

Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

Steering Committee Minutes

Tuesday, June 1st, 2004
Rupert Street Information Centre

Action

1. Attendees

Jenny Ward (Chair), Lois Williams, Liz Hill, Rebecca Ballard and Suzanne Khambatta.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Maria Ottway and Nigel Tooke.

3. Notes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, April 6th, 2004, were agreed as a true record

a. **beYOU Research Project**

Jenny reported that the Research Project had been put on hold By beYOU for the present time.

b. **Christmas Chorus**

Liz would follow this up to find out what had happened to the money collected by the Christmas Chorus.

Liz

c. **Conference Report**

It was agreed that **Rebecca** would make the Conference Reports available on the web site.

Rebecca

d. **Networking Day**

Liz agreed to remind Nigel that he had offered to write a written version of the account he had given of the Networking Day in Scarborough.

Margaret's invoice had been received.

e. **Social Event**

It was agreed that **Jenny** would arrange a Wine Tasting in August, probably on the Bank Holiday weekend. She would be looking for help nearer the time.

Jenny
volunteers

f. **Grant Application**

Jenny reported that the application was finished just needed a referee's signature.

g. **Chair**

Jenny would be very pleased for someone to take over as Chair of the Steering Committee. It was agreed that the Steering Committee could really

benefit from having a vice-chair and this also raised the point that new blood was needed to generate new ideas and enthusiasm.

Rebecca will put something on the website saying that new members would be very welcome. **Jenny** will circulate something similar via the Yahoo groups. **Liz** will put something on "Out in the UK".

Rebecca
Jenny
Liz

4. Chair's Report

a. Age Concern England

Jenny had attended a meeting at Age Concern England on Lesbian and Gay issues. It had been very interesting. She had spoken after lunch about BOLGaF: what we had achieved and what we had yet to achieve. Equally Jenny had learnt a lot: for example that Norwich Age Concern was advertising for a worker and that the Civil Partnerships Bill was going ahead "quietly".

Those attending at the meeting had wanted to know what support was needed from Age Concern for groups like ours. Jenny had suggested that literature should contain equal opportunities statements. She had told them that we had found our relationships with our local Age Concerns very useful.

b. Reading Borough Council Social Services Policy Review

Jenny had met with Sue da Costa, Tracey Newport, Melanie Burchill, David Yates and Dot Haywood. They had given Jenny a copy of their Corporate Aims and Objectives, which included one key service objective on sexuality. They had gone over the findings from the Conference and Jenny had brought to their attention the recent local government employers publication, "Sexuality – the New Agenda". Reading Borough Council are to see what other councils have already done, incorporate this into the policy review and then pass to us for comment.

The Steering Committee warmly welcomed the fact that Reading Borough Council was ensuring that the needs of older lesbians and gay men were being addressed.

In the future, the Forum will need to decide how to promote this work with Reading to the other unitary authorities once the process is over.

5. Treasurer's Report

Liz reported that the Forum had £610.35 in the bank and £13 in cash. Once the change-over in signatories had been completed, **Liz** would be able to reconcile with the bank statements would do an end of year statement.

Liz

6. Any Other Business

a. Web Site

Rebecca had arranged for "snap shot" statistics for the most recent 10 days to be available, which have information about how many people visit and some indication of how they came to the website.

It was agreed that we should renew the domain name. **Rebecca** would arrange this and produce an invoice.

Rebecca

b. More People

To generate the "new blood" talked about earlier in the meeting is was agreed that **Jenny** would draft a press release, based on the paper she had presented to the Age Concern England meeting, and **Liz** would ask her boss to suggests ways to make it more usable by newspaper editors. We would then follow up with small article which let people know that we were looking for more people to be involved.

Jenny
Liz

7. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting is to be held on **Thursday 22nd July, 2004** at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at 8.00pm.

Further Steering Committee Meetings will take place on:

Tuesday 7th September, at 8pm;

Thursday 21st October, at 8pm;

Tuesday 7th December, at 8pm.