

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JULY 8, 2010
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND INSTALLATION**

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, July 8, 2010, 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, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, 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 as posted.

D. **MINUTES**

Minutes were deferred.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Sue Sexton requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Maya McReynolds, 19, who passed away July 6, 2010, due to cancer. She is the cousin of Jeannette Bronson of Black Lesbians United and Butch Voices L.A.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Anthony Frisina of The Beat Project spoke about his upcoming production of “Dear Harvey,” opening Sept. 16 at the Lee Strasberg Theatre, and requested the board’s co-sponsorship. The Advisory Board placed this on its next agenda.

III. **TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS**

Advisory Board members spoke about conversations with councilmembers at Pride Month events.

Dan Berkowitz said the task force working on the idea of the AIDS museum met recently, and will meet again on July 13. Members of the advisory board will talk with councilmembers about the importance of the project.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROMOTION OF EVENTS

Barry Schoenfeld of California Men's Gathering spoke to the Advisory Board about ways to improve marketing and visibility of its events and projects by increased presence on the Internet and better outreach to existing distribution lists that are popular in the community.

B. CRYSTAL METH

Ivy Bottini recalled that the Advisory Board held meetings about a decade ago on the impact of crystal meth. She is looking for videotapes of these meetings, because the information is still relevant.

C. DISCUSSION OF MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

This item was postponed to August.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CREATING A DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

This item was postponed to August.

B. MODELS OF PRIDE / PROJECT 10

Ben McCormick moved to co-sponsor the 2010 Models of Pride event held by Project 10 at Occidental College, with no financial impact to the city. This was seconded by Bryeon Earle and approved.

C. REVIEW OF PRIDE MONTH EVENTS

Dan Berkowitz provided an update on the Rainbow Key event, which was held June 20 at The London West Hollywood. Final report is pending the final bill from the hotel. Payments from persons attending the event totaled \$745.

Ruth Tittle said the board of Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing was very appreciative of the Rainbow Key award. Nadia Sutton said Oscar De La O and C.I.T.Y. x1 had also expressed their appreciation.

The Advisory Board discussed that event and other sponsored and co-sponsored events held during Pride Month. Dan Berkowitz said the combined task force with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission will be reviewing the month's activities soon, also.

Sue Sexton spoke about the Two Spirits screening, and Bryeon Earle spoke about the poetry reading.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ben McCormick said he supported the idea of electing the person with next most seniority as co-chair, if they were willing to serve. Bill Gordon said the co-chairs should mentor the next most senior person during the year, to help with transition and continuity.

Ben McCormick nominated Bill Gordon for male co-chair. This was seconded by Bryeon Earle. In the absence of any other nominations, Ruth Tittle moved to close nominations and declare Bill Gordon elected. This was seconded by Ben McCormick and unanimously approved.

Nadia Sutton and Ruth Tittle indicated they did not want to serve as co-chair at this time.

Ruth Tittle nominated Sue Sexton for female co-chair. This was seconded by Nadia Sutton. In the absence of any other nominations, Elisabeth Sandberg moved to close nominations and declare Sue Sexton elected. This was seconded by Bryeon Earle and unanimously approved.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Bryeon Earle said the Trevor Project is revamping some of their approach to their work, to increase their effectiveness at suicide prevention and related goals.

Bryeon Earle attended San Francisco Pride recently, and said the Advisory Board should consider participating in that event next year.

Matt Palazzolo said the Advisory Board had previously discussed doing a survey of LGBT residents, and that Councilmember Horvath had been supportive of this idea in a conversation. The possibility of doing such a survey was placed on the next agenda.

Bryeon Earle said he had spoken with staff about the concerns raised by Jessica Williams at the June 23 meeting, and it is being researched.

Nadia Sutton spoke about the importance of maintaining awareness of LGBT issues abroad, including Ghana and the Middle East.

Matt Palazzolo said a new UCLA study on lubricants has raised concerns about a link between water-based lubricants and cancer. This article will be forwarded to Advisory Board members and social services staff.

Matt Palazzolo is speaking at an event at Plummer Park on July 15, called 'Women Demanding Change Now: The Dehumanizing Misrepresentation of Transsexual Women through the Gay Male Hollywood Lens.' It is sponsored by MAGNET (Media Advocates Giving National Equality to Transsexual & Transgender People).

Ruth Tittle said that Asia Sf, a San Francisco restaurant/club, is planning to open a branch in Los Angeles.

Sue Sexton said she is producing a live TV program called Homo Files, with Marie Cartier, at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Ben McCormick and Bill Gordon noted the Federal district court ruling from Massachusetts today, which declared part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional.

Dan Berkowitz will miss the next meeting because he is working on the East Coast.

Nadia Sutton asked for the board to receive a link or copy to the Out 4 Fun website.

Ben McCormick asked what the Lesbian and Gay Programs line item amount is in the FY 2011 budget. Staff will report.

Ivy Bottini noted that LGAB established the Transgender Task Force some years ago, a first of its kind, which developed into the current Transgender Advisory Board.

Ivy Bottini said she has thoroughly enjoyed being on the board and serving as co-chair.

Nadia Sutton expressed the board's thanks and appreciation to Ivy and Dan.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m., in memory of Maya McReynolds.