBT groups, including co-sponsorship of relevant non-LGAB events, at a projected cost of \$2,000. The total projected costs are \$20,000.

Staff said that costs of the retreat are being paid by Human Services Department. Item 1 on the workplan was replaced with the \$500 support being recommended for the C.I.T.Y. x1 Thanksgiving event. With that amendment, it was moved by Bill Gordon, seconded by Sue Sexton, and approved to recommend this workplan and budget plan to the City Council.

B. ROCKSTAR BEVERAGES

Bill Gordon reported that in Internet research he found no direct links between Michael Savage and Rockstar Beverages, although Michael Savage had interests in herbal and nutritional research, which also underpin the products of Rockstar.

Bill Gordon discussed formation of a committee to analyze consumer items on behalf of the lesbian and gay community, to help identify companies that are supportive or antagonistic toward the community. He said the group could issue a report periodically and ask the City Council to publicize it. Ruth Tittle said there may be legal issues that arise in criticizing companies.

Bill Gordon recommended that the next agenda include an item on LGBT consumer information. He will research ways to locate and publicize such information, and issues arising from such an effort. This was placed on the next regular meeting agenda.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ben McCormick noted the Council item updating the Council on actions at the last Advisory Board meeting.

Nadia Sutton discussed the PAWS L.A. event and this week's lesbian health event.

Dan Berkowitz said one of his plays is being presented at Cal State Northridge on Oct. 24.

Ivy Bottini said her one-woman show is on display at 1125 N. McCadden Place weekday evenings and all day on Saturday, through Friday, Oct. 23.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reported that Council has directed all items to now include information sections on Evaluation and Environmental Sustainability.

Staff invited members to the Reforming California town hall to be held Nov. 10.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.