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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 1979

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu



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

January 31, 1979

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS ON MARCH 8. A SPECIAL MEETING FOR NEW MEMBERS ON THE HISTORY AND WORKING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 8 ALSO AT 11:30. THE REGULAR MEETING WILL BE AT 1:30. BOTH MEETINGS WILL HAPPEN IN ROOM 812, HEALTH AND WELFARE BUILDING.

MINUTES

Attendance: Mary Ellen Dowdrick, Arthur Duprat, Gerald Brennan, John Case, Kenneth George, Walter Lear, David Donaldson, Barbara Gittings, Jay Snyder, Louise Oncley, Mary Nancarrow, Conrad Jones, Jeff Britton, Rose Weber, Pam Erdely, John Zinsmeister, James Huggins and Tony Silvestre.

Correction from December Minutes: Jeff Britton and John Zinsmeister were in attendance at the meeting.

1. Council Direction over the Next Four Years:

Bill Green, candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia asked to meet with Council members to discuss city issues relevant to sexual minority members. Spencor Coxe, Barbara Gittings, Jeff Britton, David Donaldson, Tony Silvestre and Mary Cochran (consultant on mental health issues) represented the Council. A list describing the issues is being prepared. Anyone wishing a copy should write to Tony.

The following issues were discussed at length at the meeting: the positions or expected positions of newly appointed cabinet officials; the need for consistent contact with the legislature especially in light of the newly introduced SB 6, a new anti-gay bill, meeting with department Secretaries in some order reflecting Council priorities; an agenda of issues for these meetings and the membership on the Council. It was decided that: AGENCIES TO FOCUS ON ARE EDUCATION, HEALTH, JUSTICE, STATE POLICE, STATE, AGING AND WELFARE. COMMITTEES WERE SET UP TO IDENTIFY ISSUES FOR EACH AGENCY; THESE GROUPS MET DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING AND WILL MEET AT THE NEXT MEETING ON MARCH 8. (Persons who took notes of the last meetings are asked to send the list of issues to Tony so that they can be distributed before the next meeting and all Council members are asked to think about participating in a small group at the next meeting.)

IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL ESPECIALLY GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF SEXUAL MINORITY MEMBERS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING; A LIST OF CURRENT MEMBERS IS INCLUDED IN THE MEETING MINUTES.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A letter asking to be on the agenda of the Penn. Advisory Board to the US Civil Rights Commission to discuss sexual minority issues related to the administration of justice has been sent and a response is expected.

Spencor Coxe who is resigning his position on ACLU and not the Council was profiled in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Maressa of New Jersey withdraw his bill which would have added a "sodomy" provision to the state code. Arthur Warner our consultant was a leading figure in the campaign to save the code.

Gerald Gornish, as Attorney General ruled that sexual orientation, per se, is not grounds for denial of licenses for professionals.

A special meeting for new members interested in getting background on the Council will be at 11:30 in room 812, Health and Welfare on March 8, the date of our regular meeting.

A Convention of gay activists will take place in Philadelphia the weekend of February 24, 25, 26. This national meeting will discuss strategies and tactics of the movement. The Council decided not to send formal representatives since there was not enough time to formulate Council positions. If invited the Council chair will simply welcome the delegates at the beginning of the meeting.

Complaints of FBI subpoenas of the phone records of gay groups as well as suspicious break-ins have surfaced in the lesbian and gay community of Philadelphia. For information contact Tony.

3. Commonwealth Student Association Mary Nancarrow

Representatives of the group were not able to attend the meeting. Mary, however, discussed the formation of a Coalition on Discrimination which includes a gay task force. The group is planning to help organize groups on campus, to act as a clearinghouse for student complaints to do public education on gay issues.

4. MEDIA

It was suggested at the December meeting that Jim Guthrie, the Council Public Information Officer, and Tony Silvestre meet to discuss setting up a meeting of media experts who are supportive of gays to discuss strategy and tactics in improving public coverage of sexual minority issues. Tony and Jim did meet and concluded that the targets for effecting change are producers and news editors and not reporters. Plans for a meeting of supportive media people has not yet been scheduled.

5. Alcoholism Rose Weber

In a meeting on the morning of the 31st, our committee asked that Tom Zieboldt and Ken Williams present our position at the regular meeting of the D & A Council, that D & A cosponsor a workshop on Alcoholism with the Eromin Center and our Council and that the issue of training, community education and research be addressed.