

**Little Italy Association**  
**General Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 4, 2014 - 8:30 a.m.**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall – State & Date Streets –**  
**San Diego, CA 92101**

Board Members Present

Vito Altieri / Jim Barone / Pat Brunetto / Marianna Brunetto / Charlie Coradino / Sandi Cottrell / Jim DeSpensa / Steven Galasso / Pasquale Ioele / Larry Kuntz / Perry Meyer / Danny Mocerri / Lou Palestini / Jack Pecoraro / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Luke Vinci / Catt White, James Pieri

Board Members Excused

Domenic Brunetto / John Contasti / Dino Cresci / Tom Di Zinno / Rollin Ellis / Rich Gustafson / Tom Zolezzi

Unexcused Absences:

Guests

Roger Ashworth, Washington Elementary School (WES) / David Koonin, WES / Cheryl David, WES / Tom Cervello, resident / Fred J. Simon, Jr., candidate / Callie Taylor, Chase / Dallas Stapleton, Chase / Marie Lewin, WES / Mario Garcia, Doubletree Hotel / Mark Shulman, The Physical Therapy Effect / Sean Christensen, ArtWalk / Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / Kevin Swanson, San Diego 2015 / Annie Eichman, LIRA / Brijet Myers, Mercato / Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office / Michael Angelo Venturella, guest / Kate Webb, Draw From within / Demetrios Sparacino, guest / Joseph Scaglione, guest / Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / Phil Bona, BNIM Architects / Jabbar Swinton, Acqua Vista HOA / Herb Bayard, Acqua Vista HOA / Jean Wiebusch, Acqua Vista HOA / Mike Parker, Four Points by Sheraton / Sumrall Howell, Hairy & Merry / Nicole Prieto, Juniper + Ivy / Rachel Gregg, Assembly Member Toni Atkins office / John Wead, Draw From Within / David Crum, WES

Staff (Non-Voting)

Marco LiMandri, Rosie DeLuca, Chris Gomez

**1. Introductions**

President Steve Galasso called the March 2014 meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Board as well as guest introductions were made. The meeting was turned over to the Chief Executive Administrator, Marco Li Mandri.

**2. February 4, 2014 Board Minutes**

Frank Stiriti moved to accept the February 4, 2014 Board minutes. Larry Kuntz seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

**3. Community Reports**

- Luke Vinci for Civic San Diego updated the Board on the Airport Authority issues.
- Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office reminded the Board to always report incidents to the SDPD. Marco reiterated the process: Take photo when possible, then make a statement, then send to Chris Gomez [Chris@LittleItalySD.com](mailto:Chris@LittleItalySD.com) who will then forward to the Police Dept. Incidents need to be documented to create a case number. The goal is to initiate stay-away orders to offenders, so if they are in violation then they can be arrested.

- Rachel Gregg, Assembly Member Toni Atkins office updated the Board on a new bill that was introduced to the Assembly.
- Suzy de la Pena, SDPD updated the Board on the current activities in the area. Also, a new bike patrol team started this week; they will patrol on Friday and Saturday nights from 6:00 – 10:00 pm. Marco asked Suzy to thank the new Captain for getting this handled so quickly.
- Annie Eichman, LIRA updated the Board on the SANDAG issue. The next LIRA meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Firehouse Museum.
- Fr. Joe Tabigue from Our Lady of the Rosary reported that the Fish Fry will be taking place on the first Friday of Lent. All are welcome.
- David Crum, WES updated the Board on the transition of the school into a Magnet for Science, Engineering, Arts & Math. Also, their 100-year Anniversary Dinner is coming up, David thanked all who are supporting the event. He asked if the Association could install a large street-spanning banner at Date & India Streets in May, they would pay for the banner. Marco indicated that this would not be a problem.

#### 4. Non-Agenda/Public Comment, Introductions and Announcements

- Kevin Swanson, from San Diego 2015 introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief background on himself.
- Suzy de la Pena, SDPD reminded everyone that tonight was the Mardi Gras celebration in the Gaslamp.
- Jean Wiebusch from Acqua Vista HOA asked if we could remove the metal tree grates in front of their property and replace with grass. She also asked if they could receive pressure washing services more frequently.
- Kate Webb from Draw From Within announced their Open House which would be taking place on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Perry Meyer from Meyer Fine Art reported that they will be showing new work from the 40's and 50's.
- Phil Bona from BNIM Architects announced that they will be showcasing Artist's work in their window on Hawthorn Street. He encouraged all to stop by to check it out.
- Meeting on North Little Italy will take place at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Little Italy office.
- Juniper and Ivy located at 2228 Kettner Blvd. is now open.
- Sumrall Howell from Hairy & Merry announced that they hope to be open for business on the week of the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Joe Scaglione on behalf of the Wounded Warriors thanked the Association and all restaurants who donated lunches for their help in feeding the troops.

#### 5. Committee Reports

*(Organization Committee) – Steve Galasso, Chair*

- Year to date financial report Lou Palestini, Treasurer, reported the YTD financials.  
*Motion: Danny Mocerri moved to accept the Year-to-date Financial Report. Sandi Cottrell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Report from Airport Authority Board on land use restrictions Luke Vinci reported that we must continue the work on the proposed restrictions though the Airport Authority. He reported that thanks to the work from Civic San Diego and the City of San Diego that the old restrictions have not been enforced.

- Meeting with Mayor Faulconer's staff Marco informed the Board that a meeting has taken place with Kevin Faulconer's staff regarding the following:
  - a. 4% overhead for MAD elimination in this FY
  - b. Parking District for Little Italy by June
  - c. Amici Park transfer from City to School District
  - d. In sourcing and expediting street parking changes, street sign blades, etc:
- Moving historic home from Date Street to Amici Park for public restrooms under the control of the Association Marco reported that Fenton will move the home on Date Street that has been identified as historically significant over to Amici Park, and then will convert it to restrooms. This will be a turn-key operation for the Association, which will make Amici Park more user-friendly. We are currently working with School Board Member Scott Barnett and Unified School Board Legal staff to work out this arrangement by June.
- Presentation of Street Car for Little Italy to SANDAG Chris Gomez reported that the Association has met with the SD Historic Street Car board, SANDAG and MTS about running a restored Street Car through Little Italy.
- BID Council update Chris updated the Board on the new restrictions on Food Trucks for the Gaslamp and Little Italy areas.
- Jeff Graham resignation from Civic San Diego Marco reported that Civic San Diego President Jeff Graham announced his resignation on Wednesday to take a job in the private sector. He reported that Jeff will be missed.
- Date for Annual Dinner, proposed as July 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>? Marco asked the Board if the date for the Annual Dinner should be July 23<sup>rd</sup> or July 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated later in the summer was always better. Larry Kuntz stated that the rooftop was available on both dates.
 

Motion: *Perry Meyer moved to set the date for the Annual Dinner to July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Sandi Cottrell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Should we have candidates for DA attend a Board meeting Since the Association will want to know the new DA's plan for dealing with homeless/psychiatric issues, Marco suggested that we invite the candidates for DA to attend a Little Italy board meeting. It would not be a debate, rather just the candidate's vision.
 

Motion: *Danny Mocerri moved to invite the DA candidates to a Board meeting. Larry Kuntz seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place – it was agreed that it would be all candidates, or none. Unanimously approved.*
- Renewal of Agreement with the City of San Diego to manage the Little Italy BID for FY 15 The City requires the Board's approval on the following items:
  - a. Approve LIA entering into an agreement with the City for FY 15
  - b. Designate Steve Galasso to sign the agreement
  - c. Designate Steve Galasso to sign the Reimbursement Requests
  - d. Designate Steve Galasso to sign the Program Reports

Motion: *Luke Vinci moved to approve all items in respects to renewal of the Agreement to manage the Little Italy BID for FY 15. Jim Barone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Fat City Neon Sign on ALSCO building The neon Fat City sign has been purchased by photographer Paul Nestor, and will be acquired by the Association. Marco asked Pat Brunetto if we could install the sign on the side of the ALSCO building (possibly funded by a grant from private parties). A granite plaque would be installed under the sign to provide a brief background on Tom Fat & Fat City. Pat indicated that it should not be a problem; he will confirm and report back.

*(DISI Committee) – Marianna Brunetto, Chair*

- Mercato Update Catt White updated the Board on the current activities of the Mercato.
- Banner program on Grape & Hawthorn Marco reported on a proposed Banner program for Grape & Hawthorn Streets. Costs would run at approximately \$8,000.00
- Olive PR Report Haley from Olive PR gave an update on Little Italy's PR. Casey gave a report on Little Italy's Social Media.
- ArtWalk, April 26 & 27 Sandi Cottrell reported on the upcoming ArtWalk event, it is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event. Sandi thanked all sponsors for their support.
- Taste of Little Italy, June Sandi reported on the upcoming Taste of Little Italy that is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Little Italy in the news:
  - a. SD Business Journal
  - b. Westways
- Little Italy Night with the Padres Luke Vinci reported that the proposed "Little Italy Night with the Padres" has been cancelled.

*(Parking Committee) – Luke Vinci, Chair*

- Proposed Bike Lanes on India Street Marco reported that new bike lanes are scheduled to be installed on the streets of Little Italy. They will not take out any lanes of traffic nor will they eliminate any parking spaces.
- Loss of parking at County and Date & Columbia Marco reported that since two parking lots that have been frequented by Little Italy guests have been closed for redevelopment, parking will be even more restricted.

*(Community Advisory Board) – Jack Pecoraro, Chair*

- Outdoor railing - update Marco reported that we are attempting to get the ABC to accept a new sidewalk "bookend" approach, as ABC is still requiring delineation. We are still trying to resolve and the issue is going to Sacramento for review.
- Queenstown NUP expansion, decision Marco reported that the Association will not support an NUP expansion until issues with their current NUP have been resolved.
- Bottlecraft outdoor seating at India & Juniper Marco reported that Bottlecraft has requested permission to utilize outdoor seating. The conditions of outdoor seating would be providing that they close the outside area at 10:00 pm.

*(Neighborhood Plan/Project Review) – Jim Barone, Chair*

- Fenton South project The project has been reviewed, notes have been forwarded to Civic San Diego.

*(Legacy Committee) – Charlie Coradino, Chair*

- 990's and Audit Marco reported that we need to send LIA's 990's and FY 13 Audit to Sullivan & Hill for their review.
- Need to hire Accountant As soon as funds can be identified, we will hire an in-house Operations Accountant.

6. Next Meeting: April 1st, 2014 – 8:30 a.m. OLR.

*Minutes for Board meeting submitted by Rosie DeLuca, staff.*