

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2010
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 Bill Gordon at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 14, 2010, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Angela Brinskele, Bryeon Earle, Bill Gordon, Ben McCormick, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, 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 on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Ben McCormick.

D. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Sept. 16, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Ben McCormick, seconded by Bryeon Earle.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Members asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of those memorialized at the recent candlelight vigil for gay and lesbian youth who have committed suicide, as well as more recent cases.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

III. **TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS**

Bryeon Earle said that Fran Solomon said the idea of a gay and lesbian museum was still being discussed.

Dan Berkowitz attended the performing arts committee of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, which is forming a task force to plan 2011 Pride Month events. Choosing members from the Advisory Board was placed on the next agenda.

Ruth Tittle said the Human Services Commission received a presentation on the Plummer Park master plan. Members asked if the presentation was available online, or could be presented to the Advisory Board in the future. Ruth Tittle said that Daphne Dennis had spoken about the lesbian health bill of rights and lesbian health agenda. She also said that Councilmember Horvath had attended the candlelight vigil, and the office was participating in AIDS Walk.

Bryeon Earle said the diversity task force met, and came up with a list of 20-30 names to expand outreach for future events and discussions.

Angela Brinskele said the Lesbian Visibility Committee has been instrumental in promoting the lesbian health agenda, which includes appropriate training for doctors.

Bill Gordon said that diversity efforts should include spiritual, business, economic, and other aspects of the community, as well as demographic diversity. Also, he reported that Councilmember Prang's office has been concerned with the occurrence of suicides among gay youth.

Nadia Sutton spoke about the Women's Advisory Board and the Love Your Body event to be held Oct. 23. She asked for participation in the domestic violence task force to be on the next agenda.

Matt Palazzolo spoke about the publicity task force, and ideas for improving the website. Members will discuss this further with the Public Information staff.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. TREVOR PROJECT

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

B. SAFE SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT ACT

Bryeon Earle reported that City Council has taken a position on this proposal, as presented by Councilmember Horvath.

C. COMMUNITY ROLE OF GAY & LESBIAN CENTER

Members discussed various aspects of the Gay & Lesbian Center's role in the community, and asked for a report at the next meeting on what city funding goes to the Center, and for what services. Members discussed the possibility of inviting a representative from the Center to meet with the Advisory Board to talk about the Center's work, and explore ways that the Center and the Advisory Board can cooperate.

D. NAMING OF LGBT COLLECTION ROOM

Staff distributed fundraising information regarding elements of the new library, including the LGBT collection. Members discussed several ways of approaching the possibilities of naming, and said they would speak to Council members about this.

E. DONATING COLLECTION OF FILMS

Dan Berkowitz spoke about an estate's collection of 500-1,000 general-themed films on laserdisc. Members discussed Triangle Square (Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing) and the senior arts community in Burbank as possibilities for placement.

F. ETHICS TRAINING

Staff communicated the need for members to complete mandatory ethics training online before Jan. 1, 2011.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RISE UP AND SHOUT

The Advisory Board discussed co-sponsorship and possible funding of the annual Rise Up and Shout! event, held at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre. With regard to the possibility of funding, staff said the City was most interested in events occurring within the city. Members discussed connections that the event has with the local community, including using Plummer Park for auditions and meetings.

On a motion by Ben McCormick, seconded by Bryeon Earle, the Advisory Board approved a recommendation for co-sponsorship of the event. The topic of whether to recommend funding was carried over to the next meeting.

B. C.I.T.Y x1 HOLIDAY EVENTS

On a motion by Nadia Sutton, seconded by Bryeon Earle, the Advisory Board approved a recommendation that food costs for the C.I.T.Y. x1 Thanksgiving

event on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010, be reimbursed up to \$500, as was done last year. Dan Berkowitz will coordinate with Carlos Sosa from C.I.T.Y. x1.

C. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Ben McCormick spoke in favor of modeling the awards procedure along the lines of the Disability Awards, which does more extensive public outreach to seek possible recipients of the awards. How to expand the process was carried over to the next meeting, as well as discussing how the 2011 program will be produced.

D. DEFARRA GAYMON

Bryeon Earle said he had not located additional information, beyond the reports that were provided last month.

E. COMMUNITY SURVEY

Matt Palazzolo and Ben McCormick spoke about ways to increase dialogue between the Advisory Board and members of the community, including the possibility of an online meeting. The topic was continued to next month.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Bryeon Earle said October 20 is Spirit Day, when people are asked to wear people to recognize the recent suicides of gay youth.

Dan Berkowitz spoke about an October 23 program by the Association of Los Angeles Playwrights, and a November 15 staged reading of one of his plays at the Bootleg Theatre.

Nadia Sutton said the candlelight vigil had been very moving.

Ben McCormick reported on the West Hollywood Book Fair, which went well even on a very hot day. He thanked everyone who assisted in staffing the Advisory Board's canopy at the Fair, and Nadia Sutton thanked him for his leadership in this.

Ruth Tittle noted that Ivy Bottini is participating in the West Hollywood musical now in production at Fiesta Hall.

Enrique Reveles spoke about the Book Fair, where he talked with and provided information to parents of a gay son.

Elisabeth Sandberg said Woodbury University is showing architectural photographs by Julius Shulman and others.

Angela Brinskele said there is a call for papers on the website of the Mazer Archive regarding the Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collection (ALMS) conference. She spoke about two recent lesbian conferences, one in New York, and the Butch Voices conference in Plummer Park, Oct. 8-10.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

The next meeting falls on Veterans Day, November 11. The Advisory Board decided to meet one week earlier, on Thursday, November 4.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. in memory of gay and lesbian youth who have committed suicide: Harrison Chase Brown, Tyler Clementi, Billy Lucas, Seth Walsh, Asher Brown, Raymond Chase, Justin Aaberg, Cody Barker, Felix Sacco, Caleb Knowles, and Zach Harrington.