

Little Italy Association
General Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2013 - 8:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall – State & Date Streets –
San Diego, CA 92101

Board Members Present

Vito Altieri / Domenic Brunetto / Pat Brunetto / Charlie Coradino / Sandi Cottrell / Dino Cresci / Jim DeSpensa / Rollin Ellis / Steve Galasso / Larry Kuntz / Perry Meyer / Lou Palestini / Jack Pecoraro / James Pieri, Jr. / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Catt White

Board Members Excused

Marianne Brunetto / John Contasti / Danny Mocerri / Luke Vinci / Tom Zolezzi

Board Members Unexcused (absent)

Tommy Battaglia / Rich Gustafson

Guests

Danielle Stroud, SD City Attorney's office / Larry Campitiello, Sullivan Hill / Anne Eichman, LIRA / Joyce Summer, Cortez / Paula Kwast, ArtWalk / Rachel Gregg, Assembly Member Toni Atkins office / Cathynn Lewis, Villa Cusma / Jesse Navarro, District Attorney's office / Dominic Dugo, District Attorney's office / Jennifer DeCarlo, jdc fine art / Peggy Cooper, Airport Authority / Rollin Ellis, Ken Stern & Associates / Pete Molinari, guest / Janice Sherlock, The J. Sherlock Group Marketing & PR / Chris Hjerling, 98 Bottles / Tyler Blair, Embarkodero Dog Spa / Jim Alcantar, Embarkodero Dog Spa / Tania Fragomeno, resident / Nate Stanton, Craft & Commerce / Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / Joe Scaglione, Bay Inn & Suites / Nancy Nichols, The Waterfront

Staff (Non-Voting)

Marco Li Mandri, Chris Gomez, Rosie DeLuca

MINUTES

Introductions

Steve Galasso called the February meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. Board as well as guest introductions were made. The meeting was turned over to the Chief Executive Administrator, Marco Li Mandri.

December 7th, 2012 Minutes

Perry Meyer moved to accept the December 7, 2012 minutes. Larry Kuntz seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Civic San Diego

Joyce Summer reported that an election sub-committee meeting would be held this evening at the Lyceum Theatre.

SD City Attorney's office

Dani Stroud gave a report on homeless offenders.

District Attorney's office

Jesse Navarro and Dominic Dugo from the District Attorney's office introduced themselves to the Board. Dominic reminded the Board about the ongoing DA's Workers' Comp fraud campaign.

Assembly Member Toni Adkins office

Rachel Gregg updated the board on the current activities in the Assembly office.

Assembly Bill 5

Marco informed the Board about AB 5, the "Homeless Person's Bill Of Rights And Fairness Act". If enacted, this bill could have substantial impacts on Downtown and Little Italy residents, businesses and property owners.

SDPD

Suzy de la Pena gave a report on current activities in the district.

SDPD Assistant Chief Boyd Long's parting statements

Marco referred to a copy of an article in the Board packet regarding SDPD Assistant Chief Boyd Long's parting statements. Assistant Chief Long stated that some well-intentioned efforts regarding the downtown homeless are compassionate but misguided. He thinks any gifts of food or assistance must be connected with services.

Airport Authority

Peggy Cooper from the Airport Authority updated the Board on the progress of the Airport renovation.

LIRA

Annie Eichman updated the Board on projects/issues that LIRA is currently working on.

Our Lady of the Rosary

Fr. Joe informed the Board about the Fish Fry that would take place on Friday, February 15th.

Washington Elementary School Foundation

Lou Palestini reported on the involvement of Washington Elementary School with the upcoming Ferragosto.

Non-Agenda / Public Comment

Jim & Tyler from Embarkodero Dog Spa introduced themselves to the Board and spoke about the services they will be offering at the spa.

Who Am I?

New Board member Rollin Ellis spoke to the Board about his personal history and ties to Little Italy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Organization Committee:

Year to date financial report

Lou Palestini reported on the Association's year to date financial reports for November and December 2012. Vito Altieri moved to accept the reports. James Pieri, Jr. seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Discussion on Accounting Services

Charlie Coradino spoke to the Board about the possibility of hiring an in-house Operations Accountant/CPA to oversee Little Italy activities. He also stated that he and Marco would be meeting with an attorney specializing in Non-profit legal issues to talk about a whole range of issues including the bylaws, new contracts and agreements.

Ron Roberts Grant – Tuna Story Task Force with Tommy Zolezzi

Marco updated the Board on the plans for the “Tuna Story” that will be paid for in part by grant monies provided to the Association by Ron Roberts and would be placed on the side of the Princess Pub building.

School Site update

The parcels at Amici Park had to be redrawn; the process is almost complete. We are anticipating proceeding in the acquisition of the property within the year.

Wounded Warriors Dinner

Joe Scaglione updated the Board on the USO Wounded Warriors event to take place on Monday, February 25th that will culminate with dinner here in Little Italy. We will arrange for dinners in Little Italy restaurants for approximately 100 participants. Joe informed the Board that the USO is grateful for Little Italy’s support.

DISI Committee

Mercato update

Catt White reported on current Mercato activities.

Approve Expansion of Little Italy Mercato to Cul-de-Sac on W. Date & Kettner

Due to the growing need for an expansion of the Mercato footprint, Catt White has requested the Board’s formal approval on the expansion of the Mercato down to the Cul-de-Sac at W. Date & Kettner. Frank Spiriti moved to approve the expansion of the Mercato. Rollin Ellis seconded the motion. The Board voted almost unanimously in favor.

Catt White abstained from the vote.

Christmas Tree Lighting report

Marco reviewed the Profit & Loss for the Christmas Tree Lighting. Marco thanked Jim DeSpensa and his family as the first to sponsor a Toy Soldier which served as a kick-off to the program.

Carnevale update

Chris Gomez reported on the upcoming Carnevale that is scheduled for Saturday, February 9th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm.

Marco added that new red strand lights have been installed on India Street in honor of Valentine’s Day, Go Red for Women Month, and the Carnevale.

Approval for staff to discuss logistics with Gran Fondo and pull Special Events Applications in LIA’s name (April 14th)

Chris Gomez reported that Gran Fondo has a new owner/operator and they have begun negotiating with LIA on their upcoming event that is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 14 2013. Since they have requested to operate under LIA’s umbrella, the Special Events permit will be pulled under the Association name. We have requested that they provide the Association with a deposit that will cover City Services, Event Staffing, and Staff Administration.

Sandi Cottrell moved to proceed with the Gran Fondo event. Perry Meyer seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sicilian Festival Update

Marco stated that so far we have not received any information on this year's Sicilian Festival.

ArtWalk Update

Sandi Cottrell reported on this year's ArtWalk which is scheduled for April 27-28th. After this year they are losing Mission Federal as their title sponsor, Sandi asked that everyone keep their ears open for a replacement.

Next Legends Plaques

We are still waiting for photos, stories, and sponsorships on the next Legends Plaques.

Porto Siena HOA Presentation of Piazza Giannini – Reaction

Marco informed the Board that on November 15th, 2012, he spoke with the Porto Siena Owners Association about the Piazza Giannini proposed for the corner of India & Cedar Streets. The Porto Siena Owners Association has endorsed the Piazza concept, contingent upon there being no money required from the Association for the project.

Approve recommendation to have Cinema Little Italy cover their expenses and LIA cover logistics for Summer Film Festival

Chris informed the Board that the Association was approached by Cinema Little Italy, requesting that they work with the Association to hold a summer film festival at Amici Park. The films would be shown every Saturday night during the months of July and August. Cinema Little Italy will cover the licensing of all films and that LIA cover logistics, our expenses would be approximately \$800.00 per week. All door revenues will be split 50/50 between Cinema Little Italy and Little Italy. Dino Cresci moved to approve the Cinema Little Italy program. Catt White seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Approve La Jolla Playhouse to use the Little Italy logo

Chris spoke to the Board about the La Jolla Playhouse Without Walls scavenger hunt/play called ACCOMPLICE: SAN DIEGO. The event is scheduled to take place on the streets here in Little Italy for four days in March. The La Jolla Playhouse has requested permission for use of the Little Italy logo on their website. Jim DeSpensa moved to approve La Jolla Playhouse's use of the Little Italy logo for the ACCOMPLICE: SAN DIEGO event. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Approve recommendation to enter into a contract with Byron Wade and PPC for the maintenance of Little Italy Sign and Piazza Basilone paid with non-assessment district/unrestricted funds

Marco reported that we will begin doing upgrades to the Little Italy Sign, as well as the Piazza Basilone. We want to raise approximately \$30,000 for these costs. We want to hire Byron Wade to coordinate the upgrade projects, and would need to enter into an agreement with him to get the projects started. Charlie Coradino moved to approve entering into an agreement with Byron Wade. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Approve donation to King Chavez High School's Italian Trip for Student with 50% paid by Little Italy Mercato and 50% paid by non-assessment district/unrestricted funds

The DISI Committee is recommending that we donate \$1,600 from Mercato revenues (\$800 from SD Weekly Markets and \$800 from Little Italy Programs or savings) to fund an Italian Trip for a student of King Chavez High School. Charlie Coradino moved to approve the \$1,600

donation for the Italian Trip. Dino Cresci seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Approve Warby Parks Display donating \$4,000 to the LIA to have a display at HG Fenton Parking Lot:

Chris gave the Board a little background on Warby Parks. The DISI Committee is recommending that we allow Warby Parks to park their bus at the old Reader parking lot for \$1,000 a day for 4 days commencing on February 6th. This has already been approved by the Fenton Group, the new property owners. Sandi Cottrell moved to approve Warby Parks parking their bus at the Reader parking lot in Little Italy. Larry Kuntz seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Other

Articles

Marco mentioned two articles that were provided in the Board packet:

1. North County Times article on City's homeless problem
2. Little Italy Press Release on Little Italy Parking

Motion to adjourn

Luke Vinci moved to adjourn the February General Board meeting. Perry Meyer seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor.

Next Board meeting

The next General Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 5th, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall.

Minutes for Board meeting submitted by Rosie DeLuca, staff.