

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 8, 2012
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. **ROLL CALL**

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Elisabeth Sandberg at 7:04 p.m., Thursday, November 8, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Robert Gamboa, Shawn Mimbs, Andrew Oldershaw, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg

Not Present: Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle

A quorum was present at all times. Helen Collins, Andrew Campbell, and Jeff Book, staff liaison, were also present. Council Deputy Michelle Rex joined the meeting in progress. Elisabeth Sandberg acted as co-chair in the absence of Sue Sexton. Andrew Oldershaw was present for the first hour, and Matt Palazzolo acted as co-chair for the second hour.

B. **REPORT ON 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 amended to include a new Item IV. C., concerning a request from Crystal Meth Anonymous, Los Angeles (CMALA), as an urgency item, with the Advisory Board finding that the need for the item arose after the posting of the agenda, and that action was required prior to the next regular meeting. This would renumber the current IV. C., regarding Utility Boxes, as IV. D. With this addition, the agenda was approved as posted.

D. **MINUTES**

1. **REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2012**

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 13, 2012, were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Enrique Reveles.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Amy Ruskin asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of President Barack Obama, who was reelected on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Robert Gamboa

asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Bruce Kaye, who was a member of the City's Historic Preservation Commission.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jim Griglak, fundraising chair for CMALA, said they are seeking public support for a clean and sober New Year's Eve event, and requesting that fees be waived for use of space at one of the city parks.

Desiree Jade Sol, chair of Public Safety Commission, spoke about carbon monoxide detectors, and "two-minute CPR" training at the Sunset Farmers' Market.

Dori Miles spoke about Item IV. A., the photography exhibit of "Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families in the Deep South," which has been shown in Birmingham, AL.

Owen Ward spoke about the Sunset Walk-In Health Clinic, which has opened at 9201 Sunset Blvd. They provide urgent care, take Medicare, and give cash discounts for the uninsured.

Angela Brinskele, director of communications at the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, thanked board members for touring the archives and the Werle Building recently.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Robert Gamboa said the subcommittee on addiction, recovery and sexual health met with David Giugni last week and reviewed the results of the first survey. They are discussing how to proceed with the second survey.

Andrew Oldershaw said the joint subcommittee with the Transgender Advisory Board will be meeting again soon.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. ONE CITY/ONE PRIDE – 7:20 p.m.

Andrew Campbell said the sixth year of One City / One Pride is coming up in 2013. Mike Che is now working in arts for the City. The City is aiming to focus cultural events in the week before and the week after the Pride parade, to give it more of a festival atmosphere than a month-long schedule. Themes for this year's One City / One Pride are being developed, with "The Sacred and the Profane" being one possibility. This year's events are expected to cost about \$175,000, and the Advisory Board was asked to consider recommending to Council that \$7,500 from the Lesbian & Gay Programs line item be used for One City / One Pride.

Matt Palazzolo said he was at an early planning meeting and there are many good projects under consideration. He said the Advisory Board should look at the events and see if there were some they would like to work with. Ivy Bottini said she would like to see art works displayed in one venue with appropriate capacity to display art, and that she thought the Library didn't have this kind of

space. Elisabeth Sandberg said she was concerned that the theme of “sacred and profane” not be based on feminine stereotypes. The Advisory Board’s participation in One City / One Pride was held over for further consideration.

B. CLEAN/SOBER SPACE AT LA PRIDE FESTIVAL

Robert Gamboa said that last year, Christopher Street West included a sober zone at the Pride Festival, and he would like to see this continued, and like to see more involvement from the Advisory Board. Ivy Bottini said she was stunned that the clean/sober space was adjacent to the beer truck last year, and she’d like the Board to request CSW that they honor the intent of the clean/sober space by locating it in a different place.

C. CMALA

Robert Gamboa said CMALA was requesting assistance from the City to provide a clean and sober New Year’s Eve event in a public park space, and were seeking a recommendation to Council in this regard. Staff spoke about the park reservation process and rules on scheduling City employees for night and holiday work. The Advisory Board discussed whether a hotel or private residence could be used. Robert Gamboa moved, and Ivy Bottini seconded, to recommend to Council that they support this event. The motion was not approved.

D. UTILITY BOXES

Elisabeth Sandberg said the City of San Clemente decorates its utility boxes in colorful and attractive ways. She said she had spoken to Council Deputy Fran Solomon about this, and would like the City to consider using utility boxes as opportunities to represent the creativity and diversity of the community. Shawn Mimbs noted this would be complementary to, but not a substitute for, ideas for improving the City’s gateways. Elisabeth Sandberg, Shawn Mimbs, and Amy Ruskin, if available, will speak to the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission about this. Andrew Campbell said the Planning Division is creating a task force on Gateway issues. Matt Palazzolo moved to begin investigating opportunities for gay and lesbian visibility through utility box decoration. This was seconded by Shawn Mimbs and approved.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LESBIAN SPACE / WERLE BUILDING

Ivy Bottini thanked those who were able to attend the tour of the Werle Building and the Mazer Archive. She is hoping the Mazer can expand into areas that may be available at the Werle Building, and that a designated space for lesbians to gather would be created. Robert Gamboa said the former Partners Adult Day Healthcare Center (ADHC) building on Santa Monica Boulevard, across from Plummer Park, was another possibility for this. The topic was continued.

B. WORKPLAN FOR 2012-2013

On a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Enrique Reveles, this item was moved to the next meeting.

C. JOINT STUDY SESSION

Matt Palazzolo recommended that the Advisory Board develop a list of what issues and topics they would bring to a joint study session with the Council. Without objection, this topic was continued to the next meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ivy Bottini said the Advisory Board could support the Mazer Archive in seeking to expand into the additional space at the Werle Building.

Advisory Board members noted that candidates for City Council are beginning their campaigns, in preparation for the election on March 5, 2013.

Amy Ruskin spoke about increasing outreach to the community.

Board members asked that the meeting also be adjourned in congratulation to Mrs. Obama and their family.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reminded members of the required ethics training schedule.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Christopher Landavazo, candidate for City Council, said he is a veteran and a member of law enforcement who works with Cops for Causes. He would like the Advisory Board to consider the role of gay veterans when planning its work for the year, and requested that the Board also adjourn in honor of LGBT Americans currently serving their country. He spoke about a Veterans' history project being conducted by the Library of Congress, and said he would like the Board to see the video introduction to that project. The Board placed this on its agenda.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. in honor of the reelection of President Barack Obama, in congratulation to Mrs. Obama and their family, in memory of Bruce Kaye, and in honor of LGBT Americans currently serving the country.

Signed,

Sue Sexton, Co-Chair

Andrew Oldershaw, Co-Chair