

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2011**  
**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 Sue Sexton at 7:05 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2011, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Angela Brinskele, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, Ruth Tittle.

A quorum was present at all times. Sam Baxter, Director of Human Services, and Jeff Book, staff liaison, were 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 provision that Items IV.E, IV.F, IV.A., and IV.B. would be moved to after Item II.

D. MINUTES

The minutes were postponed until the next meeting.

E. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Dan Berkowitz requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Ellen Stewart, founder of La MaMa Experimental Theater Club, and in memory of Craig Owen, who worked with the Tom of Finland Foundation. Elisabeth Sandberg requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Abner Flores, a student at Woodbury University. Ruth Tittle requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Maria Dolores, a resident of Triangle Square in Hollywood. Nadia Sutton requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Sylvia Bursztyn, a supporter of PAWS, who wrote crossword puzzles for the Los Angeles Times.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

E. NIKOLAI ALEXEYEV

Robin Tyler spoke to the Advisory Board about Nikolai Alexeyev, a Russian LGBT rights activist, lawyer, and journalist, who is visiting the United States in March, and will be in West Hollywood on March 5. She proposed Alexeyev to speak in an event sponsored by the Advisory Board, which she would produce, with the City Council asked to provide a proclamation.

Ivy Bottini moved for the Advisory Board to sponsor and host this reception, be listed first on any list of sponsors, and ask the City to sponsor as well. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg. This was amended at Matt Palazzolo's request to include asking the City to honor the visitor in some way. The motion was approved.

A task force consisting of Sue Sexton (chair), Matt Palazzolo, and Angela Brinskele was formed to work on this event.

F. BOOK BY DAVINA KATULSKI

Sue Sexton said that the author Davina Katulski had contacted her to see if the Advisory Board could assist in regard to her new book on the marriage equality movement. The Advisory Board discussed how this could be done. Staff will check with the city attorney about any limitations on the City providing publicity in this regard. Robin Tyler requested a copy of the city logo.

A. PLUMMER PARK

Sam Baxter provided an extensive audiovisual presentation of planned changes in Plummer Park, which will be going out for construction bids in the near future, with construction in 2011-2012. Changes include reclaiming of land for green space; construction of an underground parking; a new pre-school building; renovations and improvements to Fiesta Hall; development of a great lawn for public performances; and others. The Advisory Board expressed appreciation and anticipation over these improvements.

B. TOM OF FINLAND EROTIC ART FAIR

Sharp, vice president of the Tom of Finland Foundation, spoke to the Advisory Board to request the city to again co-sponsor the Tom of Finland Foundation's Erotic Art Fair. Durk Dehner, Foundation president and co-founder, is in Finland for an event there. The 16th annual fair is planned for March 25-27, 2011. Ruth Tittle moved to ask the Council to co-sponsor the event again this year. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, and approved. The Foundation will also be speaking with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC).

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Dan Berkowitz said the performing arts and cultural affairs subcommittee of ACAC is

developing events for Pride Month 2011.

Ruth Tittle said the Human Services Commission discussed the closing of Rainbow Bridge Community Services, and how to provide those services in another way. They are participating in a Homeless Census next week.

Angela Brinskele spoke about the Lesbian Visibility Committee, which is discussing who to honor at the Dyke March. The next meeting is January 27.

Sue Sexton attended the Transgender Advisory Board, which has placed the idea of a study session with the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board on its next agenda. They are also working on the idea of naming a place in the city in recognition of the transgender community.

#### IV NEW BUSINESS

##### C. AIDS MEMORIAL

Ivy Bottini said that the Advisory Board had submitted an application to create an AIDS Memorial under the city's memorial policy, which was referred to the committee responsible for considering these, but there had been no response yet from that group. She said she met with Councilmember Prang, who said the Advisory Board should submit the proposal as an item on the Council agenda.

She said the city's two current memorials in this regard – at the DeLongpre park and the palm-tree plaques along Santa Monica Boulevard – are inadequate to the scale of AIDS's impact on the community.

Ivy Bottini moved to request the Council to agendaize the Advisory Board's request for an AIDS Memorial, with the previous application attached. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo, and approved.

##### D. TOWN HALL ON THINNING OF LGBT POPULATION IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

Ivy Bottini said the LGBT way of life is slowly disappearing, and that a footprint to say that we were here needs to be preserved. She said she met with Councilmember Prang and Mayor Pro Tempore Duran about this. She distributed an article from The Advocate, in which West Hollywood was not listed as a top destination for gay and lesbian tourists, and the formula used by The Advocate to reach their list.

A task force consisting of Ivy Bottini (chair), Nadia Sutton, Angela Brinskele, and Sue Sexton was formed to plan a town hall on this theme, with a target of approximately three months from now. Nadia Sutton said the Marketing and Visitors Bureau should be included in this.

##### G. RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO WORKED TO REPEAL DADT

Ruth Tittle said that prior to President Obama's signature on the legislation creating a process for repeal of the military's Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, the

Council had discussed recognizing those who had been involved in repealing the Policy. Dan Berkowitz said that the Advisory Board members who are liaisons to Council offices could let them know that the Advisory Board would like to participate in these recognitions, including who is recognized, and how. Matt Palazzolo wondered if this could be a focus for the Rainbow Keys.

The Advisory Board continued this item to the next meeting.

H. CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

The Advisory Board discussed the unavailability of its usual meeting room on Thursday, March 10, due to the municipal election, and decided to keep its meeting date the same, with the location to be determined based on availability.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. THE PALMS

Angela Brinskele spoke with Wes Joe, who worked on historical recognition for the site of the Black Cat in Silver Lake, and Sisterhood Bookstore in Westwood. She will contact him about speaking to the Advisory Board about the process used. Elisabeth Sandberg said the city's history is being lost because there are no markers for important sites such as A Different Light, Metropolitan Community Church, and many others. Ivy Bottini suggested compiling a list of historical sites in the city, marking them with plaques, and producing a map and pamphlet so that residents and visitors can know these locations. This item was carried forward to the February or March agenda.

B. JOINT SESSION WITH TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

Sue Sexton said the topic of a joint meeting is on the next agenda for the Transgender Advisory Board. The staff liaisons for the boards will talk about how a joint meeting could be organized.

C. RISE UP AND SHOUT!

Staff reported that the City Attorney had said that as long as the benefit is directed to members of the West Hollywood community, support for an event like Rise Up and Shout! would not be prohibited because it is occurring outside the city limits.

Nadia Sutton moved to recommend that the City purchase tickets equivalent \$250, to be used to the benefit of youth in the West Hollywood community. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

D. RAINBOW KEY

Sue Sexton reported that she met with Councilmember Land, who asked the Board to try to avoid Father's Day (June 19 this year), and to consider a smaller number of awards each year. Ivy Bottini opposed doing fewer awards, saying

that those who have worked hard need to be recognized, even if it is a longer program. Dan Berkowitz spoke for not having a specific target for number of awards, which allows the program to have more or less depending on the situation in any particular year.

E. COMMUNITY SURVEY

This item was carried over to the next agenda. Ivy Bottini said Councilmember Prang was interested in doing a survey to find out how many lesbians are in West Hollywood.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dan Berkowitz said his short play, "Chit Chat With the Succubus" will be performed next week at the Crown City Theatre at St. Matthew's Church in North Hollywood.

Ruth Tittle said it was good to hear the update on Plummer Park, and that Triangle Square now offers hot lunches every day to persons 60 and older.

On Dec. 20, Capitol Drugs received a city proclamation for its 25 years of service. Ruth Tittle recalled Mayor Heilman presenting a recognition to her brother 20 years ago.

Sue Sexton said information on making nominations for this year's CSW awards can be found on the LA Pride website.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff said a L.A. County Commission on Human Relations' Network Against Hate Crime meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb 1, at 8:45 a.m. at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and will include the documentary "Bullied," produced by Southern Poverty Law Center.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. in memory of Ellen Stewart, Craig Owen, Abner Flores, Maria Dolores, and Sylvia Bursztyn.