

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – APRIL 8, 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 Dan Berkowitz at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 8, 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.

D. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as printed. Dan Berkowitz requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Wilma Mankiller, first female chief of the Cherokee Nation. Bryeon Earle requested that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of actor David Steinberg (“Willow”). Bill Gordon requested that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of openly gay wrestler Chris Kanyon.

E. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 11, 2010, meeting were tabled to the next meeting.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

III. **TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS**

Ben McCormick said he has been keeping in contact with Councilmember Duran’s office and the Planning Commission.

Dan Berkowitz, Bryeon Earle, and Sue Sexton attended the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

Nadia Sutton spoke about the Women's Leadership Conference.

Sue Sexton said the Transgender Advisory Board is looking at AB 1451 regarding identification cards, and working with the Transgender Law Center on a possible town hall. Trans Unity Pride is to be held June 3-6. She said Mayor Land had sent comments regarding the Women's Leadership Conference and the Rock for Equality event. Also, the CSW mayor's reception will be held June 2, and CSW will donate a case of champagne to the Rainbow Key event.

Ruth Tittle attended the Human Services Commission, and is meeting with Councilmember Horvath's office.

Nadia Sutton spoke about Equal Roots and Rock for Equality.

Matt Palazzolo will be liaison to the Transportation Commission.

Bill Gordon provided a legislative report including: repeal of same-sex marriage was emphasized in a Republican debate in Iowa; Salt Lake City has a new anti-discrimination ordinance; Secretary of Defense Robert Gates adopted slight changes to Don't Ask Don't Tell; the human rights situation in Zimbabwe and Uganda is grave; a gay political party is participating in elections in the Philippines; the March 29 New York Times Magazine included an article on same-sex behavior in nature; and Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal is pursuing repeal of a state law calling for research into the cause and "cure" of homosexuality.

Angela Brinskele attended the Lesbian Visibility Committee. The Dyke March is to be held on Friday of Pride Week.

Sue Sexton wondered if the City Council has expressed thanks to Annemarie Williams for her service on the Lesbian Visibility Committee. She will check with Mayor Land's office.

Ben McCormick asked that a representative from the Clerk's office be invited to speak to the Advisory Board about the report from the Advisory Board Task Force, which was recently presented to Council.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Representing Daphne Dennis, Leslie Isenberg spoke to the Advisory Board about

the current RFP process for social services, and asked for input on the most significant service needs seen by the Advisory Board, the changes that have happened in those needs, and barriers to accessing social services.

Ivy Bottini spoke about reports of a new drug-resistant strain of HIV, and about services for persons who are blind or partially sighted. She asked for the Braille Institute to be included in distribution of the social services RFP.

Nadia Sutton spoke gay and lesbian youth and elders, and about the need for an animal center closer than the Carson Animal Shelter, where people can go to find lost animals.

Bryeon Earle spoke about the Trevor Project.

Bill Gordon spoke about PATH and whether they were meeting needs of gay and lesbian youth.

Nadia Sutton spoke about funding for CPR training.

Bryeon Earle spoke about city funding for smoking cessation programs.

Angela Brinskele spoke about senior services and continued health and cancer screening for women.

Sue Sexton spoke about the need to support women living with cancer.

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about support for people providing foster care.

B. GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Dan Berkowitz suggested that Advisory Board members prepare a one-page biography for distribution to other members. The idea was supported by the board members, who set April 18 as the target for providing these to staff.

C. MR. BLACKWELL EXHIBITION

Ivy Bottini spoke about an upcoming exhibition of Mr. Blackwell's gowns and other memorabilia at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, and asked for consideration of encouraging the City to produce a smaller exhibition as an adjunct to the CSU event. Bill Gordon and Sue Sexton said that interviews with Mr. Blackwell had been shown on the City's cable channel; they will check with cable staff to see if these are available to be provided to CSU.

Ben McCormick moved that the Advisory Board co-sponsor the exhibition in Fort Collins, with no fiscal impact. This was seconded by Bryeon Earle and approved.

Ruth Tittle moved to notify the Council of this and suggest some options for how the City could recognize the event, ranging from sponsoring an event, cooperating with the Gay & Lesbian Center on some recognition, and/or issuing a proclamation recognizing the CSU event.

D. COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE DEFINITIONS

Ivy Bottini asked for greater definition and agreement on how the Advisory Board's task forces work. The Advisory Board discussed last month's presentation of recommended Pride Month events. Staff recommended being clear with process and subject matter expectations when task forces are formed. Bill Gordon noted that the Advisory Board can always adopt a task force report in whole or in part.

V. A. RAINBOW KEY

On behalf of the Rainbow Key task force, Dan Berkowitz presented a list of recommended recipients for the 2010 Rainbow Key awards. Members of the task force were Ivy Bottini, Nadia Sutton, Ben McCormick, Sue Sexton, and Dan Berkowitz.

The recommended honorees are Wendy Averill and Marilee France; Oscar De La O; Lillian Faderman; Dana Miller; Karen Ocamb; Lisa Powell; Midge Costanza (posthumous); C.I.T.Y. x1; Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing; and ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

Approval for this list was moved by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Bill Gordon, and approved.

Dan Berkowitz said the West Hollywood Marketing & Visitors Bureau will contribute \$1,000 to the costs of the Rainbow Key event.

The Advisory Board approved the Rainbow Key Task Force discussing how much should be charged for admission to the Rainbow Key event, and what groups should be exempt from the charge, and communicating their recommendation to the City.

B. PRIDE MONTH EVENTS

Andrew Campbell, Arts & Cultural Affairs Administrator, presented a list of events and a budget for Pride Month events other than Rainbow Key, which had been developed by a joint task force including members of both ACAC and LGAB. An item requesting Council's approval will go forward jointly from ACAC and LGAB.

Approval for the tentative list of programs, and for requesting Council to approve \$10,000 from the Lesbian & Gay programs line item in the city budget, was moved by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Bill Gordon, and approved.

C. BUTCH VOICES

The Advisory Board previously requested city co-sponsorship of the Butch Voices event planned for October, with \$4,000 from undesignated funds. Staff advised that no expenditures from undesignated funds are currently being approved, and that further information on the agenda for the event was needed.

City management will meet with the event organizers to discuss this further. Dan Berkowitz said it would be good to line up as many private sponsors as possible.

D. SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAMS

Bryeon Earle spoke in favor of the City sponsoring smoking cessation programs for residents and community members, in light of increasing restrictions on where people may smoke. He moved to recommend to Council that it sponsor a series of educational programs in this regard. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

E. REVIEW/EVALUATION OF FEB. 13 EVENT

Dan Berkowitz said he had a positive meeting with Nakhone Keodara and Joel Hecht, city mediator, to discuss views and comments publicized about the Feb. 13 LGAB event.

The Advisory Board discussed the process and outcome of the Feb. 13 event, including the composition of the panel, the tone of the discussion, and reaction from the community.

Following an idea raised by Bill Gordon, the possibility of forming a diversity task force was placed on an upcoming agenda.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Bryeon Earle said he is preparing for the Kids Fair on April 17.

Nadia Sutton said the YMCA Kids Fair is being held the same day.

Dan Berkowitz will be in New York for his current show, and had another work selected for Queer Shorts.

Due to the large number of community events being held in June for Pride Month, the Advisory Board decided to move its meeting from Tuesday, June 10, to Wednesday, June 23, at Plummer Park. This was moved by Elisabeth Sandberg, seconded by Bill Gordon, and approved.

Ivy Bottini asked for staff to distribute the Frontiers article on drug-resistant strains of HIV to the Council and Social Services staff.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. in memory of Wilma Mankiller, David Steinberg, and Chris Kanyon.