

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – AUGUST 13, 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 Ivy Bottini at 7:12 p.m., Thursday, August 13, 2009, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

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

A quorum was present at all times. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was also present. Councilmember Jeffrey Prang 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 IV. C. (Rotation of Moderating Duties) and V. B. (Staged Reading of “Dear Harvey”) to the next meeting.

D. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting are pending.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Barbara Hamaker, development and communications manager for West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, spoke about the Sierra Bonita project, which is designed for special-needs residents. Applications are available through August 21.

Councilmember Jeffrey Prang spoke about ongoing discussion in the community about whether to press for repeal of Proposition 8 in 2010 or 2012, and about the federal lawsuit

filed by David Boies and Ted Olson, with funding from Chad Griffin, challenging the constitutionality of unequal marriage laws.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Sue Sexton said Mayor Land's office is pleased with creation of the Transgender Advisory Board, and is submitting an item for support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) at the next Council meeting.

Ruth Tittle said the Human Services Commission did not meet this month.

Ben McCormick said there were two new members of the Public Facilities Commission, and the plaque commemorating same-sex marriages at West Hollywood Park will be on display at an upcoming Council meeting.

Bill Gordon said he was speaking with Michael Haibach in Councilmember Prang's office.

Elisabeth Sandberg is monitoring the agendas of Public Safety Commission for items relevant to the Advisory Board.

Nadia Sutton spoke about Women's Advisory Board projects, including the mastermind program. She also spoke about working with Equal Roots to oppose cuts in HIV-related funding, in support of equal marriage, and defending rights in Maine.

Jimmy Palmieri said Councilmember Horvath is holding a meet and greet at Plummer Park on August 24.

David "Tradd" Keaton said the Postcards to the President project was re-launched in July, and has great new cards that people can send.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PARKING FOR DYKE MARCH

Elisabeth Sandberg discussing expanding the parking options for people attending the Dyke March, which is usually held on the Friday before the CSW festival in June. Staff will inquire about the vacant lot on San Vicente Blvd., two blocks North of Melrose Ave., to see if it might be used for this.

After discussion, Elisabeth Sandberg moved to recommend to City Council that the City adopt improved parking conditions for the Dyke March, and consider these options: (1) lift regular parking restrictions beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday; (2) run the City Line transit system to facilitate transportation between parking locations and the march site; (3) reduced-rate parking at Pacific Design Center;

and (4) arrange for use of the vacant lot on San Vicente Blvd., two blocks north of Melrose Ave., on the former site of Tail o' the Pup.

This was seconded by Ruth Tittle and unanimously approved.

B. SEE'S CANDY

Sue Sexton discussed reports that See's Candy closed a kiosk location in Union Square, San Francisco, apparently to avoid a requirement to comply with a municipal rule on providing domestic partner benefits. The board will monitor this situation.

C. ROTATION OF MODERATING DUTIES

This item was postponed.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ROCKSTAR BEVERAGES

The Board continued discussion of a proposed boycott of products of Rockstar, Inc., whose founder, Russell Weiner, is the son of radio talkshow host Michael Savage. A packet of information from the company was distributed, and Bill Gordon is preparing research on the company for next month's meeting.

Tony Guilfoyle, director of corporate relations of Rockstar, Inc., spoke. He said that Michael Savage has never been affiliated with the company, and that his wife, Janet, who had been Chief Financial Officer, has stepped down from that position.

With regard to the Paul Revere Society, which was founded by Michael Savage and Russell Weiner, Guilfoyle said the organization has been inactive for two years. According to published reports, the mission of the organization was to "take back our borders, our language, and our traditional culture."

Guilfoyle said that recent donations from Rockstar to LGBT organizations were not meant as a one-time effort, but indicated the company's intention to have an ongoing effort to make it very clear that the company does not support discrimination against the LGBT community.

Ivy Bottini asked what other groups Rockstar has supported, and Guilfoyle said that he would provide that information. Ben McCormick asked about domestic partner benefits; Guilfoyle said that the company does provide them, and he would check to see if this is done in all states.

The item was carried over for further action next month.

B. STAGED READING OF “DEAR HARVEY”

This item was postponed.

C. JUNE MAZER ARCHIVE

This item was carried over to the next meeting. Members noted that the archive had not been funded by the Council or other boards and commissions; staff will ask for any reasons behind that. Sue Sexton said that memorabilia from Lovedy Brydon has been included in the Mazer collection.

D. PROPOSITION 8

The Advisory Board conducted an extended discussion of proposals for repeal of Proposition 8. Bill Gordon then moved to form a task force to research and inform the Advisory Board at its November meeting about efforts being made in this area. This was seconded by Rev. Pat Langlois and unanimously approved. Members of the task force are Bill Gordon, David “Tradd” Keaton, Bryeon Earle, Rev. Pat Langlois, and Nadia Sutton.

The Advisory Board also voted to sponsor a forum featuring groups working on Proposition 8. This was moved by Ruth Tittle, seconded by Bill Gordon, and unanimously approved. David “Tradd” Keaton will chair this event, with Bill Gordon, Bryeon Earle, and Sue Sexton on the task force.

E. AIDS MEMORIAL

This item was postponed.

F. TASK FORCE FORMATION

There were no new groups formed other than those mentioned above.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ben McCormick is meeting next week with Corey Roskin to finalize plan for the Advisory Board’s participation in the Book Fair.

Sue Sexton spoke about the “Lesbian Feminist Happening” at the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, on Aug. 16, which will feature unveiling of a new permanent art installation, the Lesbian Legacy Wall.

Ruth Tittle spoke about the upcoming garden party for Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing, honoring Leeza Gibbons and Sharon Gless.

Ben McCormick spoke about Council’s action to create the Transgender Advisory Board.

At Ben McCormick's request, an item for possible support for Mark Thompson's "Rise Up and Shout!" event was placed on the next agenda.

At Ben McCormick's request, an item concerning naming the gay and lesbian collection at the West Hollywood Library in honor of Morris Kight was placed on the next agenda.

The Advisory Board also asked for an update on plans for the gay and lesbian collection.

Rev. Pat Langlois said she may propose an item regarding mentoring of transgender persons.

Ivy Bottini is presenting an art show at the Village, opening Sept. 10 with a reception, and continuing through the end of October.

Elisabeth Sandberg said Councilmember Horvath was at the Lesbian Visibility meeting. She said the Lesbian Visibility Committee would like to have a mixer with the Advisory Board, so the groups can learn more about each other.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about Roots of Equality, which is developing Lavender Los Angeles, regarding gay and lesbian history. The exhibit will be at 114 W. 5th St., from Nov. 7 to Nov. 20.

Jimmy Palmieri said this Sunday at 1 p.m. MJ's is hosting the Betty Ford Lounge, to benefit Crystal Meth Anonymous.

At David "Tradd" Keaton's request, an item on the March on Washington was added to the next agenda.

Jimmy Palmieri spoke about Council honoring the graduates of the Jeff Griffith Youth Center's GED program, as the Advisory Board had requested. Council also commended the program's teachers.

David "Tradd" Keaton said the annual congress of boards and commissions will be held Sat., Nov. 14.

Ivy Bottini is joining the General Plan Advisory Committee.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.