

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JULY 9, 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, July 9, 2009, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Bill Gordon, David “Tradd” Keaton, Ben McCormick, Jimmy Palmieri, 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, with unanimous agreement to place a financial report on events between items IV-C and IV-D.

D. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting are pending.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Tanner Efinger spoke about the proposed boycott of Rockstar beverages.

III. **COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS**

David “Tradd” Keaton said the Equal Roots group is looking for participation from the transgender community, and that the Lesbian & Gay Chamber of Commerce would welcome new participation.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the Tchaikovsky concert being sponsored by the Russian Advisory Board, and said that the Lesbian Visibility Committee is concerned about lack

of parking for the Dyke March, and wonders if the city can take definite steps to increase this by arranging for expanded parking and providing shuttles. This was placed on an upcoming agenda.

Ben McCormick spoke about the Public Facilities Commission, and updated members on the plaque recognizing West Hollywood Park as a historic site of same-sex marriages. He is also planning to meet with the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to discuss projects and publicity.

Jimmy Palmieri said Councilmember Horvath is working on her appointments to the city commissions.

Nadia Sutton spoke about Equal Roots and the Courage Camp to train people to work for the repeal of Proposition 8.

Sue Sexton spoke about the proposed boycott of Rockstar and about the many events held by the Advisory Board in June. She read a statement from Mayor Land, thanking the Board for the success of the Pride-related events in June.

Dan Berkowitz distributed a report given to City Council about the June activities, and said the Advisory Board is a community collaborator with Outfest, with a film sponsored next week.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 25TH ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Chris Worland and Eva Wieland, community liaisons for the 25th anniversary capital campaign, spoke about current and planned construction, focusing on the new library in West Hollywood Park. The city will own the building, and the library will continue to be operated by the county. Plans continue for the 2009 Book Fair, which may have a similar but different footprint from earlier years, due to the scale of construction in the park.

B. JUNE MAZER ARCHIVE

Angela Brinskele, board member of the June Mazer Archive, provided a primer and update on the archive, which has been in West Hollywood for 20 years, and includes historically valuable collections, diaries, art, and photographs. The possibility of sponsoring a program or exhibition was raised, and placed on a future agenda for discussion. The Archive will prepare a proposal.

D. DEAR HARVEY

Ivy Bottini said she greatly appreciated a performance of this play in San Diego,

and that the Celebration Theatre had done a reading of it. Actors from the reading are available, and the possibility of sponsoring a performance of the play was raised. Ben McCormick said he needed more information about the cost and the nature of the proposed sponsorship, and moved to postpone the item to the next agenda, and invite more information and possible distribution of the script so that board members could review it. This was seconded by Jimmy Palmieri and approved.

C. AIDS MEMORIAL

Ivy Bottini said she believes it is time for the City to create a memorial to those who have died from HIV/AIDS, and that Mayor Land had indicated support for the idea. Ben McCormick moved for the Board to authorize Dan Berkowitz and Ivy Bottini to pursue this project with the Public Facilities Commission and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. This was seconded and approved.

E. STONEWALL COMMEMORATION

Ben McCormick spoke about a possible discussion group that would build on the spirit of the June meeting commemorating the raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City, and bring older and younger activists together. He moved to form a task force pull this together. This was seconded by Jimmy Palmieri and approved. Members of the task force are Jimmy Palmieri, David "Tradd" Keaton, Sue Sexton, Bill Gordon, Nadia Sutton, and Ivy Bottini.

F. ROCKSTAR BEVERAGES

The Advisory Board discussed information about Rockstar beverages, which is owned by members of the family of radio host Michael Savage. Dan Berkowitz moved to authorize Bill Gordon to research the background of the company and its ownership, and report to an upcoming meeting. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

G. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of female co-chair. Sue Sexton nominated Ivy Bottini. Ben McCormick nominated Elisabeth Sandberg, who declined the nomination. There were no additional nominations. Nadia Sutton moved that the floor be closed and Ivy Bottini declared elected. This was seconded by Ben McCormick and unanimously approved.

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of male co-chair. Nadia Sutton nominated Dan Berkowitz. Jimmy Palmieri nominated Ben McCormick. The vote was taken, and there were six votes for Dan Berkowitz (Nadia Sutton, Ivy Bottini, Dan Berkowitz, Bill Gordon, Ruth Tittle, and Sue Sexton) and four

votes for Ben McCormick (David “Tradd” Keaton, Jimmy Palmieri, Elisabeth Sandberg, and Ben McCormick). Dan Berkowitz was elected.

H. SEPTEMBER MEETING

Due to conflicts with the regular date of the September meeting, Dan Berkowitz moved to reschedule that meeting for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17, at Plummer Park Community Center. This was seconded by Ben McCormick and approved.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ivy Bottini spoke about her upcoming art show at the Village.

Jimmy Palmieri thanked Larissa Fooks for her work in the City’s tent at the Pride festival, and said that thousands of dental dams, condoms, and kits were distributed. He spoke about the Tweakers Project on Facebook, and said shirts have been sent to more than 40 states.

Nadia Sutton spoke about the memorial for Lovedy Brydon.

David “Tradd” Keaton inquired about recognition of graduates from the education program at the Center, and Jimmy Palmieri said this is happening at the July 13 Council meeting.

The Advisory Board placed on the next agenda the formation of task forces for its current projects. At Sue Sexton’s request, the topic of See’s Candy was also placed on the agenda, due to reports about the company closing a sales location instead of complying with partnership benefit regulations of the City and County of San Francisco.

Ruth Tittle asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Rick Weller, a community worker and volunteer who has passed away.

Elisabeth Sandberg thanked everyone for an outstanding Pride event and noted that there will be a “transgiving” film festival at the Renberg Theatre on Aug. 8.

Dan Berkowitz said he will be away on the East Coast, from July 21 to Sept. 12.

Sue Sexton spoke about the documentary “On These Shoulders We Stand.”

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. in memory of Rick Weller.