

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2010
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND INSTALLATION**

A. **ROLL CALL**

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Co-Chair Sue Sexton at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 12, 2010, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Members Present: 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, IV.B, and IV.C were moved up to after Item II. With that change, the agenda was approved as posted.

D. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the April 8, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Ben McCormick, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg. Minutes of the May 13, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Enrique Reveles. Minutes of the June 23, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Ben McCormick. Minutes of the July 8, 2010, meeting were corrected to refer to the TV program “Homo Files,” rather than Homophile, and were then approved on a motion by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Ben McCormick.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

There were no adjournment requests.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Anthony Frisina of The Beat Project spoke about his upcoming production of “Dear Harvey,” opening Sept. 16 at the Lee Strasberg Theatre. The item is on the agenda.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY SURVEY

Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator, spoke about what the community surveys that have been conducted since cityhood, and distributed copies of the summary of the most recent (2006) survey, and information on locating the entire report. New information from the 2010 Census is expected later this year, and the City is planning to conduct a new community survey in a year and a half. Surveys are developed with consultants, and cost \$75,000 to \$100,000 to conduct, with steps including stakeholder interviews and focus groups. Ben McCormick asked if advisory boards have the opportunity to add questions to the survey, and Daphne Dennis said no, but that the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board would be a focus group for the social services survey.

The Advisory Board decided to keep this on the agenda for further discussion.

B. WEST HOLLYWOOD BOOK FAIR

Roz Helfand said the Book Fair, which is coming up on Sunday, Sept. 26, will be the ninth annual event, and will again feature themed pavilions, and dozens of panels, guests and speakers. The Algonquin Literary Award is being presented to poet Eloise Klein Healy. Roz Helfand invited the Advisory Board to again sponsor a public area, as they did in 2009.

C. HUMAN RIGHTS IN PUERTO RICO

Bambi Salcedo spoke about reports of anti-transgender violence in Puerto Rico and the work of the Trans Latina Coalition, which is gathering support for a letter urging the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate and take action on these reports. The Advisory Board voted to endorse this on a motion by Bryeon Earle, seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Nadia Sutton distributed a flyer for an upcoming Women’s Equality Day event.

Bill Gordon said Councilmember Prang called attention to the beautification of Sunset Boulevard and the Guitar project currently on display.

Sue Sexton said Councilmember Land drew attention to Mayor Heilman’s letter to Target

regarding corporate responsibility in donations. She also said the Transgender Advisory Board has temporarily postponed a planned educational forum.

Enrique Reveles spoke about the Public Safety Commission meeting, the Sunset Music Festival, a meeting on elder abuse, the importance of avoiding crimes of opportunity, and the recent National Night Out.

Bill Gordon said the museum task force will meet August 18.

Ruth Tittle said the August meeting of the Human Services Commission was cancelled.

Ben McCormick spoke about the ruling in the Prop 8 constitutional case, and the judge's decision to place a temporary hold on the effect until August 18.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

D. DEAR HARVEY

On a motion by Ivy Bottini, seconded by Ben McCormick, the Advisory Board voted to co-sponsor this presentation, with no commitment of funds.

E. INTERPRIDE

Sue Sexton said she has attended this meeting, which is an international gathering of Pride festivals and organizations, and is planning to attend this year on behalf of Christopher Street West. She asked if the Advisory Board was interested in sending someone to this year's event, which will be held Oct. 21-24 in Long Beach. Staff will check on funding this type of attendance, and the item will be placed on the next agenda.

F. TARGET

Bill Gordon reported on controversy following the Target Corporation's donation to Minnesota Forward. The company's CEO, Gregg W. Steinhafel, has issued an apology to employees, and the company has said it will initiate a new process to review expenditures of this kind before they are made. He said Mayor Heilman had sent an excellent letter to Mr. Steinhafel.

Matt Palazzolo said there will be a "buy and return" rally at the West Hollywood Target this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nadia Sutton said that Best Buy had also made donations of this kind.

Bill Gordon moved that the Advisory Board suggest to City Council that it take action to encourage greater responsibility in corporate donations. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

B. BOOK FAIR (continued)

Elisabeth Sandberg moved to request that \$500 from the Lesbian and Gay Programs line item be used to fund the authors' lounge tent that will be hosted by the Advisory Board at the Book Fair. This was seconded by Bryeon Earle and approved.

A task force to lead staffing of the lounge was formed, consisting of Ben McCormick (chair), Elisabeth Sandberg, Ivy Bottini, Angela Brinskele, Enrique Reveles, and Bill Gordon. Angela Brinskele, Ben McCormick, and Bill Gordon will work on design and decoration.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CITY WEBSITE AND PUBLICITY

Matt Palazzolo and Ben McCormick met with Helen Goss and Jeff Book this month to discuss options regarding the Advisory Board's visibility and use of the city website. They reported that individual board members may use their own Facebook or other social networking accounts to link to items on the City website, and may use pictures from the City's Flickr page, but the board itself will not have a Facebook page. Working through the Public Information office, the items on the LGAB page on the City website may be expanded, and a sign-up for people interested in receiving occasional news on lesbian and gay issues may be included.

Ben McCormick, Matt Palazzolo, Bill Gordon, and Angela Brinskele were named as a task force to develop an expanded presence on the City's LGAB webpage.

B. CREATING A DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

Sue Sexton reviewed the background of this item, and Bill Gordon said it was important for the gay and lesbian community to reach out to other communities because many new issues will be occurring as the results of the Prop 8 lawsuit are implemented. Bryeon Earle, Sue Sexton (chair), Nadia Sutton, and Bill Gordon were named as a task force to look into this issue further.

C. MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Ben McCormick moved to adopt a policy of inviting new members to submit a brief biography for distribution to the board, that they be given copies of the brief biographies of the then-current board members, and that a few minutes of each new member's first meeting be devoted to briefly sharing this information. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Palazzolo spoke about a program of LGBT-related love songs to be held this Sunday at Congregation Kol Ami, where he will be one of the performers.

Ben McCormick asked that support for the 2011 program of Rise Up and Shout! be placed on the next agenda. The board also supported the 2010 program.

Elisabeth Sandberg is preparing lectures on public parks and spaces in West Hollywood and Los Angeles. She also noted that she plans to be married when this again becomes a legal reality in California.

Ivy Bottini said she has a new website up at ivybottini.com. She is also celebrating her 84th birthday this week.

Ruth Tittle said Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing will hold its garden party on Oct. 3, with director-producer Adam Shankman as honoree. Also, GLEH is planning to provide hot lunches at its facility, beginning in October.

Angela Brinskele said the Mazer Archive is sponsoring a May 2011 international event for archives, libraries, museums, and special collections.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jeff Book said the City had been prepared today to immediately resume same-sex marriage ceremonies, if the federal court had not issued a temporary stay on the recent ruling declaring Proposition 8 unconstitutional. When there are no further stays on the ruling, the City will proceed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.