

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2009**  
**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 Dan Berkowitz at 7:06 p.m., Thursday, January 8, 2009, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Bryeon Earle, Bill Gordon, David “Tradd” Keaton, Rev. Pat Langlois, Ben McCormick, Jimmy Palmieri, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Nadia Sutton, and 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, with unanimous agreement that item 5.A. would be taken up between item III and item IV, and Item IV.A. would be taken up to coincide with Item V.F.

D. MINUTES

Approval of minutes was deferred.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Wes Joe, a resident of Silver Lake, discussed the designation of the Black Cat Bar (now Le Barcito, 3909 Sunset Blvd.) as a historical landmark due to protest events that occurred there on Feb. 2, 1967, and invited the Board to a celebration of the historical designation, to be held Feb. 11, 2009.

III. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Dan Berkowitz distributed an updated chart of project assignments.

Jimmy Palmieri spoke about Councilmember Guarriello's campaign against drinking and driving, which includes distribution of hundreds of thousands of reminder napkins in local establishments.

Bill Gordon reported on talks with Jake Stevens, Deputy to Mayor Jeffrey Prang, who has discussed bringing an exhibit on gay and lesbian aspects of the Holocaust to the city.

Sue Sexton spoke about the LEX art show that is upcoming, and on cooperation with Hon. Abbe Land's office in seeking Council approval.

Elisabeth Sandberg said the Public Safety Commission will meet on Monday; Ruth Tittle said Human Services Commission will meet on Tuesday; and Bryeon Earle said the Project Area Committee meeting was cancelled this month.

Ben McCormick spoke about the Halloween Task Force, and on discussions with Council Deputy Hernan Molina about upcoming events.

Dan Berkowitz spoke about the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, and the performing arts subcommittee which is planning for a comedy night event.

#### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. TRANSGENDER MEMORIAL

Following up on information previously provided in public comment, David Escobedo detailed information about the proposed Transgender Memorial to be located in the area of Santa Monica and Crescent Heights Boulevards, including size, shape, purpose, and appearance. Members of the board spoke in favor of the project and the location.

On a motion by Ben McCormick, seconded by Nadia Sutton, the Advisory Board voted unanimously to endorse and support the placement of this memorial.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### B. POSTCARDS TO PRESIDENT PROJECT

Staff reported on the City Attorney's advice discouraging expenditure of public funds for encouraging the public to lobby for particular government actions, which is in a different legal category than a local government engaging in direct lobbying.

Tanner Efinger appealed for the Board's support, rather than funding, and gave a 1-page summary of the project's activities. Vince Conway and Christopher Smith

also spoke in favor of the project.

The Advisory Board voted to support the goals of the Postcards project, on a motion by Jimmy Palmieri, seconded by Rev. Pat Langlois.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C. MARRIAGE EQUALITY EXHIBIT

Elisabeth Sandberg introduced Deanna Stevenson, who spoke about an upcoming marriage equality exhibit covering developments in this subject, especially since the 1950s. ONE Archives is the fiscal and administrative agent for the exhibit.

On a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Sue Sexton, the Advisory Board voted to support this project.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

D. MILK

The item, regarding a possible screening or dramatic presentation around the biographical film *Milk*, was tabled to the next month.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

C. WOMEN'S SAFER SEX PACKETS

Rev. Pat Langlois reported on progress toward women's safer sex packets. The planning group is looking at examples, and meet again next month.

D. RAINBOW KEY

Nominations are due by February 1.

E. RETREAT PLANNING

The Board will hold a special meeting at Le Montrose hotel at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 24. Dan Berkowitz and Ivy Bottini will prepare the agenda. Topics will include the role of liaisons, the upcoming anniversary of the Stonewall riots, community outreach, and West Hollywood as a center for LGBT culture and political engagement.

F. PROP 8 / OATHS

Ivy Bottini raised the question of whether people who disagree with the newly adopted Proposition 8, directing that same-sex marriage will not be recognized in California, can state allegiance to the state constitution, as required of board members. Staff reported on the City Attorney's opinion that the statement required of board members does not oblige them to endorse each item contained in the constitution, because the constitution contains the means for its own amendment, and therefore the oath is really requiring support for the constitutional form of government, rather than endorsement of specific policy views.

The Board spoke at length about the recently adopted Proposition 8. Bill Gordon spoke about the memo distributed by Geoff Kors of Equality California on voting patterns on Proposition 8, including information on age, party registration, ideology, and religious affiliation and attendance. Rev. Pat Langlois spoke about interfaith efforts to educate on this subject. Bill Gordon said that spirituality forums, as sponsored in earlier years, would be a good way to help address the subject of religious objections to equality. David "Tradd" Keaton noted that there are religious groups that are welcoming and affirming, including Hollywood Methodist.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Rev. Pat Langlois said a card had been received from Tribe to thank the Board for its assistance in securing use of Plummer Park for meetings.

A Freedom to Marry event will be held at the Beverly Hills Courthouse on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in February.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.