

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2008**  
**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 Jimmy Palmieri at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 14, 2008, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Chris Clarkin, Bill Gordon, Jimmy Palmieri, Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle. A quorum was present. Jeff Book, staff liaison, was also present.

II. AGENDA ITEMS

A. POSTING OF AGENDA

Staff reported that the agenda had been posted at City Hall and other locations as required.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item IV.A. (Russian Advisory Board) was postponed. Item VI (Rainbow Key) and VII (Committees and Liaisons) will be taken up prior to Item V (discussion).

C. MINUTES

Minutes of the prior meeting are pending.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Danny Groover of WEHO ALT spoke about the restructuring of their program.

Ben McCormick said he is interested in joining the Advisory Board, and that he is working with the group updating the city's general plan.

Vicki Wagner said she is interested in joining the Advisory Board.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. BEING ALIVE

Cindy Yancey, executive director of Being Alive, reviewed her own background and provided an update on what's happening with the agency. They have new board members, are expanding their emphasis on advocacy, and are developing new position papers. They are also working on more collaboration on grants.

Jimmy Palmieri asked if they are working on a crystal meth task force. Cindy Yancey said they were, and had received a grant toward that end.

Chris Clarkin asked how their support from the City was going. Cindy Yancey said they are currently a contracted social services provider, and that the City is probably the easiest and best funding source they have.

VII. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Ivy Bottini reported on the Human Services Commission meeting at which advisory board chairs discussed social services needs.

Chris Clarkin spoke about the Transgender Task Force, ENDA tactics, and the proposed transgender memorial. He said the Public Safety Awards will be held next month.

Sue Sexton spoke about United ENDA. She also said she had submitted a report on activities to Abbe's office.

VI. RAINBOW KEY

Nominations for this year's Rainbow Key awards included Steve Krantz (by Nadia Sutton); Shirley Bushnell and Svyatoslav Sementsov (by Chris Clarkin); previously approved Rita Gonzales (by Sue Sexton); the owners of Eagle L.A., previously approved; Leslie Barclay, Tomlin-Wagner Center co-founder Sue Hamilton, and theatre founder Robert Patrick (by Dan Berkowitz); Sen. Sheila Kuehl and Sisterhood Bookstore owner Simone Wallace (by Ivy Bottini).

V. WHITHER THE LGBT COMMUNITY IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

Advisory Board members conducted a wide-ranging discussion of current trends and expectations regarding the LGBT community in West Hollywood. Among the points made were:

- differences in how younger and older gay people conduct their lives
- differences in approaching the issue of marriage
- affordability of living in the city

- threats to rent control, such as Proposition 98 (2008)
- changing demographics of residents, including orientation and income
- lack of understanding of LGBT community by non-gay residents
- difficulty of creating senior housing in West Hollywood
- importance of keeping the memory of AIDS crisis and those lost
- consideration of whether, or why, West Hollywood would remain a destination for gay people to visit or live
- consideration of rebuilding the city's founding coalition of gay people, seniors, and businesses

A committee on the community was formed to continue addressing these issues. Members were Bill Gordon, Nadia Sutton, Ivy Bottini, Dan Berkowitz, and Jimmy Palmieri.

The topic of inviting a representative from another gay community, such as Long Beach, will be placed on an upcoming agenda.

#### VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ruth Tittle spoke about being part of the Valentine's Day Right to Marry event at the Beverly Hills Courthouse. The pending case on marriage equality will be heard by the California Supreme Court on March 4, with a ruling expected by June.

Ruth Tittle encouraged the Advisory Board to think about increasing the diversity of its panel participants, particularly with regard to race.

Sue Sexton spoke about the Equality California meeting, and said the November 4 ballot may contain efforts to prohibit or eliminate civil recognition of same-sex partnerships.

Jimmy Palmieri provided a handout on public health funding for the crystal meth crisis.

#### VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 13, 2008, in the Community Conference Room, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.