

LGBTQ+ Advisory Board

Monday, February 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Minutes by: Samantha Smith, staff

Staff present: Krista Cover (Attorney), Samantha Smith

Time started: 4:10 pm

NAME	DISTRICT	PRESENT (Y/N)
Benjamin "Ben" Harrell	1	NO
Laken Hall	2	YES
Brad Veloz	3	YES
Michael Quintanilla	4	YES
Mary "Maria" Salazar	5	NO
Michael Rendon	6	YES
Andrea "Andy" Figueroa	7	YES
Washington Navarro	8	NO
G. Sterling Zinsmeyer	9	YES
Antonio Gonzalez-Martinez	10	NO
Victoria Echeverri	M-1	YES
Jaime Zapata	M-2	YES
Cristian Sanchez	M-3	YES

1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the December 16th Meeting

Brad Veloz moved to approve the minutes. Jamie Zapata seconded the motion. All board members present approved. Laken Hall and Cristian Sanchez were not present for the vote.

Public Comment

No one appeared for public comment

Briefing and Possible Action on the Following Items

2. City of San Antonio Staff Announcements

Samantha Smith will be leaving her role with the City. DEIA will continue providing support to the Board and assign a new staff liaison.

3. Briefing from the Office of Historic Preservation on Cultural Heritage District

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) discussed the process they are undergoing to create the LGBTQ+ Cultural Heritage District. They provided a timeline of the project and the report they are creating. The Board expressed interest in OHP sharing the report with them once it is complete.

4. LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Town Hall Meeting discussion

The Community Committee discussed their progress on creating a town hall style event for the next public meeting. They shared they were looking at possible locations, the time, security, sharing an invitation with the Mayor, and working the Communication & Engagement Department to create marketing materials.

The Board discussed possible community concerns for safety and mental health protections. DEIA offered to potentially help with security depending on the event location as well as helping secure the 3rd Floor Terrace at the International Center as a possible location. The Board then discussed the purpose of the event and explored whether a press release about the Board's existence would accomplish the same goals as the town hall-style meeting would.

Sterling made a motion to have a press release rather than a town hall-style meeting. Cristian seconded the motion. The motion received positive votes from Brad, Sterling, Cristian, and Victoria. The motion failed.

The Board continued discussing the merits of a Town Hall and/or a press release and directed The DEIA Department offered to develop and present some ideas to the Board at the next meeting. The Board requested that press release go out as soon as possible about the Board's existence apart from any possible town hall-style event. Michael Quintanilla offered to help develop the language for the release.

Jamie motioned to continue the item to the next Board meeting. Victoria seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. The item will be continued to the next meeting.

5. Committee Updates

(1) Government Affairs Committee:

The Government Affairs Committee asked the City Staff to report on how to ask for budget for the Board. They met twice as a Committee since the last meeting and discussed City policies and programs that support the LGBTQ+ community. They asked to know how much money the City is spending on LGBTQ+-specific community organizations.

(2) Health and Wellbeing Committee:

The Health and Wellbeing Committee also asked about the City's funding for specific LGBTQ+-supporting organizations. They discussed particularly vulnerable communities such as the Trans community and the elder Queer community. They discussed some examples of elder Queer supportive centers in Houston and Dallas.

(3) Community Committee:

The Committee had no additional updates other than the town hall-style meeting discussion.

6. Discussion to establish mission statement, goals, and principles for the Board

The Board decided to utilize the ordinance's stated purposes and the Mayor's LGBTQ+ ad hoc Advisory Committee to be the basis of the press release and decided to continue discussions at the next meeting.

7. Discussion about inviting candidates for Mayor to future Board meeting.

The Board determined that based on the number of candidates and the fact other organizations were planning to invite mayoral candidates, they would no longer extend the invitation to come speak.

Victoria motioned to cancel sending an invitation. Laken seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Cristian and Sterling were not present for voting.

8. Establishing next meeting date

The Board established the next meeting date in March would be on Monday, March 17th at 4:00 pm.

II. Adjourn

Victoria motioned the meeting adjourn. Brad seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Sterling was not present for voting.

Time adjourned: 5:37 PM