

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 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 7:05 p.m., Thursday, September 16, 2010, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Ivy Bottini, Angela Brinskele, Bryeon Earle, Bill Gordon, Ben McCormick, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, 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

Items IV.A was corrected to refer to 2011, rather than 2010, and moved up on the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

D. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to reflect that the area sponsored by the Advisory Board at the Book Fair was a public area rather than an authors' lounge, and that the Advisory Board had sponsored Rise Up and Shout! in 2010 rather than 2009.

With these corrections, the minutes of the August 12, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Ruth Tittle, with Dan Berkowitz abstaining due to absence.

E. ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS

Bryeon Earle asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Billy Lucas, a teenager who committed suicide after harassment, in Greensburg, Indiana.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. RISE UP AND SHOUT

Mark Thompson spoke about the next edition of Rise Up and Shout!, which is planned for May 14, 2011, at the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre. He reviewed the history of the event, spoke about some of the participation planned this year, and asked for the Advisory Board's support.

Ruth Tittle recommended the Carol Channing Foundation as a possible sponsor, and Ivy Bottini mentioned Fairfax High School as a possible location. An item to consider sponsorship was placed on the next agenda.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Carlos Sosa spoke about plans for the 2010 Thanksgiving event by C.I.T.Y. x1, which the Advisory Board supported last year. This item was placed on the next agenda, with plans to prepare a consent calendar item for City Council, for October or early November.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Bryeon Earle spoke with Council Deputy Fran Solomon about smoking cessation issues.

Matt Palazzolo said he, Ben McCormick, and Bill Gordon had met regarding publicity. Ben McCormick said their focus was on improving the Advisory Board's presence on the City's website, including pictures and biographies of the members, and a possible message board for the community, with links to events.

Nadia Sutton thanked the Advisory Board for supporting women's events.

Ruth Tittle attended the Human Services Commission, which is planning a social event with the executive directors of city-funded social services agencies.

Sue Sexton said the offices of John Heilman and Abbe Land are supporting SJR 28 regarding the inclusion of gay as a category in the next census. Also, the Transgender Advisory Board didn't meet this month.

Angela Brinskele attended the most recent Lesbian Visibility Committee, which is considering an event in the park for October.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

B. DEFARRA GAYMON

Bryeon Earle distributed copies of a New York Times article and blog posts

by Michael Petrelis regarding Defarra Gaymon, who was killed in a New York park. He said he would speak to Councilmember Duran about the matter, and asked for this to continue on the next agenda.

V. A. COMMUNITY SURVEY

Matt Palazzolo recommended requesting that the Advisory Board be authorized to have a question on the next community needs survey. The board discussed several approaches to gathering information, including collecting a mailing list. The topic of the community survey was continued on the next agenda.

B. BOOK FAIR

Ben McCormick said the Advisory Board is sponsoring a canopied area in the book fair, and said Roz Helfand had inquired about allowing the Gay & Lesbian Center to have a table in the canopied area. There was extensive discussion of the subject. Ivy Bottini moved to deny the request, which was seconded by Bryeon Earle. Ben McCormick discussed amending the motion to provide that the table would be permitted as long as the Center paid half the cost of the canopy. The motion was withdrawn.

The Advisory Board directed that the topic of the Gay & Lesbian Center and its role in the community be placed on an upcoming agenda.

Matt Palazzolo moved to share the canopy space with the table of the Gay & Lesbian Center as long as this did not interfere with the purpose of the tent. This was amended to add that the Center would be asked to pay half of the cost of the canopy. The motion was approved, with 2 opposed and 1 abstaining.

Ben McCormick sought volunteers to staff the area at the Book Fair.

C. INTERPRIDE

Staff reported that the City preferred not to pay for registration costs for Interpride.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Bryeon Earle distributed information about the death of Billy Lucas from Greensburg, Indiana. The topic of the Safe Schools Improvement Act was placed on the next agenda.

Ben McCormick would like to open up the Rainbow Key awards process, in a way similar to the Disability Awards. This topic was also placed on the next agenda.

Bryeon Earle announced that he will be moving to Guerneville, CA, and that November

will be his last meeting as a member of the Advisory Board.

Sue Sexton discussed the Butch Voices event to be held Oct. 8-10.

Ben McCormick said the Pumpkin Patch will be opening in October at 702 N. Doheny.

Ivy Bottini spoke about West Hollywood, The Musical, which will be in previews on the next Advisory Board meeting date (Oct. 14), and will run Oct. 23 through Nov. 7 in Fiesta Hall.

Sue Sexton spoke about a couple living at Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing who had been at the Affaire of the Heart program held by the City many years ago.

Nadia Sutton spoke about caring for an abandoned cat named Bunny, and the importance of all knowing they are loved.

Ruth Tittle spoke about the Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing garden party, with Rona Barrett, Adam Shankman, and Lance Black. There are now 130 residents in the property, and 15 have died.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. in memory of Billy Lucas of Greensburg, Indiana.