**From:** Toby Johnson
**To:** Fahnestock, Sam
**Subject:** Toby Johnson will attend the meeting regarding the 4th and Colorado marker
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 9:04:32 AM

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Dear Mr Fahnestock,

I will call in just after 3:45 today to 1-844-992-4726

**Conference ID: 2481 794 2349**
**Password: 1113**

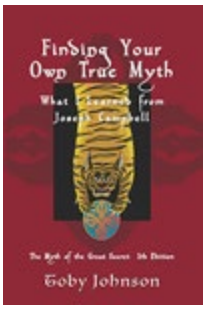
to speak with your committee about the 4th and Colorado Historical Marker.

I am in favor of the marker and have submitted sample text from the Austin LGBT Coalition on Aging effort in connection with the Austin History Center called The Memory Project: LGBTQ History in Austin TX.

I am pasting in the sample text below

My phone number is 512 450 8299

Toby Johnson
author, Gay Perspective, Secret Matter, Finding Your Own True Myth: What I Learned from Joseph Campbell, and more...
tobyjohnson.com



Sample text submitted

As queer as you want to be.

This historical marker commemorates the contributions, struggles, and successes of Austin's LGBTQIA+ community, whose once -denigrated members have always spanned all genders, races, classes, creeds, generations, and origins.

In earlier times, people lost their jobs, social standing, and sometimes even their lives for being sex- or gender-variant. Outside of the isolation of private homes, downtown bars and nightclubs offered secret, safe havens for LGBTQIA+ people to gather.

Social justice movements in the 1960s advancing the struggles for justice, acceptance, equality, and freedom for women and racial minorities gave rise to a national gay and lesbian rights movement. Austin was quick to respond. A local chapter of the Gay Liberation Front was founded in 1970, with the first National Gay Liberation Conference hosted here in 1971.

A vibrant culture evolved with restaurants, bars, retail shops, bookstores, theaters, churches and a wide variety of professionals and service providers. In the 1980s, a nightlife scene developed in the old warehouse district around 4th Street and Colorado. Clubs with drag shows, entertainment, and dances provided opportunities for gathering and community building. During the AIDS crisis of the 80s and 90s, the clubs offered occasions for sex education, counseling, and fundraising—and solace. In the 21st century, as the movement evolved to recognize all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and other segments of the community, these blocks of bars and coffee shops became integrated with the rest of downtown—much like the assimilation of queer representation into mainstream culture.

With many of the political and social dreams of the leaders of past decades realized, Austin remains a vibrant place for all communities to call home.

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