

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2013
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. **ROLL CALL**

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order by Sue Sexton at 7:04 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Shawn Mimbs, Andrew Oldershaw, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Elisabeth Sandberg, Sue Sexton, Ruth Tittle.

Not Present: Robert Gamboa, Amy Ruskin.

A quorum was present at all times. Andrew Campbell, Mike Che, and Jeff Book, staff liaison, were also present.

B. **REPORT ON 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 on a motion by Ivy Bottini, seconded by Enrique Reveles, with the provision that Item III was moved after Item V.A.

D. **MINUTES**

1. **REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2013**

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2013, were corrected to reflect more about Elisabeth Sandberg's remarks on misogyny. The minutes were approved on a motion by Shawn Mimbs, seconded by Andrew Oldershaw.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

There were no adjournment requests.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLAYREADING FESTIVAL

Dan Berkowitz spoke to the Advisory Board about the Association of Los Angeles Playwrights' gay and lesbian play-reading festival, which the City has co-sponsored, based on the Advisory Board's recommendation, or the last four years. He renewed a request for a recommendation to City Council that the City allocate \$1,000 from the Lesbian & Gay Programs line item.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ONE CITY/ONE PRIDE UPDATE

Mike Che reviewed elements of this year's One City/One Pride event, for which a recommendation to allocate funding from the Lesbian & Gay Programs line item is sought, including The Lavender Effect, Living Out Loud, and Install: WeHo.

Laura Watts spoke about the Install: WeHo exhibition. They are hoping to extend from 4 to 8 hours this time, with 15 trucks, each with a separate artist and installation, plus a flatbed with a stage. The event is planned for June 2 in the parking lot adjacent to the five-story parking structure.

Ivy Bottini said she hopes the City will stop importing creativity and use West Hollywood-based artists for programs like this. She said the City could provide for artists to display their works along Santa Monica Boulevard on a weekly basis. Andrew Campbell, Mike Che, and Laura Watts spoke about the open call that was issued for artists to participate.

Andy Sacher, executive director of The Lavender Effect, also addressed the Advisory Board on behalf of the proposed recommendation, and the potential for collaboration on the Rainbow Key presentation.

Sue Sexton moved to recommend to City Council that \$2,500 each be allocated to the three One City/One Pride events, with \$1,000 allocated to the gay and lesbian play-reading festival, and an additional \$1,500 to The Lavender Effect, on behalf of the Rainbow Key presentation, for a total of \$10,000. This was seconded by Ruth Tittle.

Matt Palazzolo proposed an amendment deleting the \$1,500 regarding Rainbow Key for subsequent consideration, leaving a recommendation totaling \$8,500. After discussion, Andrew Oldershaw proposed an amendment to recommend as follows:

Install: WeHo - \$3,000
The Lavender Effect - \$3,000
Living in Limbo - \$2,500
Association of Los Angeles Playwrights - \$1,000
Total - \$9,500

This amendment was accepted and incorporated by the maker and seconder of the original motion, and then unanimously approved.

B. RAINBOW KEY

Dan Berkowitz reported on behalf of the subcommittee preparing ideas for this year's Rainbow Key awards. Consideration is being given to cooperating with The Lavender Effect during One City / One Pride, which would allow this year's Rainbow Key awards to be different and distinctive. The event would be June 11 at the Council Chambers.

Sue Sexton noted that nominations for the Rainbow Key awards are requested by March 29.

Sue Sexton moved to recommend to Council that this year's Rainbow Keys be held June 11, 2013, in conjunction with The Lavender Effect, and that Council allocate \$2,500 from the Lesbian and Gay Programs line item for costs of the awards program. This was seconded by Andrew Oldershaw, and approved.

Dan Berkowitz said the subcommittee hopes to present its recommendations regarding this year's honorees at the next Advisory Board meeting.

C. LETTER TO PRESIDENT

Moving forward an item requested by Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo moved to have a letter written and sent from the Advisory Board, thanking President Obama on his recent change in position on equal marriage, and for including the Lesbian & Gay Band Association in the 2013 Inaugural Parade. Robert Gamboa played in the parade as part of this cohort. This was seconded by Elisabeth Sandberg and approved.

D. WORKPLAN

Andrew Oldershaw noted the priorities of The Lavender Effect, the play-reading festival, Living in Limbo, and Install: WeHo, for this year's One City/One Pride program.

Andrew Oldershaw moved to include production of a tourism video, aiming for completion by Pride Month 2014, on the list of priorities, along with seeking increased funding for Lesbian & Gay Programs.

Staff read portions of a written report from Robert Gamboa, regarding efforts to improve the Sober Zone for this year's CSW festival. Ivy Bottini said she would like to see the zone given prominent placement.

Staff will work on a draft workplan for consideration at the next meeting.

III. TASK FORCES AND LIAISONS

Elisabeth Sandberg said work is proceeding on the utility box art project.

Andrew Campbell said he met with the person who did the vinyl covering on the utility box in front of the former library area on San Vicente, and that if the Advisory Board moves forward to create a pilot project, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission would be involved in an advisory capacity.

Staff will bring to the next meeting the current list of liaisons, for consideration for updating.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Elisabeth Sandberg spoke about the Friends of the Library event to be held Monday, April 22, with Eloise Klein Healy, Poet Laureate of Los Angeles County, being interviewed by Patt Morrison.

Ivy Bottini noted reports from Argentina about the position on same-sex marriage taken by the recently chosen Pope Francis when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires.

Ruth Tittle spoke about the Women's Leadership Conference and the Chamber of Commerce's Sample Saturday health fair.

Sue Sexton noted that Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, has changed her position on equal marriage, and asked that sending a letter of appreciation be placed on the next agenda.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm, with best wishes for a happy birthday to Elisabeth Sandberg.

Signed,

Sue Sexton, Co-Chair

Andrew Oldershaw, Co-Chair