

Pride San Antonio General Membership Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2014

BOD Attendees: Phillip Derrick James Mary Jo Bill Heidi
 Minda Autumn

Beneficiary Attendees: Mujeres GALA UTSA GLBTQ Fiesta Youth PFLAG

Call To Order: 7:40PM

Reports:

Secretary's Report- James submitted the minutes from the May 2014 meetings for approval.

Treasurer's Report-Mary Jo reported the bank balance to be \$19218.61

Business from the Board: Derrick

Old Business:

1. Committees-

- a) San Antonio Q Fest-James reported that the committee was working on programming of films and that we should be able to program all of the films. The committee had created a potential for raising funds through ad sales in the festival program. The ads would run from \$100-\$400. Autumn stated that we needed volunteers for two different shifts. One shift would be from 6PM-8:30PM and the other would be from 8:30PM-11PM Heidi reported that the volunteer hours for the beneficiaries was 20 manhours at last check. Concern was expressed that there were movies being shown that were inappropriate for young teens to see.
- b) Festival-Derrick reported that the festival was a success overall. He reported that there were fewer medical issues than expected. The booth layout was well received by the public. There was a slight problem with the fencing which should be resolved with street closures and towing contracts in place for the future. There still seemed to be a problem with chairs and tables missing. There were no vendor complaints on power but there were a couple of times where the gate power went down. The wristband plan seemed to work out except for the fact that a large number of them ended up locked in one of the loaner cars and the keys to that car were unable to be found temporarily. There were some complaints about the wristbands for vendors. There was some confusion as to what took tickets and what did not as there were many trying to by raspas with money instead of tickets. At most events there is a limited number of passes allowed vendors which puts San Antonio in line with most other cities.

There were concerns that there were too many people that were on duty at any one time in the First Aid booth and that most of them hung out in the cooled part of the First Aid booth. Ignacio reported that the cooling tents worked really well but they probably could have used more space. Ignacio offered a suggestion for changing the layout of the booths slightly because the wrestling ended up behind the booth and it seemed like they were blocked off from everything else. The key issue with the gate area seemed to be the need for more volunteers and maybe an extra register or a change to the register configuration. A suggestion was made to have more vendor orientations and perhaps allow vendors a chance to load-in the night before especially since we have overnight security each year anyway. There were concerns raised about vendor drop off and how to make that more convenient and less dramatic each year. There were vendors who were leaving their car parked in the street for long hours and one car actually was stuck there for the entire day. James indicated that when Pride does out of town events there are hardly ever any designated vendor drop off areas and

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often Pride has to walk all of its equipment several blocks to the entrance. Phillip suggested that we would make sure that we have a tow contract in place and the option of loading in the night before if desired and keep Howard Street a clear pass-through and drop off area only much like you might find at Ikea or similar large retail establishments.

Autumn suggested that we perhaps have a volunteer orientation or instruction guide or something that specifically dictates what is needed as many volunteers were just showing up and their time that was scheduled was not anywhere near the time they were showing up and they were put to work and often were not doing what they were originally scheduled to do. There was also a concern that people were checking in and then never being seen again or never making it to their assigned location and it was deemed that the volunteer did not show up at all. Phillip suggested that in addition to signing in at the Volunteer Booth that we have an additional list showing the worker and their assigned time at each booth and they sign in again. Emily agreed that would help but suggested that there be one person for each booth or beneficiary that is in charge of that booth or beneficiary to keep track of the volunteers.

There were concerns that there were some inappropriate activities taking place in the health fair area such as a dildo ring-toss and some other types of games or activities that appeared to be highly inappropriate and out in the open and not discreet at all. There were also concerns as to the discretion of people entering the park and the various attire that some were wearing as they entered into the park. Carlos Soto inquired as to how the other cities are handling such issues. James and Autumn explained that you never hear about these situations in other cities because when those types of activities have been taking place they are generally in a skirted or curtained area. There is still concern about how the testing is going in the health fair area and whether or not the agencies are going to be held accountable for reporting back to the organization how the testing went. There was a concern raised about the people walking around registering people to vote. The report was that they seemed to be a little pushy. Early indicators however showed that they had more success in San Antonio than any other LGBT venue yet for that Battleground Texas group that was working to get the vote out for Wendy Davis and Leticia Van DePutte. The report was that a lot of the people that have been working on behalf of Battleground Texas were actually experienced organizers from other states and major municipalities that hit the ground here in Texas to try and change things politically.

There was a concern about a transgendered individual that was allowed to enter and walk around the park topless. The decision was made to have the security personnel get with the Board of Directors to determine what is acceptable and then enforce that policy throughout the day. Concerns were raised that under usual circumstances a person who identifies as a female would be expected to wear something that covers the breast area. Carlos Soto suggested that some type of protocol should be established that is clear and enforceable and is ultimately enforced. Phillip stated that the Board would take up the responsibility to research the City of San Antonio Ordinance on nudity and clothing and the Board of Directors would adopt a policy with respect to admission to events including Pride Bigger Than Texas.

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Entertainment-Phillip congratulated Autumn on a job well done with respect to entertainment. Mary Jo raised concern that we had no collection bucket or plan in place to accept the tips that were coming in from the performances. Autumn said that everything worked well with the bands but some of the bands suggested that we host a band fest that was nothing but bands as a fundraiser. They suggested this because of the amount of time it takes to set up the bands and the fact that the bands each have their own crowds that they can bring with them. Mike Anderson suggested putting out schedules of the entertainment at the entrances including the vendor entrance that would show what entertainment was coming on the stage at what time. Autumn indicated that she and James and Minda had put one out online and on facebook several times. But Michael Anderson reported that there were several people that were asking about it on July 5 at the park.

c) Parade-James

- a) Running of the Queens High Heel Race-James reported that there were three enthusiastic contestants that really got the crowd going. James indicated that he had recruited the Alamo City Roller Girls to help with the High Heel Race and they were a huge hit.
- b) Rainbow Dash-Minda reported that we had about 15 contestants and that IAAP was a huge help with the event and they were excited to be involved and wanted to be involved the following year. They set up the chip timing and helped to facilitate the finish line of both the Running of the Queens and the Rainbow Dash
- c) Grand Marshals-James reported that all of the Grand Marshals were very pleased with the outcome of the parade. James reported that Shangela posted the event on the logo website and facebook and on her own social media sites.
- d) Grand Marshal Meet and Greet-James stated that it went relatively smoothly. He believed that it had been executed much better in the past but that it ultimately turned out to be a decent event but there were many bumps in the road to the event and bumps during the event as well. There was a comment made about how some people were complaining about there being a fee for the event. James explained that there have been ticketing charges in the past and that many events like this actually have ticketing fees involved with them. There were concerns raised about not being able to control the venue. During the discussion it was related that we have held the event four times and two of the times were in a hotel setting with the third and fourth ones being held in bar settings. The first three events were great events and well executed. The third one was also at a bar but Pride was able to control the venue at that particular bar venue. It was reported that in the past the majority of the patrons at the event were sponsors and a representative of one of the Pride 2014 sponsors was in attendance at the meeting and suggested that the event would be better executed in a hotel or ballroom setting. James reported that alternate venues is something that Michael could explore with sponsorships. James stated that this event really needs to have a specific go-to person or coordinator along with a controlled venue for it to work well.
- e) Vela Award-James stated that the award was being given to Dee Villarrubia who has been a very outspoken supporter of equal rights for decades in San Antonio. Dee had experienced discrimination as a member of the armed forces and fought in favor of having the Pride Bigger Than Texas Parade declared a 1st Amendment Event. Dee was instrumental in starting the San Antonio chapter of the Stonewall Democrats and she has

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been instrumental in getting off the ground the local LGBT chapter of LULAC. She was instrumental in convincing them to be part of the Pride parade and to go big and do a float for the Pride parade.

- d) Sponsorship-Michael Anderson reported that he feels we did really well this year with sponsorships and would like to start on that with full strength in January 2015. Phillip asked if he would continue on as sponsorship coordinator and Michael Anderson accepted. Michael stated that he had a small meeting with members of Hyatt management along with James and Autumn to discuss the 2014 involvement. At this meeting Hyatt management committed to being involved for 2015 and even blocked out 10 rooms (5 at Grand Hyatt and 5 at Hyatt Regency) for 2015 special guests. He reported that Hyatt had also held a Jeans on Friday fundraiser where employees could wear jeans if they paid into a special fund and that money from the fund was being donated to Pride San Antonio.
2. Website-Minda reported that she is updating the website as soon as possible. She is working on a memorial page to be added. There is a lot of website use right now. There is a lot of traffic to and from the website and she has updated all links to the sponsor page for those that need to have links. She said that potential sponsors are looking to the website and becoming more interested.
3. Sports-Minda reported that the Volleyball Tournament was coming up and again Sideliners has given us full reign at the facility. We have even been given access to the hours before the tournament to decorate and set up. Some of the liquor companies have decided that they may want to get involved more with the softball tournament so we will be working with them to get them involved with the next tournament. Some of them have already committed to doing some kind of promotion at the 2014 tournament. Autumn reported that the bowling tournament is coming up at Brunswick Thousand Oaks Bowl on August 9 from 4-7PM.
4. Other Old Business-Bill presented the 3rd Place Plaque from the Fiesta Flambeau Parade. Pride SA won 3rd Place in the Float category. He also reported that the theme for 2015 is "TV-Then and Now".

New Business:

1. Elections-Phillip reported that we have four positions that will be coming up for election in September 2015. The four positions are Vice-President, Secretary, two 2-year Director positions and the open position that was held by Chris Nombrana that has one year left on the term. James made a motion that we hold a special election along with the current election to fill Chris's position. The motion was seconded by Bill and the motion passed. Phillip called for letters of intent or nominations to be submitted by 11:59PM on August 1, 2014. He stated that the Elections would be officially announced at the August 20 meeting and then the official election will be held on the first meeting following the final meeting of the fiscal year and therefore the election would be September 17, 2014.
2. Pride Date-Carlos Soto inquired as to how the date was determined for Pride each year. Autumn stated that it is determined according to a clause in the bylaws and that to

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technically change it would mean an amendment to the bylaws. Heidi stated that for 2015 it will be on July 4 and as the parade heads south on Main we will see the fireworks from the downtown fireworks show at the end of the parade.

- 3. Scary Fairy-James reported that Budweiser had asked if Pride was doing a Halloween event this next year and he also stated that Heat/Sparky's/Luthers had expressed an interest in working with us as part of their Halloween event-A Nightmare on Main. Phillip said he would meet with Randy or Scott and get the details.**

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