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Title: Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 25, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES
STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes
Meeting of June 25, 1976

Attendance: Tony Silvestre, chairing; Sam Deetz, Randy Forester, Frances Hanckel, Walter Lear, Dolly Shuster

A. Council Policy Regarding Multiple Committee Memberships

Unanimously agreed to recommend to the Council that the Council's policy be amended to make clear that the limit of two committees per person without special Council approval applied:

1. to Steering Committee memberships
2. to Departmental committee memberships
3. to persons not members of the Council
4. to future committee appointments (that is, currently approved committee memberships not conforming to the Council's policy would not be affected by this policy clarification)

B. Annual Organization of the Council

Unanimously agreed to recommend to the Council that in view of the annual appointment of some Council members, each year at the second meeting of the Council following the annual appointments, the Council should elect the members of the Steering Committee and approve the members of the other Council committees, and that the Council's chairperson appoint the Council's appointive officers. In other words, the term of all Council officers are for one year and the Council would organize itself annually.

C. Additional Committee Members

Resumes on three persons were distributed and the following actions taken:

Joseph W. Burns: approved for Community Affairs; approved for Finance, provided attendance at meetings is not a problem - Sam to check with him;

Jeanne H. Koelle: approved for Legislation provided active participation is not a problem - Sam to check with her;

Elizabeth Coffee: approved for Special Minority Concerns

As the Council did not consider the three persons designated by Tony to convene the Task Force for Special Minority Concerns, approved as members of this Task Force:

Chris Poorman
Dennis Rubini
Lisa White

D. Prospective Council Vacancy

Tony reported that a Council member in the general community category, Frederick D. Morris, was resigning, and that after some research he has concluded that an excellent replacement would be Paul Gerris, a minister who works for the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and who is very familiar with State legislators and top officials of the State government. Unanimous agreement that Tony should bring to the attention of Milton Berkes, the availability and qualifications of Paul Gerris.

E. Public Information and Education

Randy reported on a full and helpful meeting he had with the public relations staff of the Education Department; topics covered included press releases, press conferences, Council literature and PR policy. He is setting up a newspaper clipping file and requests clippings be sent to him from all newspapers. He intends to give highest priority to briefing meetings with key mass media individuals in Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. He will prepare a draft of a basic information brochure about the Council. A handbook for Council members would also be desirable. He will prepare a press release for the gay press on each Council meeting.

In discussing the role of the Public Information and Education Officer, it was unanimously agreed that a complete definition might not yet be possible but that Randy should concentrate on the mass media for the present and that Tony would decide whether other PI & E tasks that needed to be done were best assigned to him or to the Community Affairs Committee.

Unanimously agreed that no Council member would issue a press release without the specific approval of Randy.

F. Letters on Council Stationery

Unanimously agreed that Council stationery would not be given to any Council member. Anyone wishing to have a letter on Council stationery should send the copy to Tony for his review or discuss it with him by phone. If he approves, the letter would be typed in Harrisburg (Governor's Office), Philadelphia (Barry Kohn's office) or Pittsburgh (Randy's office), whichever is most convenient to the letter writer.

G. Spokespersons for the Council

Unanimously agreed that the only spokespersons for the Council are Tony and any Council member he may assign to cover a specific request he is unable to cover. Requests for a Council spokesperson are to be made in writing to Tony and should specify the topic if it is not a general presentation about the Council. Spokespersons for the Council are not to express personal opinions.

This procedure does not and cannot apply to any Council member who is personally invited to talk publicly or participate on a program and who may

be identified as a member of the Council. Tony will have a special responsibility when invited to speak, to distinguish between invitations to him as the Council's chairperson and to him in some other capacity.

Sam volunteered to prepare a draft of a 10 to 15 minute talk about the Council for a typical straight (not particularly informed or sympathetic) audience. He will also prepare a chart showing the issues and topics discussed by the Council and policy positions taken, if any.

Tony indicated he would like to rely mainly on Randy and the Steering Committee members to be spokespersons for the Council.

Unanimously agreed that the Council should not accept an invitation to speak at the July 4 rally being planned by the July 4 Coalition.

H. Reports on Committees:

Frances, Sam, Walter and Dolly reported on the committees each has coordinating responsibility for.

The Legislation Committee has established a subcommittee on strategy. Barry Kohn has prepared a thoughtful letter on this topic. Because of the sluggish progress of the Welfare Department Committee, Walter was asked to discuss the situation with Milton Berkes.

I. Meeting Schedule

Unanimously agreed to hold meetings of the Steering Committee on Tuesday, July 13 at 11:30 AM (just prior to Council meeting) and on Friday, August 20 at 1 PM.

Unanimously agreed to schedule September 17 Council meeting from 7:30 to 10:30 in the Philadelphia State Office Building. It would be desirable if the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia would hold a reception and dance immediately following. Walter volunteered to look into this and further explore the possibility of this event also being a fund raiser for the Governor's Council.

H. Reports on Committees (continued)

WJL/cam
6/29/76

O V E R

Steering Committee Meeting

June 25, 1976

1:00 P.M.

LATTER PART OF MEETING

Reports from Dolly Shuster on the Council Committees which she coordinates.

State Police - Dolly related that basically nothing new has developed on this committee since the last Council meeting. We discussed the report from the last Council meeting. It was suggested that the State Police Committee might consider getting involved in the training of police officers.

Human Relations - The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, so there was nothing new to discuss.

Justice - Still has no membership.

Liquor Control Board - This committee also has no membership. It was reported that several "gay" bars in the Philadelphia area have recently been raided. A suggestion was made that when this committee gets organized one goal should be to draw up some sort of a rights document for bar owners' information.

State Employment - The committee has met and Dolly reported that they are preparing strategy for affirmative action complaints from Sexual Minorities. Daniel Sawyer of the Office of Administration has indicated a willingness to work on this committee. It was approved by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee, as a last item of business discussed further the agendas for the next two Council meetings. Details will be made available at the Council meeting of July 13.

July, 1976

First Report from the Community Relations Committee of the
Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities

This committee is very small at present, but the members have communicated and drawn up goals as described below. We still have no volunteer to chair the group so Frances Hanckel, as convenor, will co-ordinate activities as long as necessary. We have met with Randy Forrester, the Public Information Officer of the Council, with whom we will work on projects such as the outreach effort.

Our first specific task was to plan the first Council session outside Harrisburg. It had been pointed out that the formal meeting might best be held in an official State building if possible; Elisabeth Shuster has agreed to arrange space in the State Office Building in Philadelphia in as large a room as possible for 7:30 to 10:30p.m. Sept.17. Preliminary conversations with representatives of the Gay Community Center of Phila. had shown that they were interested in the Council's work, and Walter Lear, on the board of GCCP, will try to arrange a reception-dance there for after the meeting. The program portion of the meeting is to be "Religious groups: how they affect individuals of sexual minorities and how they affect the social-political situation of sexual minorities in general." We are meeting with representatives of various religious affiliates (i.e. Dignity, Integrity) to develop this program.

This committee's method of operation will be as informal as possible reserving most of our time to meet with individuals and groups in the community. We will have only perhaps three formal meetings per year, instead communicating with each other often by mail and phone. Our next meeting will be at the time of the next Council session, either before that evening meeting or more probably Sat. Sept. 18, in the morning at 501 S. 44th St, in Philly. An outline of our current ideas follows.

General Goals

To establish links with groups: gay groups throughout the state as well as additional state and national groups with whom we should be in touch such as NOW, ACLU, etc.

To establish links with individuals in or through those groups who can participate in various aspects of the Council's work.

To serve as a resource for the establishment of sexual minority groups in unorganized parts of the state.

To set up meetings for the Council outside Harrisburg.

To fulfill the Governor's directive to receive and refer complaints of discrimination or inadequate service.

Immediate Goals

1) Complete tentative plans for Sept, Council meeting.

2) Develop an initial outreach effort. This will require two separate preliminary projects:

a) prepare as extensive a mailing list as possible in a short time of gay groups, other sexual minority groups and civil rights groups of all sorts.

b) draft a letter, containing a list of all Council committees with a name to contact in each, which encourages all types of feedback about and

cont.

participation in Council work. This participation could be simply the expression of individual ideas or perceptions about the things which need to be done, it could be actual work on or with one of the committees, or it could be support of Council projects through donation of services such as printing. This letter will be accompanied by the pamphlet about the Council which is being prepared this summer by the Dept. of Ed.

Send b) to a) and followup as necessary.

3) Establish specific complaint mechanisms so that if & when we are contacted about various kinds of discrimination, a standard procedure for referral and advice is available.

Long Range Goals

1) Each committee member will try to expand her/his own network of contacts to find out what is going on in their area and to draw new persons into Council work. The focus can be periodically specified-- for example, in May the Council noted that union members are now needed to help prod the unions into a position of positive support.

2) Repeat short term project 1 which will need to be handled again in Pittsburgh and a central city such as Sunbury.

3) Expand and repeat short term project 2. The lists should be continuously updated in our files, and a formal letter sent out at least annually. This project can also be the basic source for referring people in unorganized parts of the state to nearby people and groups for help.

4) Each member of the Council and its committees indirectly functions as a representative of the Council by association. However, it is beginning to seem desirable to establish a sort of speakers bureau through which formal presentations could be arranged to groups who request it or with whom we wish to establish dialogue. These formal appearances could perhaps be ~~xxxxxxxx~~ based on pre-written summaries of specific Council positions so that individuals' views are not taken for those agreed on by the whole Council. A lot of mechanics need to be worked out on this idea.

NOTE: Any comments, suggestions and ideas are welcome. Please send to Frances Hanckel, 501 S.44, Phila 19104 or call 215-349-7632.