

City and County of San Francisco



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Human Rights Commission

Contract Compliance
Dispute Resolution/Fair Housing
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Discrimination

Theresa Sparks
Executive Director

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee Minutes of the May 17, 2011 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Commissioner Todd Mavis, Diane Alcala, Bill Ambrunn, Alex Baty, Corrin Buchanan, Amos Lim, Fayaz Rajani, Cat Stevans, Lindasusan Ulrich, Vaughn Villaverde, , Allison Laureano, Erik Martinez, Bonnie Miluso, Angie Perone, Joseph Peralta, Ray Rudolph, Amy Whelan, and Cynthia Yeung

Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Julius Turman, Bart Broome, Mark Dunlop, Paul Klees Bianca Polovina, Mark Synder, Jose Romero

Staff Present: David Miree and Zoe Polk.

Guests Present: Volunteer Rachel Zarrow

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Commissioner Chung called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Miree called the roll; there was quorum.

2. **Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:**

No Public Comment.

3. **Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2011 Meeting:**

The term "work committee" should read "outreach work group" in item # 4 - **Annual Retreat Follow-Up: Adoption of Annual Work Plan** where it is noted "Commissioner Chung expressed that the LGBT AC no longer has a work committee but looking to do more meetings outside 25 Van Ness" (After correction of minor clerical item) a motion was made and second. The motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2011 LGBT-AC meeting passed unanimously.

4. **LGBT-AC Work Groups Update:**

There are three (3) LGBT-AC work groups:

LGBT Asylum- Met to discuss curriculum which is the main project of the year. The curriculum will be designed to be LGBT Culturally Competent. Group members have put out "feelers" to their contacts and the facilitation process is in full swing. The LGBT Asylum Group plans to report on curriculum development



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by the next LGBT-AC meeting. New AC members were asked to submit any contacts they have (i.e. any individuals or groups that do asylum work or immigration work) to the Asylum Group in an effort to compile a more comprehensive contact list to help get the word out about the group's project and aid in the development of the curriculum.

Senior Work Group- the group has established four (4) items they are presently pursuing at the moment; (1) sponsoring a LGBT Senior event in partnership with a number of other Senior organizations or one of the four Senior Centers to take place during the Fall, (2) Sponsoring a panel similar to one done last year on ageism and adult intergenerational activities. The group has sent an e-mail to () to get the project on the radio and if it works out the group would like to have the panel discussion up and ready by Pride Month; (3) The group is looking to develop a partnership with the Department of Aging and Adult Services and are in the process of tracking down Larry Brikin; (4) Mark Synder is going to write an Op-Ed piece tying it in with a movie called "Beginners" (June 8th) about a senior who "comes out" later in life.

Beyond Castro (BCG)- Moving quickly and group members have been talking to various people in Hunter's Bayview [sic] and members have found a potential host/site (YMCA) for the July 19 LGBT AC meeting. Members have been speaking with organizations that have contacts with people in the community and they are excited about this meeting taking place in the community.

Commissioner Chung gave some background on how this plan came about when looking at the POP, which called for more AC activities to be out in the community and get community input and hear what the community needs are.... like a mini needs assessment from community to community which will also provide "visibility" for the Committee. Since District 10 was the community identified in the original POP, the Beyond Castro Group jumped right into it by reaching out to, and having the first meeting in D10 where the Beyond Castro Group is proposing that the next LGBT AC meeting be held in July....if it is determined there is no meeting in June. The proposed location for the July meeting is the YMCA off Third Street.

The BCG has structured the rest of the year in three different sections to coincide with the three (3) districts they will be focusing on. The first is D10 with the purpose of getting information on services that are lacking and start a dialogue on some of these issues-including video recording, taking notes, getting the visibility that we need and how we can improve upon these services that are lacking in the community related to the LGBT community. D10, D11, D9 and D5 are the target communities for year one.

Commissioner Chung noted that the BCG presented their plan to the AC because they need the full AC to "buy in" to having the July meeting off site and hopefully it would give AC members a chance to engage with other communities outside of the Castro and get their member's input as to what the LGBT experience is like in these other communities- i.e. what is lacking and what other resources are out there to support LGBT members and what services are out there to help LGBT members to thrive. In doing so the AC will be able to identify what projects the AC may want to work on in the upcoming year. A part of this plan will involve getting key stakeholders to present and/or recommend other key persons or community leaders to present to the AC. The AC will also use these meeting to do outreach and to educate people about what the LGBT AC does and the issues they advocate for.

A question was put forth as to whether the LGBT-AC will from this point on have off-site meetings and the response was that this initial meeting in the Bayview was sort of a test run for this effort. Commissioner Chung explained that it will all depend on how the LGBT-AC is received in the communities and the level of "turn out". Commissioner Chung also noted that off-site meetings will heavily depend on funding-she noted that the LGBT-AC has NO MONEY!—and the level of HRC staffing available and effort it takes to coordinate. Commissioner Chung suggested that the group revisit the issue of LGBT meetings in the community after this first go and that the outcome of this "debriefing" will result in whether or not the group

feels that it is beneficial to do more similar type meetings. Commissioner Chung noted that the full body needed to “approve” that July meeting be held off-site and as well as allocating staff time that is needed toward coordinating this effort.

A motion was made accordingly and second. Motion carried that the July meeting of the LGBT-AC be held off-site in D10 at a venue to be determined.

Commissioner Mavis put forth that he is willing to assist in identifying and locating a “cost-free” or low cost” venue in D10 if so needed.

Commissioner Chung noted that the work group will be reaching out to the D10 Supervisor as well as community stakeholders to do a community assessment.

5. Proposal to add an AC meeting in the Month of June

Following the discussion regarding the July meeting in the community, Commissioner Chung brought before the group the suggestion that a meeting in the month of June be added to the LGBT-AC meeting schedule. This suggestion was put forth by Mark Dunlop who expressed that although he realizes that people are busy and there are the demands of Pride Month that with there being no June LGBT-AC meeting that the momentum of the Committee slows down if not lost.

It was noted that where Mark’s suggestion is well received but adding a June meeting would result in a “forced absence” mark that would penalize some people who have other obligations in the month of June (i.e. that may be work related.) Mark put forth maybe a June meeting could happen without there being a penalty for any absence. Allison L contributed that a June meeting which would convene a couple weeks before the Pride parade might be beneficial as it would make more members aware of the various Pride projects and task to be done as well as provide a captive audience in which to identify and ask more members to contribute to Pride tasks.

Commissioner Chung noted that with a June meeting coupled with a potential “holiday” meeting in December, it does not allow for needed breaks [sic] and to add meetings might result in false advertising that LGBT-AC to new members that were initially advised that they would have up to three (3) excused absences. But Commissioner Chung suggested that this is a bigger discussion for next year that should include the consideration for “restructuring” the whole LGBT-AC calendar. Allison echoed Cynthia’s sentiment that one way to counter this “slow down” is to make sure that the “sub-committees” are still meeting and active.

With the addition of a June meeting, Commissioner Chung expressed the possibility with so much going on (with Pride) that members might get burnt out (exhausted) and overworked and that would be the last thing we want... We want to support “self-health”.

Commissioner Mavis suggested that this item be agendized for a later time and discussion regarding restructuring the meeting calendar. Commissioner Chung suggested that an alternative might be to review the timeline when the LGBT-AC recruits new members which may also have an affect on restructuring the meeting calendar. Commissioner Chung suggested that this matter be taken up again perhaps at the August meeting.

6. HRC participation in Pride Parade and Celebration Update

Allison Laureano updated the committee on upcoming Pride tasks and activities. She has secured a sound system. HRC Staff David Miree noted that Bonnie Miluso had confirmed with him that Bonnie's Father had agreed to make his convertible available to use in the Pride Parade and that he (Bonnie's Dad) would also be the driver. Allison expressed concern whether or not the Pride Committee had officially registered the HRC/ACs as a parade contingent. Alison was not quite able to get a status or confirmation regarding the HRC/AC's actually having been registered on her initial call to the Pride Organization. But she said she would follow-up accordingly. Allison believed "that we are ok" but wanted to be "doublely" sure. Allison put forth the date of May 28th for the Pride sign making party which would be held at the HRC office if possible or at the LGBT Center. Cynthia noted that was the Memorial Day weekend and a number of people would most likely be unavailable.

HRC Staff David Miree noted that other HRC Staff members had come to him on several occasions expressing their desire to be included in Pride tasks and activities (Parade Celebration). Diane, Mark, Vaughn, Amos, Angela, Amy, (Rachel-volunteer) were amongst the people who volunteered to help with sign making. Allison noted that the HRC/AC needed 8 (4-car/4 for crowd) safety monitors to received "safety training" before the parade. Commissioner Chung suggested that people recruit other friends and associates.

There were no other comments on this item.

7. Member Reports on Activities in the Community

Allison gave an update on the 2nd Annual Transgender Advocacy Day on May 1st and May 2nd. AB XX Gender Non-Discrimination Act was passed in the State Assembly and will be going to the Senate. Allison believes that it was the hard work of the transgender community who contacted their representatives and advocated for this effort are the individuals who made this success happen. The Transgender community is also looking at the Vital Statistic Modernization Act to allow for getting birth certificates easier and changing the vital information. Survey Data Inclusion Act that Allison believes has passed Senate Appropriations. About 70 transgender folks [sic] came out and did some good policy advocacy work.

Commissioner Chung reported out about the City of Berkeley having adopted a policy similar to San Francisco that would extend healthcare benefits to its transgender employees. The City of Seattle had also enacted a similar healthcare policy. Commission Chung is hopeful that with these cites (west coast) cities leading the way that more cities and counties around the country will follow suit.

A comment (inaudible in part) was also mentioned about??adopting a new Same-Sex Tax Benefits for employees

The San Francisco Giants is going to record an "It Gets Better Video" and they are the first major sports team to do so.

According to Commission Chung it looks like Nebraska is moving forward in its effort to criminalize people living with HIV. This is a law enforced by law enforcement officers where if someone with HIV spits at an officer the offending part can get jail time. Commissioner Chung noted that this is an important issue that either the LGBT-AC will take on as a project or HRC Staff will do so. She believes that this is a critical time

for the HRC to take a leadership role in addressing this issue. HIV is the only disease listed on the penal code as a deadly weapon.

Joseph reported that the SFPD just formed an LGBT Community Advocacy Group (Information Sharing). They are looking for more folks [sic] so if anyone is interested in getting an application or know someone who might be interest to see Joseph.

Amos reported that Gutierrez came into town for a press conference at City Hall. Gutierrez finally made a commitment that the next time the Immigration Reform Bill is introduced it will include LGBT families. DOMA is still in the news with Holder putting a stay on the deportation of a same-sex spouse until the status of DOMA is definitive.

8. Commissioner Report

Commissioner Mavis announced that the HRC will be hosting a joint hearing with the Police Commission regarding the JTTF and issues related to surveillance of the Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and Southeast Asian (AMEMSA) community.

Commissioner Mavis also noted that he enjoyed the LGBT Retreat and thought it was a great success. Mavis cited Fayaz Rajani on his graduation from law school.

Commissioner Mavis informed the group that the full HRC is looking to have its September meeting in District 8 as a part of a community outreach effort. The proposed dates would be September 8th or 22nd. Mavis is asking for member's input on potential topics for the D8 meeting that can be further discussed at the July 19th LGBT-AC meeting.

Commissioner Chung informed the LGBT-AC that due to budget and staffing limitations the AC's would not longer have up to three HRC policy staff members as believed originally. HRC Policy staff will now staff only one Advisory Committee. This will be David Miree's last meeting with the LGBT as a staff member and Nadia Babella will assume her role as the staff person for this committee. David Miree will be staffing the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) and Zoe Polk will be the policy staff person for the LBE.

As for as media outreach and communications, David Miree will remain the "go to person." Zoe will continued to be the champion of the "Beyond Marriage" Report and David will continue to be the champion of the Bi-Sexual" Report.

Commissioner Chung also gave a report on her experience participating in a roundtable on HIV hosted by the German Consulate.

9. Staff Report

David Miree reported that the City of Chicago has endorsed the Bisexual Invisibility Report and plans to use it as a public educational and awareness tool about the presence of bisexuality. Additionally, the report will be used as a resource and reference toward including the bisexual community in public forums, government programs and toward greater inclusiveness in health and welfare materials and information. Lindasusan Ulrich gave a brief overview and update on this issue as well.

10. Old/New Business

There was a question surrounding updating the HRC policy cards to hand out at Pride. David Miree reported that Bart Broome was the person that “facilitated the card’s publication last year and that Bart would be the person to speak with in terms of getting new cards if that was the plan.

Also a suggestion was made to invite some of the mayoral candidates to one of the LGBT-AC meetings. It was noted that this might be somewhat an issue because if we invited one to speak then the AC would have to invite all the candidates to allow for political/ campaign fairness rules. It was determined that the AC would not act or proceed on this issue but would be receptive to inviting the “mayoral –elect” which would not require campaign fairness rules.

The Mercury News did an article on the Bisexual Invisibility Report.

11. **Announcements**

Mark Dunlop will be riding in the AIDS LifeCycle ride and is asking for support. Commissioner Chung asked that Mark send the link to David Miree, who would send out to all the LGBT-ACs

Lindasusan informed and invited people to review the Bisexual Invisibility Report Face book page. Please feel free to “like us”

Horizons is having a golf tourney

The Trevor Project is opening up it call center in the Castro in the Harvey Milk old camera store.

The LGBT Center will be hosting the LGBT Youth Prom and is looking for volunteers

It was suggested that the LGBT-AC create a calendar of the AC’s events. It was countered that the calendar ideal has been brought up before but did not prove to be a successful effort.

Allison is looking for entertainers and volunteers for the Transgender Law Center (TLC) annual event in September/October

The San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus is commissioning some new work and it will be tied in with Harvey Milk’s legacy. The Chorus is looking for submissions from people under 35 as to what they believe was Hervey Milk legacy. Volunteers are needed to get the word out about this event.

David Miree informed the LGBT-AC that the full HRC wanted to have a “meet and greet” event for all the AC members. The time and event is to be announced but a poll was taken as to which time worked best for people 9:00am. Noon or after work. After work was the popular time for the LGBT-AC members.

API is hosting a forum on women and HIV.

12. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.