

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
JOINT MEETING WITH TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JUNE 27, 2012
COMMUNITY ROOM, WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

A joint study session of the West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB) and the West Hollywood Transgender Advisory Board (TAB) was called to order by TAB Chair Coco LaChine at 7:10 p.m., Wednesday, June 27, 2012, in the Community Room of the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members present were:

LGAB: Ivy Bottini, Andrew Oldershaw, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle
TAB: Erika De La Cruz, Maria Carmen Hinayon, E. Jaye Johnson, Drían Juarez, Coco LaChine, Mariana Marroquín, Karina Samala, Carolyn Marie Weiss.

Quorums of both boards were present throughout the meeting. David Escobedo, TAB staff liaison, and Jeff Book, LGAB staff liaison, were also present. Council Deputy Michelle Rex 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 as posted.

D. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Elisabeth Sandberg requested that the meeting be adjourned in awareness of the theft of five years of the work of South African photographer Zanele Muholi, by the taking of 20 external hard drives and some digital memory cards that contained her documentation of the lesbian community, as reported in the Los Angeles Times; in memory of Mollie Judith Olgin, 19, who died this week from gunshot wounds from an attack on her and Mary Christine Chapa, 18, in Portland, Texas; and in memory of Hilda Palazzolo, mother of LGAB Co-Chair Matt Palazzolo.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public at this time.

III. TRANS 101 WORKSHOP

The boards engaged in a workshop on transgender topics.

Maria Carmen Hinayon discussed definitions of sex, gender, gender roles, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and how these relate to biology, social expectations, perceptions of masculinity and femininity, and self-perceptions and presentations

Drían Juarez spoke about becoming allies with the transgender community, which faces significant barriers to accessing services, due to discrimination, economic conditions, legal status, and related causes. November 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance, which is a significant opportunity to support the community in West Hollywood.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON ISSUES FACING THE LGBT COMMUNITY

The Boards engaged a number of issues, including forced sterilization; the exclusion of transgender as a category in the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA); immigration; the provision and use of appropriate bathroom facilities; and nationally-recognized organizations addressing transgender issues, including the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), the Transgender Law Center, and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

Michelle Dennis recommended that both boards adopt resolutions calling for the inclusion of transgender in ENDA. She also said one commonality in the communities is an interest in personal safety.

Discussion focused on a need for inclusion; how the movement for transgender equality is relatively new; whether the transgender community is separate from, part of, or has some other relationship with the lesbian and gay community; what resources are needed to educate on this topic; the role of family; and health care.

B. NEW TASK FORCE FOR COLLABORATIVE GOAL

The Boards discussed how to work together, including keeping each other informed and inviting each other to events. Ivy Bottini said there is a need for lesbian space in the City, and also for transgender space, which could be a topic for cooperation. There was discussion of a possible media campaign or public service announcement, and agreement to form a joint task force to work on this, which will hold its first meeting in the next four weeks.

Members of the task force are Ivy Bottini, Andrew Oldershaw, and Sue Sexton from LGAB, and Karina Samala, Drían Juarez, E. Jaye Johnson and Erika De La Cruz from TAB. Andrew Oldershaw and Karina Samala will be co-chairs.

There was a request to have the topic of bathroom access at local facilities and businesses on the next agenda, due to reports of exclusion based on perceived

gender or self-presentation.

V. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ivy Bottini said she was glad that both of her daughters are now living here. Many members expressed appreciation for the content of the meeting and to Sue Sexton for keeping the possibility of the meeting moving forward. The presenters were thanked for outstanding information.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reminded those in attendance about parking validation.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Victor Omelczenko spoke about the current and proposed City budget, and about the presentation of the mid-year report on social services programs at the June 18 Council meeting. He asked whether the boards thought the services were appropriate or adequate for the communities, and about assessing the community events that affect the communities.

Michelle Dennis said she is interested in an oral history regarding the transgender movement, and said this could be a topic for the joint task force to consider.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. in awareness of the theft of the work of Zanele Muholi; in memory of Mollie Judith Olgin; and in memory of Hilda Palazzolo.

Signed:

Elisabeth Sandberg, Co-Chair