

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 30, 2013
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

The City of West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB) study session and open forum on Christopher Street West (CSW) and the LA LGBT Pride Parade and Festival was called to order by LGAB Co-Chair Robert Gamboa at 7:05 p.m., Wednesday, October 30, 2013, in the Community Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Paul Chavez, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo,
Amy Ruskin, Elisabeth Sandberg, Jeffrey Waack

Not Present: Enrique Reveles, Ruth Tittle

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were Mayor Abbe Land, Mayor Pro Tempore John D'Amico, Council Deputies Kiran Hashmi, Ian Owens, and Michelle Rex; Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; and Jeff Book, LGAB Liaison.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Karina Samala.

C. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Staff reported that the agenda had been posted at City Hall and other locations as required.

II. PUBLIC FORUM

Robert Gamboa recognized City Council and LGAB members who were present, and introduced the co-moderators for the meeting: Amy Ruskin, LGAB co-chair; Karina Samala, Transgender Advisory Board chair; and himself. He reviewed the purpose of the open forum and guidelines for remarks. He asked speakers to be respectful of others, be constructive, and make positive suggestions if possible. Remarks were limited to three minutes. If time remained after all who wished to speak had the opportunity, those who wished to speak again could do so. The opportunity to submit written remarks was also provided.

Speakers in the public forum were:

1. Ivy Bottini -- expressed concern about the message being sent to younger generations by the amount of alcohol consumed during the Pride event.

2. R. J. DiCamillo – said he has offered to help improve the quality of the event but has been ignored; said people should be aggressive in making changes to it.
3. Sue Sexton – spoke about how meaningful the Pride event was to her as a younger person, and the biggest Dyke March so far, honoring Ivy Bottini in 2013.
4. Anna Melissa – said the transgender community needs more support, and that CSW should make transgender people feel more comfortable at the events.
5. Mark Cramer – spoke about working with CSW on Momentum: An Art and Heritage Pavilion, and about connecting artists with the community.
6. Matthew Goldman – spoke about The Lavender Effect and participating in the Momentum pavilion, and hoped this participation would continue.
7. Jazzmun Nicheala – said it was an honor to participate in the parade this year, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share in that way.
8. Jerome Cleary – said there are not enough activities of general interest in the festival, and urged people to participate and contact the City Council.
9. Brenda Simmons – requested that sponsors include non-alcohol companies; training of those selling alcohol; and that non-profits not pay for the sober space.
10. Jeff Consoletti – spoke about how LA Pride compares to others, its goals in designing the guest experience, and all communities seeing each other there.
11. Maria Roman – expressed appreciation for transgender inclusion so far, and said more should be done in this regard, including continuing in the parade.
12. Shane Ivan Nash – said groups are too separated during the festival, and that consideration should be given to having them on stage together in the future.
13. David McCoy – spoke about financial difficulty of being a documentarian in the LGBT community, and about participating in the Momentum pavilion this year.
14. Rod Sprott – spoke about changing the date to late June; having more prominent grand marshals; and a need for fiscal information and accountability.
15. Don Mike – spoke in support of the party aspect of the Pride festival, and said the energy of interested people could help create a month of activities.
16. Lee Walkup – said loud music dominates too much of the festival, and that he'd like emphasis on why the groups behind parade entries are historically important.
17. Lucas John – spoke about improving grand marshals, using A-list performers, making Pride a more lasting memory, without a hangover as the only takeaway.
18. Maria Carmen Hinayon – thanked CSW for diversity efforts and would like to see more, including access for low-income people to whom the entry fee is a barrier.

19. Hieu-Hoa Nguyen – said Pride should reflect the actual diversity of LGBT people, and present entertainment the entire community is interested in seeing.
20. Larry Block – spoke about improving the entrance to the Pride Festival; access and activity for people of different ages; and the festival's finances.
21. Ivy Bottini (second remarks) – said she was heartened to hear concerns about drinking, and that the community needs to improve this and have real pride.
22. Tom Trafelet – spoke about better trash pickup during the festival; not limiting leather community to Erotic City; and historic corporate support for equality.
23. John Allendorfer – spoke about increasing the national visibility of the event and rallying to block efforts to overturn California law on transgender access.
24. Jaye Johnson – recommended engaging with the full diversity of LA County and incorporating feedback from the entire community.
25. RJ DiCamillo (second remarks) – spoke about adjusting space in the festival to allow more art projects, and about not isolating music types to specific stages.
26. Steven L. Davis – said the event should be named for West Hollywood, not Los Angeles, and expressed concern about the fiscal responsibility of the event.
27. Hieu-Hoa Nguyen (second remarks) – said alcohol sales are major funding for the event, but should focus on local bars, because many people live on tips.
28. Coco Lachine – spoke about making the festival more affordable for younger people, because succeeding generations are needed for continuing success.
29. Maria Carmen Hinayon (second remarks) – invited the audience to Transgender Day of Remembrance reception and program on Nov. 20, in Library Auto-Court.

Written comments were submitted by:

1. Rod Sprott – recommending rebranding; having more events; increasing revenue with 1- and 2-day ticket options; and a meaningful discount on advance sales.
2. Dan Wentzel – recommending adding fireworks over West Hollywood on Sunday night, to highlight Pride events to many people, not just inside the city.
3. Robert Gamboa – recommending City being more involved in producing a free event, like Halloween, with improved access and support for non-profits.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Signed,

Robert Gamboa, Co-Chair

Amy Ruskin, Co-Chair