

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2008
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 7:05 p.m., Thursday, September 11, 2008, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Bill Gordon, David “Tradd” Keaton, Rev. Pat Langlois, Ben McCormick, Jimmy Palmieri, Elisabeth Sandberg, 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 that item 4.A. would be taken up at the end of Unfinished Business.

D. INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER

David “Tradd” Keaton repeated the oath of office, and was installed as a member of the Advisory Board.

E. MINUTES

The minutes of the October 2008 meeting were postponed.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Edward Stanley spoke about his development of a Buddy System pairing older and younger people for mutual support and benefit. They are looking for a home base.

Chris Clarkin spoke in support of the Buddy System program, and about organizing that

has occurred following the passage of Proposition 8 on November 4.

Sam Borelli, Public Safety Commission member, spoke about public safety matters, and thanked Chris Clarkin and Elisabeth Sandberg for their participation. He also spoke about theft of phones, iPods, and laptop computers from parked cars.

David Escobedo of the city's Public Safety staff spoke about the proposed Transgender Memorial. He asked LGAB members to contact him with any questions or comments. This item will be added to the December agenda, for consideration of support.

Robert Nunez of One Institute spoke about their activities as a gay and lesbian archive.

III. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Dan Berkowitz attended the performing arts committee of the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, which is interested in collaborating with LGAB on an event.

Jimmy Palmieri spoke with Donna Saur in Councilmember Guarriello's office. The Veterans Day event will be held again on November 11.

Ben McCormick will be attending the Planning Commission in December. Public Facilities Commission was not held this month.

Bill Gordon spoke with Jake Stevens in Mayor Prang's office.

Ruth Tittle reported that Human Services Commission was not held this month.

Rev. Pat Langlois said that Senior Advisory Board will meet next week.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROP 8

See later in meeting.

B. BOOK FAIR

Ben McCormick said planning is beginning for the next Book Fair, and he is talking with Corey Roskin and Roz Helfand about a role for the Advisory Board and the overall treatment of gay and lesbian authors and texts. Roskin and Helfand will be invited to speak to the Advisory Board.

Jimmy Palmieri moved to participate in the Book Fair via a salon or exhibit tent adjacent to the stage for gay and lesbian writers, and to pursue this in planning with the Book Fair organizers. This was seconded and approved, with Jimmy

Palmieri, Elisabeth Sandberg, and Ben McCormick named as a committee to work with organizers.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CHOOSING LIAISONS

Dan Berkowitz distributed a chart with current liaison responsibilities. David “Tradd” Keaton was added to Rent Stabilization Commission, Elisabeth Sandberg to Lesbian Visibility Committee, and Ivy Bottini to Women’s Safer Sex Packets.

B. BUDGET/EVENTS

Dan Berkowitz said this committee met prior to the LGAB meeting and agreed on a tentative calendar of events and projects for the year, including the launch of women’s safer-sex packets, a town hall probably in March, the Rainbow Key luncheon planned for Wed., June 17, and an event in conjunction with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

C. WOMEN’S SAFER SEX PACKETS

Dan Berkowitz and Rev. Pat Langlois met with David Giugni of the city’s social services staff, and talked about the timetable, audience targeting, and anticipated contents of the packets. The target for rollout is the Dyke March on June 12. Staff will confirm whether Council approval is needed for the project, or simply inclusion as a project of Social Services, with information to Council and an invitation for them to participate.

D. RAINBOW KEY

Dan Berkowitz said Wed., June 17, is the planned date for this year’s Rainbow Key luncheon. The planning committee will meet soon to begin preparations.

E. RETREAT

Staff reported that Le Montrose will waive the meeting fee and charge only for food served to the retreat, with January 24 and January 31 available as options.

F. DEL MARTIN

Staff apologized to the Advisory Board and its members for the Board’s request that the City send a delegation to the memorial service for Del Martin not being forwarded in time for this to occur.

IV. A. PROP 8

The Advisory Board discussed the outcome and implications of the vote on Proposition 8, eliminating same-sex marriage in California, as well as the rise in rallies and organization that have followed in the immediate wake. The Advisory Board discussed ways of responding to the vote, and how its own programs and events can be useful.

Ben McCormick moved to urge the City Council to join the lawsuit(s) filed to seek invalidation of Proposition 8 on legal grounds, and to pursue overturning the measure by subsequent vote if necessary. This was seconded and approved.

David “Tradd” Keaton asked if the Advisory Board can have its own Facebook page. Staff will check and advise.

The Advisory Board will continue discussion of the post-Prop 8 environment at its next meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Bill Gordon and Ben McCormick said they have received no notice of meetings of the Halloween Task Force. Staff will remind the Task Force to do so.

Rev. Pat Langlois spoke about the interfaith clergy group that is holding a Thanksgiving Event for seniors at Triangle Square.

Jimmy Palmieri said he and Sue Sexton are doing a “Time Out” taping on Prop 8. He also spoke about Lifeworks Mentoring and its Thanksgiving event.

Nadia Sutton said Sue Sexton’s recent wedding was an excellent event.

Dan Berkowitz said commission and advisory board parking permits are available from the City.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff will look into ordering new name badges for Advisory Board members, in rainbow or other appropriate colors.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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