

Gay/Straight Alliance Meeting Summary July 2008

Mission: “To create a more equitable and safe work environment for LGBT employees through increased awareness and education of all employees about sexual orientation and gender identity”.

- Welcome and introductions. A brief overview of the group’s mission was given for new members. Discussion to change the mission to read “To create a more and equitable and safe work environment for **all** employees through increased awareness and education about **diversity**, sexual orientation and gender identity”.
- Membership recruitment – Discussion was held of how to bring in new members. Currently meetings are posted through a distribution list of current members, City Information, GSA website and Hot Topics on the Intranet page. Some suggestions included:
 - Having a booth at the Benefit’s fair.
 - Having a member attend Tempe Essentials to introduce the Alliance group to new employees.
 - Give people a reason and a purpose of getting involved.It was decided to form a subcommittee to work on recruitment. James, Vince and Brandon volunteered to be on that committee.
- Education component – Members stressed that this is still an important goal although it will be a challenge. Valerie will schedule a meeting with the subcommittee before the next Steering Committee meeting during which the new LDP is being presented.
- Community Outreach – Members felt strongly that it is important to continue the community outreach. James volunteered to spearhead the efforts, but participation is needed from members. Discussion of future projects, including another Habitat for Humanity build, possibly partnering with TPDC for that, Sponsor a mile for street clean-up, and graffiti removal. Denise will follow up on the later two ideas.
- Hydration station- Members do want to move forward with the Hydration drive, it was decided that a money collection is easier and then the money will be used to purchase the water and deliver to CEDA. It was decided the water drive will run August 18-August 29th.
- Meeting Location- Group discussion held about where to hold the meetings. It looks like the group will continue to rotate locations, 1 downtown and 1 at the library complex. Some members voiced that they would like to find a place other than the program room since it so large, options shared were the Library Board Room, the Museum board room. It was decided to stay in the Program room

through the end of the year and look into finding an alternative location. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- August 27th – Library Program Room
 - September 24th – PW Admin Conference Room
 - October 29th – Library Program Room
 - November 19th – PW Admin Conference Room
 - No December Meeting
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- RK Update – Brandon provided an update regarding the RK incident. Rosa, Brandon, Don Fassinger met with representatives from ECHO magazine recently. RK has agreed to roll out an education program for their employees. Don Fassinger is committed to resolving this issue. ECHO magazine understands that RK is contracted with the city and holds no hard feeling against Tempe, they plan to return to TCA next year for their awards show.