Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee
Minutes of the April 19, 2011 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Diane Alcala, Alex Baty, Paul Klees, Allison Laureano, Erik Martinez, Bonnie Miluso, Angie Perone, Joseph Peralta, Bianca Polovina, Ray Rudolph, Amy Whelan, Jose Romero and Cynthia Yeung

Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Todd Mavis, Commissioner Julius Turman, Bill Ambrunn, Bart Broome, Mark Dunlop, Fayaz Rajani, Mark Synder, Cat Stevans, Lindasusan Ulrich, and Vaughn Villaverde.

Staff Present: Nadia Babella, David Miree, and Zoe Polk.

Guests Present: Volunteer Rachel Zarrow? (name inaudible)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:
Commissioner Chung called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Mr. Miree called the roll; there was quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2011:
(After discussion and correction of minor clerical items) Allison Laureano moved to approve the amended minutes; motion seconded by Cynthia Yeung. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:
None.

4. Annual Retreat Follow-Up: Adoption of Annual Work Plan:
Commissioner Chung thanked everybody for attending the annual retreat and felt that it was the best attended retreat in her seven years on the Committee/Commission. Commissioner Chung also acknowledged and thanked the members for their full participation at the retreat. Commission Chung
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believes that we have a great work plan and opened up the floor to talk about what attendees thought about the retreat and to review and discuss the work plan before it is formally adopted it. Upon reviewing the work plan, there was some discussion regarding the committee’s ability to “fine tune” some of the items which Commissioner Chung noted that there is always room for change and adopting the work plan was more for the benefit for the Commission with the goal of fostering more information exchange and cohesiveness between the Committee and the Commission as to what the Committee is planning to do in the coming year. Furthermore, presenting the annual work plan to the Commission allows Commissioners a better ideal as to what the [Committee] does and allows the Commissioners the opportunity to acknowledge what the Committee is doing and to garner support for these projects when the Commissioners go out and talk to their constituents, friends, colleagues and other elected officials. Ray inquired about the Senior Work Group Plan and noted that the item needed to be fine tuned to include senior housing.

Nadia Babella noted the “Beyond Castro Plan” needed a lot of fine tuning and HRC staff changed some wording for the sake of clarity. Discussion also included editing the Asylum Plan to note “4 part session training” LGBTTH is meant to include HIV treatment in the Asylum portion.

In “Beyond Castro” where “LGBT service provision” is noted provision refers to LGBT services. “Multi-year” refers to duration of process may exceed more than one year or may require multiple years. “Such as District 10” denotes looking at LGBT community development beyond Castro (i.e. various neighborhoods).

Commission Chung expressed that the LGBT AC no longer has a work committee but looking to do more meeting outside 25 Van Ness and looking to conduct focus groups. The Committee can bring our on advocacy to look at what the community would like for the committee to do like doing projects with youth…what ever areas we need to work on like shelters and housing and any other gaps of point of interest should be included in the data collection process and methodology. (i.e. examine existing data to make sure the collection tools are LGBT inclusive. Look at community agencies receiving City Funding.)

Bonnie Miluso moved to adopt the work plan(s). Allison Laureano seconds the motion. The 2011 LGBT Work Plan was unanimously adopted by the LGBT AC.

5. HRC participation in the Pride Parade:

Commissioner Chung spoke about the history of the Commission’s participation including having a booth especially if there is a ballot initiative in an effort to education the community as well as informed the community as to what the HRC does. Commissioner Chung questioned “how many participants in Pride Parade are SF residents?” The objective is to increase HRC’s visibility and manage to educate the public about the Human Rights Commission. The objective can also be met by having a presence in the Pride Parade. The televised parade allows [us] to inform the public again what the HRC does- Parade participants have their important projects noted and what they do displayed as a part of the Parade’s broadcast introduction. HRC staff usually appreciates a more active role in the parade opposed to staffing a booth.

Commission Chung suggested we have a convertible (ZIP Car) and those who can not walk the entire parade route can sit in the car. We decorate the car? Bonnie M. offered the use of her Father’s Mustang Convertible for the Parade. Hopefully we can coordinate what to wear and to invite friends and have signs to show the HRC’s mission. This allows everyone to be able to enjoy the parade. Last year there was a large speaker so there was dancing. Allison also hoped that we could have a larger more involved contingent. She also noted that there were sign making parties but that no one really showed up for but Vaughn had some of his friends at Berkeley help create the signs ( example of signs were displayed.)
Last year’s theme was the **Human Rights Commission Is ...** (SIGNS/POSTERS spoke to our work plans.) We also had handouts. (Pocket sized POP cards) with information with project timelines and what we passed through out the year were very well received as an outreach tool. This process proved effective and may be duplicated this year and used to highlight the two important reports that the HRC adopted-Bisexual Invisibility and Beyond Marriage –Unrecognized Family Relationships.

Cynthia asked if the HRC has to pay the Pride Committee to be in the parade and if so, where does the money comes from? Commissioner Chung affirmed that the HRC does pay --- that there are the friends of the Human Rights Commission who budget for this fee. Nadia explained the “Friends” pay the fees—which is a non-profit group who helps in these matters. Amos noted we can register and do everything on line.

Bianca suggested as a way to get more people involved we need to reach out to other Committees, Commissioners and HRC Staff. (Allison) “We are looking to be more open and inviting. The more the merrier.” Like the EAC. We could create an invitation to the other committees at the HRC.

Commission Chung suggested we have a “sign making party” and extend invitation to other committees and HRC staff to join us. The tricky part is we would have more than a quorum. Allison suggested it would not be a problem if we publicized. Commissioner Chung asked for volunteers to help in the parade preparations as well as act as safety and wheel monitors. For every axel of the vehicle you need two safety monitors so for a convertible we would need at least four safety monitors and for every ten parade participants you would need two safety monitors- There is training and the driver has to go too. We need six to eight safety monitors-depending on the size of the contingent. Safety Monitors have to wear a button to designate their role as a safety monitor. Safety Training is now 1- 2 hours.

It was expressed that having a sound system makes it a more fun event. Allison noted she would take care of that as well as create and send out invitations to the other HRC divisions and would like to propose a date when interested volunteers can meet to discuss and come up with a Pride Parade plan. Allison suggested Saturday, May 14, 2011 which is a couple of days before the next [LGBT-AC] meeting on May 17, 2011. (time--afternoon 1pm or 2pm perhaps meet for lunch) Angie, Bonnie, David expressed interested in working with Allison on Pride Prep.

6. **Bisexual Invisibility Report Implementation Update**

HRC Staff member David Miree reported out that as a result of letters penned by Lindasusan Ulrich, principal author of the report and David Miree, on behalf of the HRC, that the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on LGBT Issues in its regular meeting on April 20, plans to respond to the request from members of Chicago’s LGBT communities to endorse the Bisexual Report. Chicago’s Advisory Committee will contact David Miree to inform the SF-HRC of Chicago’s action on this item. The contact person in Chicago for this item is William “Bill” Greaves, Director/Community Liaison who expressed excitement over the report because if it is endorsed it is anticipated that the San Francisco report will be used as an advocacy, education and awareness tool as well as guidance in implementing the recommendations as outline in the Bisexual Report. (Applause). Nadia Babella noted that in the minutes there is a link to a video where the Commission meeting on the Bi Report can be viewed.

http://blip.tv/file/4871710

Commission Chung expressed since these are official Committee reports implementation will also be a part of the Commission’s plan and all the strategies will also go through the Director and Commission Staff and hopefully we will be able to tap in to the City resources as well—we need to reach out to the two Supervisors would are a part of the [LGBT] community who may be able to offer assistance regarding additional resources and picking their brains as to how we can implement the recommendations (if that
has not already been done.) David responded that he and Lindasusan are on target to further discuss implementation plans including speaking with elected officials and DPH.

No public comment

7. Beyond Marriage Report Implementation Update

HRC Staff member Zoe Polk reported out to the Committee (and also at the Retreat) that proposed next steps will be to look at the role of the Clerk’s Office in terms of how we can develop compliance guidelines, ordinances and legislation and work with the Clerk’s Office in terms of getting forms approved for relationships that are not recognized by the City. Zoe stated that she will be speaking to a representative in Denver who has worked on the similar issues related to unrecognized family relationships.

Commissioner Chung expressed that it was Bart Broome who actually brought back the forms from Colorado and suggested that Zoe check in with Bart. Bonnie noted that at any point where there may be a need for assistance in drafting the forms, not particularly speaking creating a work group but getting “Phil?” particularly but she [Bonnie] would be happy to work on it as well. Zoe stated that we were a little bit away from that yet and anticipates that this project will take about a year to implement.

[Alex] asked whether there was a work group or what actions had been taken on the reports? Commissioner Chung noted that David Miree was the point person for the Bi Report and that Zoe was the point person for Beyond Marriage….sooo beyond marriage (extended chuckle) and that they will also be updating the Commission as well on the implementation.

8. Member Reports on Activities in the Community

Commissioner Chung stated that there were two items on the agenda for Committee members to inform the Committee about things happening in the community or members could make announcements. Reports on Activities refer to events happening in the community such as hate crimes on the increase or things where members want to give the Committee a head’s up about [things] that are happening in the community that [we] should look out for and things we should pay more attention to. Announcements are activities happening in the community like a fundraiser coming up or things of that nature.

Allison stated that transgender hate crimes are on the rise (she spoke about the attacks and a slaying on Saturday) but also wanted to bring to the committee’s attention the 2nd Annual Transgender Lobby Day coming up. Commissioner Chung offered that it is “Transgender Advocacy Day”…Allison explained that this event is when advocacy groups go to Sacramento and meet w/ Legislators and lawmakers to talk about issues in regards to rights specific for the transgender community but will also be advocating for LGBT rights also. This event is to take place May 2nd.

Alex brought to the Committee’s attention an issue involving DPH and HIV funding and the “new direction” the city is taking regarding funding HIV programs and services. As a result a lot of people feel that they are being left behind because of the funding cuts including API, Native Americans, and the list goes on and on…Basically they are only funding certain small groups but [Alex] is not sure if there is a resolution but other groups are looking at…and there is a lot of [stuff] that HPPC (HIV Prevention Planning Council) is doing [around this issue]

Bonnie announced that “Angels in America” is coming and playing starting May 13?? (At the LGBT Center??) It was added that ticket are $20.00 at the door and at the gala $30.00.
Another announcement was NCLR along with the National Senior Citizens Law Center, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force et al published a report (survey) on LGBT Elders in Long Term Care Facilities. The gist of the report is that [people] do not feel safe or are being forced back into the closet in their very latter years. There are many problems with staff training and staff sensitivity and people’s families are being ripped apart. This is sorta the precursor report that made Daniel Redmond at NCLR think about the report that now the Elder Group may take on...talks about alternatives to long term care facilities...housing options for elder LGBT members and looks at inherit problems with these institutional settings. The report is on line and Nadia has the link if anyone wants it.

Ray added that we do not think of elder care for a variety of reasons but that it was “shocking” was goes on there especially where members of the LGBT community is involved.

Allison spoke on media coverage (News Channel 5) about a transgender inmate (in prison for 30 years) who was trying to get funding for gender reassignment surgery and the way that the report was conducted was kinda “snarky” like oh this person thinks this is medially necessary and wants taxpayers to pay for it and blah.. blah.. blah.. it was a bit of a negative undertone but this could potentially heat up because this is regarding the rights of transsexuals in prison where they need to be housed to they get state funded or community funded treatment for medical necessary [things].

Amos spoke about a petition on Change.org to get more support for the Immigrants with American Families Act and to call upon the Federal Officials to reconsider their policy regarding processing applications for green cards for same sex international couples until a decision is reached regarding DOMA since it is still in the courts. So if the Committee could help get the word out about the petition that would be very helpful to get 10,000 signatures.

Second one, President Obama will be in town tomorrow for a fundraiser at the Masonic Center, groups like Marriage Equality USA and others will have a presence outside with signs that read, Stop Departing Our Partners “4pm-6pm please come and join.

Commissioner Chung pointed out that some of the above items were “announcements” opposed to “activities in the community” and reminded members that this distinction needs some fine tuning. Activities in the community refer to issues [we] should have a head’s up on and announcements are like fundraisers or events you would like to invite people to.

9. Commissioner Report

Commissioner Chung stated that [we] had a great retreat and the Commissioners recently had a great retreat as well not that long ago. The Commissioners did some [visioning] as to the direction of the HRC and it is Commissioner Chung's vision to do more on HIV and Human Rights. It is thirty years into the epidemic and she feels that [we] have not really worked on this issue in a while. There is still HIV criminalization even in progressive states like California. HIV continues to be the only health condition that is being listed as a deadly weapon on the penal code. Commissioner Chung would personally like to work on. There is the national AIDS policy and as Alex suggested, the City wants to align itself with the national AIDS policy but by doing so they have neglected community groups and minority groups and the conversation about this omission raises the question -is this a form of discrimination? Hopefully [we] will find a way to work on these issues slowly toward next year which is the International AIDS Conference and there will be a paper published by early 2012 on HIV criminalization and she will inform and update the Committee. Commissioner Chung anticipates that we will be hearing a lot more in the future about Human Rights and HIV as well as Human Rights behind bars. Commissioner Chung was invited by the German
Consulate General to attend a HIV AIDS awareness expedition. Commissioner Chung will report back about this event at the next meeting.

The HRC Commissioners also adopted a letter to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to add formerly incarcerated individuals and those with prior arrest(s) and conviction(s) as a protected category in employment and housing. This is in support of the Reentry Council of San Francisco’s effort and the HRC initial work to “ban the box.” This issue affects disproportionally the African American and Latino communities but also disproportionally affects the Transgender community and LGB T youth.

It was asked would this policy include every employer in the City and all contractors? Commissioner Chung noted that this policy did include all employers with the goal that employers would have to justify their reasons not to hire someone after first looking at an applicant’s qualifications and then they can ask about any prior convictions. And if you have a prior record, the employer has to look if the conviction was directly related to the job applied for.

It was asked if the HRC staff could provide a copy of the adopted letter to the Committee for review. Zoe invited any committee member interested in this issue to a meeting with the Reentry Council on Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

Commission Chung also made a presentation to the Juvenile Probation Commission on LBG T Youth in the juvenile justice system.

10. **Staff Report:**

Zoe informed the Committee of HRC Staffing for the work groups that were created at the retreat.

David- Beyond Castro Work Group
Nadia- Asylum Work Group
Zoe- LGBT Seniors Work Group

Zoe is working on the externship program for the HRC.

Nadia talked about the implementation plan for the AMENSA Report noting that various meetings had been conducted with the HRC and the Police Chief, Police Commissioner, and the Office of Citizens Complaints to address some of the community’s concerns. There is a joint hearing scheduled with the Police Commissioner tentatively plan for Wednesday, May 11, 2011 to look at whether or not there is any surveillance which is a first amendment activity and if there is, whether they are complying with the City’s protocol.

With respect to the Prior Conviction and Arrest record, Nadia reported that the letter was approved unanimously by the Commission.

11. **Old/ New Business**

Nadia passed out a LGBT AC membership contact list. (for internal use only). Zoe announced a fundraiser for “Dyke Watch” on April 30th

No Old/New Business was discussed.

12. **Announcements:**
The ultimate goal with announcements is hopefully the mentees will invite their mentor to events or things happening in the community and then you come and share that. To cut down on the time spent on announcements, Committee members are encouraged to send announcements (via e-mail) to HRC Staff who in turn can distribute to AC via e-mail mailing list.

There was an “Out and Equal LGBT Workplace advocacy group hosted at Berkeley that discussed equal benefits (inaudible) Commissioner Chung stated that this was a “ prefect” example of a community activity that the AC should be made aware.

Representative Gutierrez will be in San Francisco on the 27 to talk about immigration reform and want the discussion to be LGBT and immigration focused. There will be a Tam Press Conference and meeting at City Hall (inaudible). Amos will send this information on both events to Nadia.

13. **Adjournment:**
   The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.