

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 11, 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 7:07 p.m., Thursday, March 11, 2010, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Angela Brinskele, Ben McCormick, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton.

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. **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBER**

Angela Brinskele took the oath of office as a new member, and was congratulated by the Board.

D. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as printed, with item 5A being moved to between items 3 and 4, and item 4D being moved to after item 5B, without objection.

E. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Feb. 11, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Ben McCormick, seconded by Enrique Reveles, with Angela Brinskele abstaining because she was not yet on the board then.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Tanner Efinger spoke about an April 11 event to raise awareness of anti-LGBT discrimination in Social Security law and raise funds to address this in the legislative arena. "Rock for Equality" is planning a march from the Gay & Lesbian Center to the Social Security office.

Sue Sexton moved that this topic be added to the agenda as an urgency item, because there was need for action before the next meeting. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and approved. Sue Sexton said the Mayor Land had asked for the Advisory Board to be urged to attend and publicize this event.

Ben McCormick moved to endorse the Rock for Equality event. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and approved.

Sabrina Petrescu provided an update on LGBT outreach for the census. April 1 is Census Day.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Dan Berkowitz and Sue Sexton attended the performing arts subcommittee of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

Ivy Bottini and Dan Berkowitz met with City Clerk Tom West to submit a proposal for an AIDS memorial.

The Advisory Board discussed a phone call from Colorado State University, which is holding an exhibition of materials from the career of Mr. Blackwell, among which was an honor presented to Mr. Blackwell and Spencer by the City of West Hollywood.

Ben McCormick said there were no items to report from Public Facilities or Planning. He said he is in touch with Council Deputy Hernan Molina, and will meet with him when he is back in town.

Nadia Sutton spoke about Women's History Month and the Women's Leadership Conference. Larissa Fooks had asked if the Advisory Board would like to be listed as a co-sponsor of that event. Nadia Sutton moved to do that. This was seconded by Sue Sexton and approved.

Enrique Reveles went to the Public Safety Commission meeting, and spoke about the L.A. Marathon coming up on March 21, and about earthquake preparedness.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board is very active in making plans, and may sponsor a film.

Dan Berkowitz noted there are vacancies in liaison posts for Transportation Commission, Rent Stabilization Commission, Senior Advisory Board, Russian Advisory Board, and Disability Advisory Board.

Sue Sexton said that she and Angela Brinskele were at the Lesbian Visibility Committee meeting.

V. A. BUTCH/FEMME EVENT

This item had been moved to this point in the agenda by earlier action of the Advisory Board.

Lynn Ballen and Jeanne Cordova spoke about plans for an event called Butch Voices, to be held Oct. 8-10 as a California and southwest regional conference, to be produced by LEX (Lesbian Exploratorium) and Butch Voices L.A. About 300 to 400 people are expected.

They are requesting city sponsorship of \$4,000, to help pay for travel and stipends for the speakers and artists who would participate in the program. LEX received support in a similar amount last year for the art exhibit "Gender Play" at the ONE Archives Gallery. LEX and Butch Voices are arranging for a fiscal agent who would receive and disburse the funds.

The Advisory Board discussed whether to co-sponsor the event and seek funding from City Council. Dan Berkowitz moved to recommend to the City Council that the City fund the program in an amount not to exceed \$4,000, with information about the fiscal agent to be brought back to Council when available. This was seconded by Angela Brinskele and approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAMS

This item was tabled.

B. HEALDSBURG TRANSGENDER INCIDENT

Dan Berkowitz said that the Transgender Advisory Board would like to take the lead on responding to this. The item was tabled.

C. PRIDE MONTH EVENTS OTHER THAN RAINBOW KEY

Andrew Campbell, staff liaison for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, discussed plans for events during Pride Month. The ACAC subcommittee is currently planning on \$29,700 in expenditures, with \$14,000 from ACAC funds, \$6,450 possibly from economic development sources, and \$9,250 from the Advisory Board's recommendation on funding for gay and lesbian programs.

The Advisory Board discussed whether the current proposal included enough detail as to events and costs, and how the list of proposed events was developed. Andrew Campbell said he would prepare a staff report with greater background and present it at the next Advisory Board meeting.

Jeanne Cordova recommended that the planning group check into how the film “Two Spirits” is regarded by the Native American community.

Ben McCormick moved to approve the Advisory Board having an entry in the Pride Parade. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

V. B. RAINBOW KEY

On behalf of the Rainbow Key task force, Dan Berkowitz presented a proposed budget for the Rainbow Key luncheon, totaling \$9,265.25, for a Sunday brunch. Holding the event on Sunday would make it more accessible to people who work weekdays, who were unable to attend the weekday event held in recent years. Sunday, June 27, is the date under consideration.

Ben McCormick said he was disappointed that the idea of an afternoon tea had not been considered. The Advisory Board discussed various ideas for when and where to hold the event. Ben McCormick said that if the City is going to hold several annual events at The London West Hollywood, these should be negotiated together, to help get a lower price.

The Board discussed holding the item over for a month, to research costs and develop a specific proposal on location.

Ivy Bottini moved to ask the Council to authorize up to \$9,265.25 for the 2010 Rainbow Key event, to be held as a Sunday luncheon, as discussed above. This was seconded by Nadia Sutton and approved, with Ben McCormick abstaining.

IV. D. REVIEW/EVALUATION OF FEB. 13 EVENT

This item had been moved to this place on the agenda.

Dan Berkowitz discussed blog posts made after the Feb. 13 event, and said he was very deeply disturbed that the City has not commented on an anti-Semitic attack made in these posts. He said he was approached about participating in a mediation regarding these posts, but strongly felt that the City should condemn hate speech first.

Further discussion of this item was tabled until the next meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Palazzolo said Equal Roots is working on public service announcements encouraging participation in the Census.

Dan Berkowitz did a short play in North Hollywood, and will be presenting it in New York. Another work will soon be published.

Ivy Bottini spoke about Equality Across America and events in association with Harvey Milk Day. There will be a related event on March 28 in the Von KleinSmid Center at USC.

Nadia Sutton and Matt Palazzolo attended the Faith for Equality event.

Angela Brinskele spoke about a lesbian who married a man chosen at random, to illustrate the inequality and illogic of marriage laws.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said that Social Services is seeking input from the Advisory Board on social services priorities, and will attend the next meeting to discuss this.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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