

Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, 12th February, 2004
Rupert Street Information Centre

Action

1. Attendees and Apologies

Jenny Ward (Chair), Derek Rogers, Liz Hill, Lois Williams, Nigel Tooke, Rebecca Ballard, Suzanne Khambatta and Wyndham Clampett.
Apologies were received from Maria Ottway.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th , 2003, were agreed as a true record with the following amendments:

Rebecca

Top of page 2 "put ensure" should be "ensure".

3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

a. Joint Research Project

Jenny had received a copy of the "Invitation for Expressions of Interest" from beYOU. The concept was that beYOU would talk to companies who might undertake the research. They would put in a bid for how much they would charge and then beYOU would apply for the funding.

The Steering Committee was pleased that work was progressing on the project, although we believed that beYOU might have done better to make an outline application for funding before putting out the "Invitation for Expressions of Interest".

Liz and Jenny volunteered to be involved in interviewing bidders when the time came.

Liz
Jenny

b. Opening Doors Conference

Ray had not yet come back about the care worker training at Newbury College.

Reading Borough Council had been in contact about involving the forum in its evaluation of its policies and procedures for residential care. Unfortunately, they do not have a budget to pay us for any involvement. We did, however, welcome being invited to participate. Liz suggested that she and Claire (her counterpart in Reading PALS) might be able to take part as part of their jobs. They would keep the steering committee informed. It would be possible to use our experience with Reading with other Councils and organisations.

Age Concern Berkshire (ACB) have asked us to be involved in something similar.

The evaluation of policies and procedures would become very important once the civil partnership legislation becomes law.

c. Christmas Chorus

We noted that there had been a change of committee at the chorus so it may take a little time for the money collected at Christmas to be distributed.

d. Conference Report

We had been waiting for Penny Henrion to provide a copy of her address. It was understood that she had recently stepped down as Chair of Reading PCT. **Jenny** would contact her again. We would not distribute the report until we had heard from Penny.

Jenny

It was agreed that **Rebecca** prepare 2 versions of the report: a summary which would include the workshop reports but not the addresses and a full report with the addresses. We would look at both reports at the next meeting.

Rebecca

Next meeting

e. Scarborough Conference

Nigel was to attend the conference in Scarborough on 4th March and would report back. We agreed to cover Nigel's out of pocket expenses.

4. Chair's Report

Jenny did not have anything to report other than was dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Nigel reported that the balance in the account was £825, including the restricted amount. There would be further money received from people coming to the networking day (see below).

Nigel formerly handed over the role of Treasurer to Liz.

6. Second Networking Day

Jenny tabled the proposed Outline Agenda for the networking Day on March 6th, which had been prepared by Margaret and Sally. 13 people had already paid their money for the day; a further three had said they wish to attend. With members of the Forum, the number of people on the day would be over 20. Represented groups, so far, included: the Metro Centre, Kent Older L&G, Diverse Identities, Gloucester Age Concern, ACC, Polari, AC Reading, Thames Valley Police, Help and Care in Dorset and the Alzheimer's Society Gay Carers.

Margaret had agreed to facilitate the day.

Sally Middleton was unlikely to be able to attend.

Jenny will let **Maria** know numbers for catering.

**Maria
Jenny**

Nigel would take some fliers about the networking day to the Scarborough Conference.

Nigel

7. Social Events

We had a discussion about the sort of social events we could start to think about running. Ideas included:

- line dancing,
- a boat trip,
- movie afternoons – not just gay films but films with gay/lesbian appeal e.g. films with Doris Day or Judy Garland in and films such as “Rosie the Riveter”.

Wyndham believed that John at the South Street Art Centre was thinking about bringing the London gay film festival to Reading after it had finished in London, so it would be worth talking to him about this to tie in with it should it happen. We noted that Andy (of Len and Andy) was involved in Reading Film theatre and could prove a useful contact.

8. Grant Application – Awards for All

Liz and Jenny had met to take a first look at the Awards for All application form and had started to complete certain sections. They hadn't yet had a chance to go through it with Maria, However there were three questions which would take some working through. There was a general discussion about one in particular *vis* what project or activities will take place as a result of a grant being awarded? In particular we discussed how many people we were likely to reach through the social/support activities that we were thinking about.

9. Any Other Business

f. Vice-Chair

We agreed in principal that it would be a good idea to have a vice-chair of the steering committee. However since no-one was yet willing to offer to take on the job, we agreed to postpone further discussion to the next meeting.

**Next
meeting**

g. G2

Nigel brought our attention to the fact that there was a radio station called G2 and a company in Reading called G2. He wondered whether the Forum might be treading on toes. Jenny was able to confirm that advice had been taken and that three entities were highly unlikely to be confused because they had different identities.

h. Resignation

Wyndham advised that he was to be leaving Reading in about a month so, with regret, was tendering his resignation to the Forum. We expressed our gratitude for all of the hard work that Wyndham had put into the Forum. Jenny mentioned in particular his hard work in the run up to the Conference in October.

We all hoped he would keep in touch.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 6th April, 2004 at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at 8.00pm.

The Networking Day is to take place on Saturday, 6th March, starting at 10:30am.

Further Steering Committee Meetings will take place on:

Tuesday 1st June, at 8pm;

Thursday 22nd July, at 8pm;

Tuesday 7th September, at 8pm;

Thursday 21st October, at 8pm;

Tuesday 7th December, at 8pm.