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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

Date: April 27, 1979

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES
238 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

April 27, 1979 Pittsburgh

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE IN HARRISBURG ON JUNE 7, 1979 at 1:30 IN ROOM G-12 OF THE FINANCE BUILDING. COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OTHERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL MEETING ON BUILDING COALITIONS AT 10:00 AM ON JUNE 7 IN G-12 (see item 11 below) AND A MEETING ON THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO TRANSSEXUALITY AT NOON ALSO IN G-12.

MINUTES

In Attendance: James Huggins, Pam Erdcley, John Zinsmeister, Barbara Shore, Jeff Britton, Art Duprat, Tony Henry, Leslie Phillips, Mary Nancarrow, Joe Burns, and Tony Silvestre.

Attendance Policy: A number of state department representatives and representatives of the sexual minority community have been absent from our regular meetings. This causes a problem now especially as we gear up to work in the new administration. According to Council policy, any state department representative or sexual minority representative who misses two meetings in a row should evaluate her/his ability to work on the Council. As we move towards a more active role in state government, we will all be called upon for greater involvement.

Representatives of state agencies who are unable to attend a regular meeting are requested to have a substitute from their agency attend.

Representatives of the sexual minority community who have missed more than two meetings in a row are asked to notify the chair about their interest in remaining on the Council.

Representatives of the general community are, of course, invited to be active in the Council's work but are exempted from the above policy and comments.

THE COUNCIL MEETING OPENED AT 7:40 PM.

Kandy Forrester, candidate for county commissioner and former member of the Council welcomed us to Pittsburgh, and spoke about his experiences as a candidate.

Richard Caliguiri, Mayor of Pittsburgh sent his regrets and his best wishes for a successful meeting.

1. Status of the Council:

Tony silvestre reported that reappointments to our Council and new appointments were still under consideration as are appointments for other boards and commissions.

The steering committee recommended that the Council proceed with its plans and begin meeting with the various secretaries and department heads. Council members supported the recommendation. It was decided that we would first request meetings with Secretary O'Bannion followed by the Attorney General, and the Department of Aging. Considering the importance of the State Police and our successful interaction in the past, they would also be an agency we would meet with in the near future.

2. Alcoholism: Jim Huggins and Pam Erdeley

Our Council representatives have had two meetings with the Council on Drug and Alcohol. Tom Ziebold Ph.D. and Ken Williams Ph.D also attended. The first meeting with the Council members of D & A was very successful. They agreed that sexual minorities were not presently served by current programs. At the second meeting with Council staff a number of proposals for services were discussed. Gary Jensen, executive director of the Council directed his staff to come up with a plan of action. Our Council sent suggestions along with the suggestions of the Gay Support Network (see enclosures).

3. Testimony to the Penn. Council to the US Civil Rights Commission:

Barbara Gittings, Spencer Coxe and Tony Silvestre met with the advisory council and presented issues and recommendations. Copies of these issues and recommendations have been included in past minutes. The advisory council was very receptive. They agreed to consider our recommendations and took action to include our concerns in their study of Lewisburg Prison. They will investigate prison rape, access of prisoner to gay literature, and the segregation of gay prisoners. The advisory council also invited our council to suggest names of openly gay or sexual minority persons for appointment to their organization. Council members with suggestions are invited to send them to Tony.

4. Prison Rape: Tony Henry

The committee is still discussing the advisability of having a large conference on the issue. Other suggestions include smaller conferences or the publication of information on reducing sexual assaults in the prisons. The committee decided to meet with representatives of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape to explore possible actions.

There was general discussion of the issues. A suggestion was made that the committee look into the availability and effectiveness of counseling for raped prisoners while in prison and after release.

5. Pride 79: John Zinsmeister, Joe Burns and Mary Nancarrow

Conference plans were discussed for the meeting which is scheduled for the weekend of October 19 at the Holiday Inn at the Pittsburgh Airport. The Council voted to co-sponsor the conference. Council members are invited to suggest workshops to John or Joe and to plan to attend. It was suggested that the Council's October meeting be held during the weekend. This will be discussed at the steering committee.

6. Speaker's Bureau Ken George

The proposed engagement with the Central Region of Welfare has been canceled by our Council because of time conflicts.

It is expected that the new Secretary of Education will approve the proposed training.

7. US Civil Rights Commission Tony Silvestre

Tony, David Donaldson and Jeff Britton met with investigators of the Commission giving testimony on police practises affecting gays in Philadelphia. The testimony included information on police abuse and harassment of gays as well as the effects of homophobia and lack of information on police services for gays.

8. ANNUAL REPORT

The work on the 1978 annual report should be beginning. It is important that volunteers be found. Rose Weber has agreed to edit. Tony is looking for other volunteers.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:30 AND SMALL GROUPS MET TO DISCUSS ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE NEW SECRETARIES IN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Rural Pa. Representatives (5)

- Gerald Brennon
- Joseph Burns
- Marylin Hewitt
- Mary Nancarrow
- Julia Rux (on leave)

Pittsburg (4)

- Pam Erdeley
- James Huggins
- Rosemary Madl (pending)
- John Zinsmeister

Philadelphia (6)

- Jeff Britton
- Ken George
- Barbara Gittings
- Anthony Henry
- Leslie Phillips
- Rose Weber
- (Tony Silvestre)

Community Representatives

- Spencor Coxe (Phila.)
- Norman Berson (Phila.)
- Paul Gehris (Harrisbg)
- JO Ann Hunter Farr (State College)
- Lyman Ogilby (Phila.)
- Barbara Shore (Pitts.)

Department Representatives

- Vicki Beardsley HRC
- David Donaldson Justice
- Conrad Jones Education
- Marie Keeney Com. on Women
- Walter Lear Health
- Gloria Martin Payne D & A
- Louise Oncley Affirmative Action
- Salvador Rodriguez State Police
- Jay Snyder Public Welfare
- Vacant Corrections
- Vacant Labor & Industry

Public Information Officer

- James Guthrie

Consultant

- Arthur Warner