Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee
Minutes of the January 17, 2012 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Diane Alcala, Bill Ambrunn, Alex Baty, Bart Broome, Corrin Buchanan, Tracy Garza, Sterling Johnson, Paul Klees, Amos Lim, Marcelle Million, Bonnie Miluso, Mark Muphy, Mike Van Nguyen, Patrick Pablo, Bianca Polovina, Fayaz Rajani, Ray Rudolph, Mark Snyder, Tom Temperano, Neo Veavea, Vaughn Villaverde, and Amy Whelan.

Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Todd Mavis, Mark Dunlop, Erik Martinez, Angela Perone, Cat Stevans, Cynthia Yeung, and Matthew Valdez.

Staff Present: Nadia Babella, and Darrick Ing (intern).

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:
Commissioner Chung called the meeting to order at 5:41pm. Nadia Babella called the roll.

2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:
No public comments were made.

3. Approval of November 15, 2011 and December 13, 2011 Minutes (action item)
Committee member moved to approve the November 15, 2011 and December 13, 2011 draft minutes as written. Committee member seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Annette Wong – San Francisco Immigrant Legal Education Network Presentation
Annette Wong will be presenting next month because of our full agenda.
5. **Introduction and Welcome of New Members**

All of the committee members introduced themselves around the room.

6. **Review of 2011**

Commissioner Chung asked the committee members for comments about what worked last year and any suggestions for the following year. Based on past suggestions San Francisco Human Rights Commission has amended bylaws so that recruitment times for all Advisory Committees been synced together to start in January instead of March. The comments regarding 2011 are as follows:

- Based on the success of the meetings at Bay View and the LGBT center, committee members want to keep the momentum of the HIV Discrimination Panel going to outreach and inform people about issues
- Many committee members highlighted the need for more meetings and outreach to communities in other areas of San Francisco, like the Tenderloin, District 11, and the sunset.
- Committee members were in support of more education and awareness of social issues through presentations at the Advisory Committee meetings and the expertise of committee members
- Committee members suggested the Advisory Committee start preparing for San Francisco pride earlier because the calendar year has been extended to twelve months instead of nine.
- Committee member suggested that the dates and times of all workgroup meetings should be made clear such that other committee members may join different groups throughout the year.
- Committee member suggested that the voting procedure for deciding on the work groups for the year needs to be clear and/or conducted more efficiently.
- Commissioner Chung commented on the substantial amount of work that was done in 2011 by committee members. Committee members will need to step up because resources of HRC staff hours may be cut. Aside from the need for clarity and efficiency regarding voting on work group topics, there is continued need for development of leadership skills.
- A possible work group topic for 2012 can be on the criminalization laws on HIV. In Maryland, there is legislation making HIV transmission a felony. In Nebraska, there is legislation that punishes spitting by an HIV positive person at a police officer to imprisonment for up to 6 years. Even California has strong sex offender registry that includes transmission of HIV.
- Because of the great accomplishments of the senior work group and the collaboration with the commission on aging and adult services, there is a meeting on January 26 to establish the first LGBT advisory committee specifically for seniors in the country.

7. **2012 Annual Retreat**

After 7 years Commissioner Chung has fine tuned the voting process to be as democratic as possible. Although project topic ideas will be voted on for 2012, some projects last for two years and will need to be continued. Each committee member is to come up with project topics before the annual retreat. During the retreat the Advisory Committee will have a chance to break up into small groups and decide which topic to support then vote on. Due to resource cuts last year, the second round of voting was unnecessary and the voting process for this year will be more efficient.

The purpose of the LGBT Advisory Committee is also to foster leadership skills though which committee members can learn to advocate for their project topics and convince others to support them. While project topics may be lost in the small group discussions, there is flexibility to present the idea to other groups or creating a new small group. Project topics will need to be submitted in advance and maybe distributed ahead of time for full consideration prior to the annual retreat.
The annual retreat will be on Feb 5th at API Wellness Center. The food provided at the annual retreat will be catered by Lees Sandwiches with the same menu as last year. There will also be Ice Breakers by volunteer committee members: Mike Nguyen, Patrick Pablo, and Tracy Garza.

8. January 26 LGBT Senior Events: Board of Supervisors Hearing on LGBT Seniors
   Commonwealth Club Panel: “Can You Hear Me? Giving Voice to LGBT Elders”

The panel idea was conceived by the LGBT Advisory Committee. The LGBT Senior Panel will work with organizations to inspire people in communities to attend and take advantage of public comment about their life and what the city and community could be doing to improve.

After outreaching to other organizations and approaching Supervisors Weiner and Campos, they embraced the idea of a new advisory committee focused on LGBT seniors. The LGBT Senior Advisory Committee will provide government audit and oversight of issues affecting LGBT Seniors. Committee Supervisor Olague joined sponsorship of the hearing and creating legislation to support new committee. The Board of Supervisors Hearing on Needs of LGBT Seniors is on January 26 at 1 pm at the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee at San Francisco City Hall, Room 263, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102. The Commonwealth Panel on LGBT Elder Voices is on January 26 at 5:30 pm and the reception will start at 6:00.

Both the advisory committee and commonwealth club reception are aimed at maximizing the voices of LGBT elders in the political arena. There will be four panelists including: Brian de Vries, Professor of Gerontology; Moli Steinert, Executive Director of SteppingStone; Gustavo Serina, Commission on Aging and Adult Services; and Marvin Burrows, founder, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, and LGBT Lighthouse Community Center.

The panel will be recorded and be viewable on the commonwealth club and possibly KQED. The cost of admission is $20 for non-members, $8 for a commonwealth club member, $7 for student. An invitation will be extended to Supervisors Campos and Weiner. Committee member Mark Snyder has created Facebook page that will be passed on to committee for approval to be distributed.

9. Workgroup Report Back

Workgroups are created after the annual retreat topics. Four years ago the advisory committee has implemented work groups meet outside and report back about work that is being done because it is just not possible to do all the work in two and a half hour monthly meetings.

One project focused on increasing LGBT access to services outside of the Castro. Not all LGBT people live in San Francisco and transportation is difficult, especially for youth. The first meeting at the Bayview YMCA was addressed to the public. The second meeting was focused on service providers in Bayview. Community based service providers like Utopia, BMagic and Third Street Services, were present and discussed how to increase access to services that already exist in the community.

10. Member Reports on Activities in the Community (Discussion Item):

Member reported about activities in the community that have just happened. The Senate in Maryland introduced bill to make HIV transmission a felony. Senator Barbara Boxer just introduced a bill in the
senate to decriminalize HIV. There is a trend of criminalization of condoms, using of condoms as evidence of sex work, which deters safe sex practices.

Since the end of November, Department of Homeland Security released the criteria for lower priority deportations. Only people without papers who have criminal histories or people who don’t have strong ties, like family, will be deported. After further clarification, the definition of family did not include LGBT families.

The FBI recently revised the definition of rape to include sexual assault victims of LGBT and men, such that rape can consist of penetration by oral or object. President Obama recently presented a federal regulation to hire people with disabilities specifying for federal contractors to hire 7% of employees to be HIV-positive.

11. Commissioner Report (Discussion Item):

There are two new commissioners: Susan Christian and Richard Pio Roda. Commissioner Michael Sweet was re-elected as Chair for another year and is in the process of reappointing commissioners to different committees. New bylaws have been adopted by the Human Rights Commission and the committee terms have changed. Prior to adopting bylaws the maximum terms was 5 years. The bylaws changed and committee members can now serve a maximum of 3 two-year terms. The term limits were adopted to prevent burn out and because not all committee members are not as dedicated or produce as much work.

12. Staff Report (Discussion Item):

Two annual reports were published on the Human Rights Commission website. One report was published, “Beyond Marriage: Unrecognized Family Relationships” and “Bisexual Invisibility: Impacts and Recommendations.”

Two students from the Civil Justice Clinic at UC Hastings will be collaborating with the Human Rights Commission to report on the impact of the war on drugs on human rights; especially on racial minorities, LGBT, and youth communities. The report will also look at post convictions, inability to access social services and incarceration. The report is expected to be completed in late March or early April.

There will be a panel on hate crimes, focusing on the rise of skin heads in the Tenderloin, on Thursday, February 2, 2012.

January is trafficking awareness month with panels and brown bag lunch presentations by APILO. It will be possible for attorneys to receive CLE credits. More information can be found at http://www.sf-hrc.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=1348

13. Announcements:

Starting in March, “Eat Our Shorts 4,” a series of comedic short plays, one of which is written by committee member Paul Klees, will be showing at the Stage Werx Theater.

A bi-national LGBT couple with four daughters in Pennsylvania faces deportation. One partner is a French national and they have been together for 22 years. They have since applied for a green card based on marriage to stop the deportation. There is a petition circulating on their behalf.
Marriage Equality is hosting a rally in front of the court house on the date the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals releases a decision on Proposition 8.

14. **Old/New Business:**

None.

15. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.