

Little Italy Association
General Board of Directors Meeting
May 7, 2013 - 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 / Dino Cresci / Jim DeSpenza / Tom Di Zinno / Rollin Ellis / Steve Galasso / Rich Gustafson / Larry Kuntz / Perry Meyer / Danny Mocerri / Lou Palestini / James Pieri, Jr. / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Luke Vinci / Catt White

Board Members Excused

Domenic Brunetto / John Contasti / Jack Pecoraro / Tom Zolezzi

Board Members Unexcused (absent)

Guests

Lauren Forgione, Citrus PR / Pasquale Ioele, Cassidy Turley / Brijet Myers, Mercato / Nathan Stanton, Craft & Commerce / Darren Roach, Queenstown / Annie Eichman, LIRA / Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / Janie Wardlow, Washington Elementary School / Diane Marquis, resident / Michelle Ross, 7-Eleven / Fe Damasco, 7-Eleven / Joseph Scaglione / Dani Stroud, SD City Attorney / Michelle Santangelo, Art 4 People / Jesse Navarro, DA's office / Luis Vargas, DA's office / Paula Kwast, ArtWalk / Ellie Lotfi / Dion Akers, SD City Council / Jose Carazo, Downtown News

Staff (Non-Voting)

Marco Li Mandri, Chris Gomez, Rosie DeLuca

MINUTES

Introductions

President Steve Galasso called the May 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.

April 2nd, 2013 Board Minutes

Danny Mocerri moved to accept the April 2nd, 2013 Board minutes. Frank Stiriti seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

DCPC

Luke Vinci reported that the Fenton project is currently going through redesign

City Attorney's office

Dani Stroud gave a brief update on homeless activity. A discussion took place regarding specific homeless individuals whom are creating a nuisance to the area. Dani reminded the Board that documentation is key. Marco and members discussed the situation with "Shawn", a mentally ill gentlemen that was creating problems in the community.

DA's office

Jesse Navarro introduced retired Judge Luis Vargas to the Board, he will serve as part of the DA's administration. Jesse mentioned that they would like to do a quick presentation to the Board on Identity Theft.

County Supervisor Ron Robert's office

A representative from County Supervisor Ron Robert's office informed the Board that the 14th Annual Lawnmower Trade-In Event will take place at 8:00 am on Saturday, May 11th at Qualcomm Stadium. Also, next month they will be presenting the plans on the Waterfront Park Plan to the Board.

SDPD

Suzy de la Pena reported that underground garage break-ins are on the rise. She reminded everyone to be diligent about locking vehicles and securing valuables.

Washington Elementary School

Janie Wardlow reported on the following school activities:

- As a result of the school's partnership with the Sullivan-Hill Law Firm, the school is able to take the 5th graders to the theatre
- With the help of the rent that Little Italy pays to the school for use of the parking lot on Saturdays, they are developing a School Garden
- Choir and ballet classes are also funded through rental funds
- School fundraiser to support the arts program will take place from 6:00-9:00 pm on Saturday, May 18th at Convivio Center in Little Italy
- Janie announced that she will be retiring on June 1st. She thanked the Association for everything that they have done for the school.

LIRA

Annie Eichman thanked the Association for the help with the Coffee with Councilman Todd Gloria. The next LIRA meeting will take place at 6:00 on 5/29 at the Firehouse Museum.

Letters

- A copy of a thank-you letter to Marco from Fr. Joe Tabigue regarding installation of the Pope Francis banners was provided to the Board in the packet. Marco thanked Luke for his inspiration on this, and acknowledged Chris and Luke for putting it together with him.
- Marco spoke about a letter from The San Diego Foundation and the check in the amount of \$315.27 that we received as a dividend from 2012.
- We received a letter from Frank Stiriti informing the Board that his business had been sold as of April 18th. Since his business and property had been sold, Frank offered to retire his seat on the Board. Marco solicited a motion that Frank's Board seat be changed from Property Owner to Community at Large. Luke Vinci moved to re-designate Frank's Board set from Property Owner to Community at Large. Dino Cresci seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Organization Committee:

Year to date financial report

Lou Palestini reported on the Association's year to date financial reports for March 2013. James Pieri, Jr. moved to accept the reports. Sandi Cottrell seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

School Site Update

We are still waiting to hear from Scott Barnett regarding the school site property at Amici Park. It is currently zoned as a park, so we may be the only bidder on the property.

Opening of Convivio, May 9th

The official grand opening of Convivio will take place on May 9th. For more information, you can visit their website at www.conviviosociety.org.

Update on Piazza and Landmark Sign fundraising – all Board members must raise funds

As per the Board's approval, we have entered into an agreement with Byron Wade to oversee the improvements at the Piazza Basilone and Landmark Sign. It is the responsibility of each Board member to help raise money for these projects; Chris has brochures that outline the contribution levels. We need to raise approximately \$40,000.00.

Meeting with the Mayor's Council Representative – Parking Ordinance, 4% City Admin fee, Parking District, "No Railings" for alcohol

Marco met with the Mayor's Chief of Staff Vince Hall regarding ongoing issues with the City. They discussed the following issues:

- Parking Ordinance amendments;
- 4% City Administration Fee taken by the Mayor's staff for oversight of the Maintenance District;
- A new Parking District for Little Italy;
- "No Railings" for alcohol serving in the public rights of way.

We have been working on these issues for years and hope to get these issues resolved soon.

BID Council changes

After 20 years, the Mayor has proposed that the City general fund no longer underwrite the BID Council staff. Chris is now the Vice President of the BID Council. Chris gave background on this issue. Marco stated that if BID Council staff was that important, all of the BIDs should contribute to funding that staff person – that it was not the City's job to do so.

AB-5, Ammiano Bill on Homeless Rights

Luke Vinci gave the Board background on AB 5, the Homeless "Bill of Rights". Luke explained that it is not in fact a Bill of Rights, rather a method of creating less civility in the public under the disguise of "rights". Bill would allow homeless to sleep, lodge, and defecate, etc. in the public right of way.

Tom Di Zinno added that it is a destructive bill for Police Officers because it takes away their rights to enforce the law. Tom recommended that we must contact our State Representatives voicing our opposition to the bill.

Marco stated that it has now gone to the Appropriations Committee and that the State cannot put in new mandates without funding; this is what is currently stalling the bill. He also reinforced that we would send letters to Marty Block and Toni Atkins stating our opposition.

Charlie Coradino moved that we oppose any efforts to pass AB 5. Tom Di Zinno seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place; we will write a letter to our State Rep's. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Nevada "Patient Dumping"

Marco informed the Board that San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera is suing the State of Nevada for systematically putting roughly 1,500 mentally ill patients on buses to California from July 2008 through March 2013. Apparently, Channel 10 did a similar story on the sending of mentally ill hospital patients from Las Vegas to San Diego too.

Annual Dinner date

This year's Annual Dinner is proposed for July 31st. Luke Vinci moved to accept July 31st as the date for this year's Annual Dinner. Catt White seconded the motion. Marco asked Dion Akers to put this on Councilman Gloria's calendar. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Letter to Civic San Diego on Solar Overlay Zone

Last month the Board voted in favor to write a letter to Civic San Diego regarding the Solar Industrial Overlay Zone, a copy of the letter was provided to the Board in the packet. Again, we have requested that any parcel north of Hawthorn on the west side of Kettner should be allowed to develop for any and all land uses, excluding residential land uses. Any parcel north of Hawthorn on the east side of Kettner would have full rights to develop residential and all other land uses.

Allocation of \$1500 from Programs Budget to hire A.J. Magana to review raw parking data and report to the Organization Committee

Marco reported that we have been requesting Parking Meter revenue data from the City. Marco reviewed a spreadsheet provided to us by Dion Akers. The data is a bit confusing, the numbers appear low. The Parking Ordinance states that there should be a 45-55% split.

Chris reported that last month Civic San Diego pulled the LIA Parking budget for FY 13-14 from the consent agenda and reduced \$160,000 of Little Italy's FY 14 proposed budget to accommodate for a shortfall in the overall budget. Staff did not recommend this, rather the Board made the recommendation on the spot. If this stands, our FY 14 budget will go from the proposed \$404,000 to \$260,000. Marco has obtained approval from the Organization Committee to hire A.J. Magana (previously of CCDCC) to review our raw Parking Meter revenue data, we have already requested the raw data from the City. Larry Kuntz moved to allocate \$1,500 from the Programs budget to hire A.J. Magana to review raw parking data. Luke Vinci seconded the motion. A discussion took place. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

DISI Committee

Mercato Update

Catt White updated the Board on the current activities of the Mercato. The 5 year anniversary of the Mercato is coming up.

Gran Fondo

Chris reported that this year's Gran Fondo was a good event. The Association should net approximately \$3,000.00 from this event.

ArtWalk

Sandi reported that they were very happy with this year's ArtWalk event that took place on April 27-28. Sandi announced that Paula Kwast would be leaving ArtWalk and moving on to a new venture. She publically thanked and acknowledged Paula for her great service over the past 8 years; Paula received a round of applause. Sandi then introduced Michelle as a new member to the ArtWalk team.

Ferragosto

Luke Vinci reported that May 31st would be the last day for Ferragosto Early Bird registration. Any Silent Auction donation items would be greatly appreciated!

Lou reminded the Board that they need to bring wine for the Association's donation for the Ferragosto silent auction.

Italian American Night with the Padres

Luke reported that the Organization Committee has reviewed and is supporting the Italian American Night with the Padres. Our only liability will be marketing and the cost of the street-spanning banner, which should be off-set by the ticket sales. Luke offered to personally underwrite any possible shortages to the Association. Lou Palestini moved to endorse the event. Frank Stiriti seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Taste of Little Italy

Sandi Cottrell spoke about the upcoming Taste of Little Italy that will take place on Thursday, June 13th. Tickets are now on sale. Since 28 Restaurants will be participating, we are now offering a north route, a south route, or the entire route. The event should once again sell out.

Festa Commission of Arts and Culture grant

Marco reported that the Association has been awarded \$29,000 from the Commission for Arts and Culture for FY 14 Festa.

Sidewalk Café Ordinance amendments

Marco asked Dion Akers where we were at with the "No Railings" provision. A discussion took place. The Association has been working on this issue for 3 years now and we are getting very impatient with the lack of progress on this issue.

Stickball

Sunday Stickball will be retiring in Little Italy, except for the bi-annual Labor Day Tournaments.

Parking Committee

Action of Civic San Diego Board on slashing parking budget to LI, motion to separate from Downtown parking District commencing July 1st, reaffirmation

Steve Galasso moved to oppose the recent actions of the Civic San Diego board, and reaffirm the separation of Little Italy from the Downtown Parking District commencing July 1st. Larry Kuntz seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Laura Garrett, using driveways for residents – process for approval

Marco is working with Laura Garrett to figure out a way to allow residents to use driveways.

Fenton parking proposal – in process

Fenton has requested that we come up with a proposal to manage their recently acquired parking lot at Columbia & Date Streets.

Community Advisory Board

Bambini en la Strada

We are currently working on the development of a weekly kid's event; both Luke Vinci and Laura Garrett are involved.

Upcoming projects to be reviewed:

- Old Ironside Building
- Juniper & Kettner (old Helix Wholesale Building)

SOBO Committee

Next Fiscal Year Budget

We will soon be reviewing our next fiscal year budget.

Legacy Committee

Determination of Legal Services

Marco and Charlie Coradino will investigate the need of Legal Services for the actions of the Legacy committee.

Building campaign for new piazzas

The Legacy committee will build a campaign to develop and fund new Piazzas in Little Italy.

Other

- Steve Galasso thanked Dion Akers for his help in getting the BID revenues back on track
- We will meet with Byron Wade today at 10:15 after the meeting to go over the improvements needed at the Piazza. All are welcomed to attend.

Motion to adjourn

Jim Barone moved to adjourn the May General Board meeting. Larry Kuntz seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Next Board meeting

The next General Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 4th, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall.

Minutes for Board meeting submitted by Rosie DeLuca, staff.