

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LESBIAN AND GAY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – JULY 9, 2015
LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

B. **ROLL CALL**

The West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board was called to order at 7:03 pm on Thursday, July 9, 2015, in the Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Present: Ivy Bottini, Kate Eggert, Robert Gamboa, Matt Palazzolo, Enrique Reveles, Laura J. Wise.

Not Present: Beth Bishop, Lucas John Junkin, Ruth Tittle.

A quorum was present. Also present were David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Derek Murray, Social Services Program Administrator; and staff liaisons John Erickson and Jeff Book.

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Robert Gamboa, seconded by Matt Palazzolo, the agenda was approved without objection.

D. **MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2015**

The minutes of the June 11, 2015, meeting were approved on a motion by Matt Palazzolo, seconded by Enrique Reveles, and no objection.

E. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Robert Gamboa requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Nick Fowler, a community member with family here and in San Diego; and in awareness of three men – Jose Segovia, Benjamin Castro, and Kirk Doffing – who have been victims of attacks in the city recently.

Laura Wise asked that the meeting be adjourned in celebration of the Supreme Court's ruling in the Obergefell marriage case.

Ivy Bottini asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Sidney Abbott, a feminist and lesbian author who wrote "Sappho Was a Right-On Woman: A Liberated View of Lesbianism" (1977).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nir Zilberman spoke about Love No Hate, the LGBT center on Santa Monica Boulevard; the crime rate; and transgender representation.

Lee Walkup, liaison from Senior Advisory Board, spoke about lowering the Confederate flag in South Carolina; a late-night assault in the city; the upcoming coffee with the Sheriff's Captain and Mayor; closing of the French Market Place; a ticker-tape parade for the Women's Soccer team; and upcoming concerts by the Gay Men's Chorus with a group from Havana, Cuba.

Dan Warren spoke about Brendan Rome and Mikel Gerle deserving the Rainbow Key award they received this year; the historical significance of The Factory; and about being Ellised out of his apartment after 37 years.

Larry Block spoke about the decline of Boys Town, homogenization of the community, lack of safety, and the historical significance of Great Hall/Long Hall.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON RAPE

Ivy Bottini spoke about a need to eliminate the statute of limitations on rape and sexual assault. There will be a community meeting at 7 pm, July 29, 2015, in the Library Community Meeting Room, and she invited all to attend.

B. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

Advisory Board members reviewed the Rainbow Key event held in June. While the event was very inspiring, members wished there had been more attendance, including a larger number of previous recipients. The Board discussed ways to improve attendance. Ivy Bottini spoke about the loss of the luncheon that used to be connected with the event. She recommended reinstating the luncheon, with printed invitations, and said that if additional funds are needed, the Board should approach the City Council.

Members said it was important to have the entire event recorded on video. There was discussion of having a dedicated Facebook page year-round, which would draw attention to the event.

C. PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PrEP)

David Giugni introduced Jeffrey Rodriguez of the LA LGBT Center and City staff member Derek Murray, who co-chairs the HIV prevention providers consortium. A panel discussion with representatives from the LA LGBT Center, Saban Community Clinic, and AIDS Healthcare Foundation, will be held at the Human Services Commission meeting next Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

Jeffrey Rodriguez oversees all HIV and STD testing for the Center, at both their Hollywood location and the West Hollywood location. They do risk assessment for each client, based on a questionnaire and discussion. These are being updated to include questions about awareness and use of PrEP.

David Giugni and Jeffrey Rodriguez responded to questions raised at the last meeting regarding PrEP, including whether clinics and HIV services providers within the City of West Hollywood, especially those that receive funding from the City, approve and support the City's efforts to end HIV, including education about PrEP.

Jeffrey Rodriguez said in his experience, providers in West Hollywood aware of PrEP and comfortable with prescribing it, but they find a lack of awareness among doctors outside the city. They work with clients on how to raise the topic with these doctors.

With regard to the possibility of assisting people with the cost of PrEP and PEP, David Giugni said an initial step has been taken in this direction, when City Council approved an additional \$60,000 for build-out for the LA LGBT Center in West Hollywood, which is scheduled to open in August. That funding has been designated for providing PEP. The Center will also have a navigator to guide clients with regard to PEP and PrEP.

With regard to the possibility of the City partnering with Cedars-Sinai and 24-hour pharmacies to make PEP available, Jeffrey Rodriguez said these places are very well-versed on these medicines, and they see many referrals for people who began a starter pack through these facilities.

With regard to collaborating with other governmental agencies to request the State Office of AIDS to endorse PrEP and educate medical providers, David Giugni said that at today's meeting of the County Commission on HIV, the State Office of AIDS said they have drafted a formal policy on PrEP and are in support of these steps, and the Governor's proposed budget has a line item with regard to PrEP.

D. LGBT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FACTORY

Citing a personal conflict of interest, Kate Eggert recused herself from this item and stepped out of the meeting. During her temporary absence, there was a loss of quorum, with only 5 members present, so the meeting could not continue. Kate Eggert returned, and the item was continued to the next meeting, on August 13.

E. LGBT HISTORY KIOSKS

Kate Eggert provided a handout on kiosks in Los Angeles, and said something similar would work well on Santa Monica Boulevard, at the intersection with San Vicente, and at any other locations of significance. Members agreed that this would be an enhancement for the city. Ivy Bottini said each kiosk could be under the direction of a different organization. Robert Gamboa spoke about having kiosks at all four corners of Santa Monica and San Vicente.

Public Comment was received from Cathy Blaivas, Historical Preservation Commission member, speaking as an individual, in support of historical kiosks. She thanked the Advisory Board for starting this idea.

Ivy Bottini said she believes it is important for the Board to retain control of this item, and be in charge of what messages are given by the kiosks.

Robert Gamboa moved to merge the Kiosks item with honoring the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente, but there was no second.

F. LESBIAN SPACE

Kate Eggert distributed a handout about the Lexington Club, the last lesbian bar in San Francisco.

Ivy Bottini requested that Helen Collins of the City's facilities staff be invited to speak to the next meeting. Laura Wise said the Board needs an update on the status of the Werle Building improvement project.

Kate Eggert said there are empty storefronts in the city, and asked whether these could be rented to provide lesbian gathering spaces, either by the City or by private funding.

Matt Palazzolo suggested going to the lesbian community of all ages and asking why they do not congregate at local spots as much as before, and what they are doing instead. This would provide background for what may be needed now.

Ivy Bottini spoke about Little Frida's Coffee House, the former establishment on Santa Monica Boulevard.

Ivy Bottini asked about a \$20,000 grant that was received by the City for special library equipment for people with disabilities.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTERSECTION OF SANTA MONICA AND SAN VICENTE BOULEVARDS

Robert Gamboa spoke about the importance of honoring this intersection.

Public Comment: (1) Cathy Blaivas spoke about marking the intersection in a way that could be seen from far away, perhaps by lasers or an installation. She also spoke about the possibility of lighting the trees with rainbow lights. (2) Larry Block spoke about the importance of the rainbow flag in marking the City on TV and elsewhere.

V. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

There were no reports from liaisons and committees. Currently the designees are Kate Eggert for Historical Preservation Commission, and Lucas John for Transgender Advisory Board.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Robert Gamboa moved to postpone this election to the next meeting, when new members may be seated. This was seconded by Matt Palazzolo and approved.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Robert Gamboa recommended attendance at the coffee with the Sheriff's Captain on Saturday.

Laura Wise thanked Board members for their service, since new appointments may be made before the next meeting.

Ivy Bottini said the Board was a tough and activist group when she first joined, but later softened, and now seems to be on a trend toward activism again, because people are afraid their history will be lost.

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Advisory Board agreed by consensus to place Aging in Place Strategic Planning, the 2015-2016 Workplan, and a Legislative Training on upcoming agendas.

Robert Gamboa moved to place the topic of what we can do to make the LGBT community safer on the September agenda. This was seconded by Enrique Reveles and approved.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

John Erickson spoke about Women's Equality Day on August 26, when there will be a reception at 7 pm in the Council Chambers and Auto Court.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nir Zilberman spoke about the Love No Hate LGBT center and museum.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 pm.

Signed,

Robert Gamboa

Attest:

Jeff Book
Jeff Book, Staff Liaison