

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**  
**LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES – APRIL 9, 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 7:07 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2009, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: Dan Berkowitz, Bryeon Earle, Bill Gordon, David “Tradd” Keaton, Ben McCormick, Jimmy Palmieri, 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

The agenda was approved, with unanimous agreement that item 4.C. would be taken up between Items 1 and 2.

D. MINUTES

Minutes of the Feb. 12, 2009, meeting were approved on a motion by Ben McCormick, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, with Jimmy Palmieri and Ruth Tittle abstaining.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

C. TRANSGENDER FILM SCREENING

Dante Alencastre discussed his film, “In the Fire (En El Fuego), which was shown at Outfest. The Board discussed sponsoring a screening of the film as part of Pride Month activities. It was moved by Dan Berkowitz, and seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg, to hold a screening and discussion of the film. This was approved 9 to 1, with Ben McCormick dissenting.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lev Volovik, a member of the Russian Advisory Board, spoke about the recent joint meeting between RAB and LGAB, and about using art to help bridge connections between the communities. He asked for the Advisory Board's support for a Tchaikovsky program to be held on July 11, 2009, at Fiesta Hall. This item was placed on the next Advisory Board agenda.

Heidi Schroeder, a member of the Women's Advisory Board, spoke about participation in Kids Fair. Nadia Sutton congratulated the Women's Advisory on the Women in Leadership event.

III. COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Bryeon Earle met with the Gay Men's Medicine Circle, and will be keeping the Advisory Board informed about their programs. He also met with the Project Advisory Committee.

Nadia Sutton met with the Women's Advisory Board.

Jimmy Palmieri discussed a recent disagreement between Councilmember Guarriello and the City Attorney's office.

Ben McCormick spoke to the City Council about the transgender memorial and the Rainbow Key event. He is talking with John Duran's office about the Gay Men's Forum, and following requests for extended hours at the club Eleven.

Sue Sexton noted that Abbe Land has invited people to attend the council reorganization. She also discussed plans for a demonstration on the day of the California Supreme Court ruling on the validity of Proposition 8, about the movie night at Macha Theatre on April 19, and about the Lex art exhibit.

Dan Berkowitz spoke about the Rainbow Key recommendations which were adopted by City Council this week.

IV. A. KIDS FAIR

Bryeon Earle said he is planning to be present for the whole day of Kids Fair. It was moved by Bryeon Earle, seconded by Bill Gordon, and approved for the Advisory Board to staff a table with the Women's Advisory Board.

B. MILK

Dan Berkowitz recommended co-sponsoring a screening of the documentary "Milk," regarding the late San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk. This was moved by Dan Berkowitz, seconded by Nadia Sutton, and approved.

D. GAY PLAY-READING FESTIVAL

Dan Berkowitz said the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission had provided a grant to the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights for a Gay and Lesbian Play Reading Festival, to be held Wednesday, June 10, and Wednesday, June 17. Dan Berkowitz moved to co-sponsor these events, and to authorize up to \$600 to assist the Alliance with printing, postcards, and related expenses. This was seconded and approved.

E. PANEL DISCUSSION

A discussion regarding gay and lesbian plays and writing, led by Rainbow Key recipient Sue Hamilton, is planned for June 23. Dan Berkowitz moved to co-sponsor the event and provide funding for rental of the Macha Theatre. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved 8 yes, 1 no (Ben McCormick) and 1 abstaining (Jimmy Palmieri).

F. GED GRADUATES

Jimmy Palmieri discussed having the City honor graduates of the GED program at the Jeff Griffith Youth Center. He moved to recommend to Council that they give a commendation to the graduates and recognize the staff that has worked hard to make these graduations possible. The recommendation includes continuing to recognize future graduations. This was seconded by Bryeon Earle and approved.

G. MEMORIAL TRIANGLE

David Gardner spoke about recent damage inflicted on the Memorial Triangle at Santa Monica Blvd. and Crescent Heights. Dan Berkowitz spoke about possible safety and lighting improvements at the site, to discourage vandalism.

H. PRIDE FESTIVAL

Ben McCormick has submitted an application for a marching unit in the parade.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. WOMEN'S SAFER SEX PACKETS

This item continues to be in development.

B. BOOK FAIR

This item was deferred.

C. TELEVISED MEETING

The Advisory Board discussed plans for its televised meeting at West Hollywood Park Auditorium on Tuesday, June 2, including panel participants, youth panel members, and the structure and format of the meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dan Berkowitz distributed an item from Don Kilhefner regarding the Outfest Legacy Project, and invited the board to an event for the Association of Los Angeles Playwrights. He also commended Capitol Drugs for their sensitivity on handling prescription issues.

Sue Sexton said Sam Borelli asked her to say that the Trevor Project is in need of women volunteers. Interested persons can visit the website. She also noted that Elliott Simmons is ill.

Jimmy Palmieri said the Tweakers Project now has 650 members.

Bill Gordon asked if a calendar could be developed listing all pride-related events. He also noted reports of a sharp increase in the rate of autism and allegations that this is connected to vaccination policies, and asked for this to be considered as a project.

Ruth Tittle asked for consideration of co-sponsoring a program on HIV and STDs among persons over age 50. She also said the State Commission on Aging will be meeting at Triangle Square in May.

David "Tradd" Keaton asked for an agenda item regarding policy on recognition of the Advisory Board at co-sponsored events.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.