

Little Italy Association
General Board of Directors Meeting
Annual Meeting
September 10, 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 / Domenic Brunetto / Pat Brunetto / Marianna Brunetto / Charlie Coradino / Sandi Cottrell / Jim DeSpensa / Tom Di Zinno / Rollin Ellis / Steve Galasso / Larry Kuntz / Perry Meyer / Lou Palestini / James Pieri, Jr. / Frank Stiriti / Luke Vinci / Catt White

Board Members Excused

John Contasti / Rich Gustafson / Danny Mocerri / Jack Pecoraro / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Tom Zolezzi

Guests

Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / Sean Christensen, ArtWalk / Patricia Gallegos, Doubletree SD Downtown / Dion Akers, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria's office / Umberto Falcone, resident / Jim Bassi, SLLE SD / Mario Garcia, Doubletree Hotel / James Lawson, California Strategies / Dallas Stapleton, Chase Bank / Callie Taylor, Chase Bank / Lauren Prescott, County of SD / Brijet Myers, SD Weekly Markets / Pasquale Ioele, Cassidy Turley / Hayley Croop, Olive PR / Casey Puici, Olive PR / Jennifer De Carlo, jdc Fine Art

Staff (Non-Voting)

Marco LiMandri / Chris Gomez / Rosie DeLuca

Introductions

President Steve Galasso called the September 2013 Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Board as well as guest introductions were made. The meeting was turned over to the Chief Executive Administrator, Marco Li Mandri.

July 2, 2013 Board Minutes

Larry Kuntz moved to accept the July 2nd, 2013 Board minutes. Charlie Coradino seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Supervisor Robert Office

Lauren Prescott updated the Board on the following:

- Summer recess is over
- Flu shots will be offered throughout the County

SDPD

Suzy de la Pena updated the Board on the following issues:

- Bike thefts still occurring
- Vehicle break-ins, please do not leave valuables visible
- Be aware who you let follow you into a secure building

LIRA

Anne Eichman updated the board on the SANDAG Bus Rapid Transit issue.

Interim Mayor/Council President Todd Gloria's office

Dion Akers reported on the following issues:

- Council President Todd Gloria is currently serving as interim Mayor to the City of SD
- LIA MAD Reimbursement issues are being dealt with
- Restaurant sidewalk railings issues will be culminating soon
- Date Street Plaza, issues with the storm water line
- Civic SD Budget finance committee meeting regarding FY 14 Parking District
- Trip and Fall verbiage in City Contract with the Association and other MAD management corporations
- Non-renewal of Little Italy Commercial Package policy due to Trip and Fall verbiage in City Contract

Marco publically thanked Dion for all of the time and efforts that he has put in towards Little Italy.

NON-AGENDA / PUBLIC COMMENT

- James Lawson from California Strategies spoke about the expansion of the Convention Center and rooftop park. This item will go to the Coastal Commission on October 9-11, 2013. A Port of San Diego representative
- Jim Bassi from Sustainable Local Living Economies of SD gave a background to the board on his new business
- Articles – Marco referred to an article that appeared in the NY Times regarding the “Tightrope-thin strip of what remains of Little Italy (New York)”
- Marco acknowledged Larry Kuntz for having the security bars removed from the front of the Nelson Photo building

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Organization Committee:

Year to date financial report

Lou Palestini reported on the Association's year to date financial reports for June and July, 2013.

Marco spoke about the financial reports to explain deficits and 10% City of SD Little Italy MAD reserve requirement. The City of SD shorted us \$79,000 for FY 13 Reimbursements (1/2 of May and June) due to a 10 % reserve requirement. We have shown the City that we hold our reserves in our Savings account, so they have agreed to release the reserves. We are hoping to rectify the issues with the MAD income (4% City Admin and Reserve Requirement) in the very near future.

Vito Altieri moved to accept the financial reports. Luke Vinci seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Pin Collection Penalty Issue:

Lou Palestini brought up the issue of the \$5.00 “pin” collection for Board members who neglect to wear their Little Italy pin to Little Italy events. Lou asked for a sentiment of the Board, to see if they are still interested in the collection. The Board indicated that they are still in favor of the \$5.00 collection, so we will continue to do so.

Update from Nominations Committee

Nominations Committee has finished gathering nominations for Board seats for the FY 14 term. Jim De Spenza, Tom Di Zinno and Steve Galasso served on the Nominations Committee this year.

Report from Nominations Committee for nominations to the Board

Here are the recommendations from the Nominations Committee for 2013-2015 and 2014 Board Slate: (all candidates and nominees have met the bylaws requirement for serving on the Board);

2-Year Terms:

Business Directors:

1. Pat Brunetto
2. Steven Galasso
3. Larry Kuntz
4. Perry Meyer

Subtotal: 4

Property Owner Directors:

1. Vito Altieri
2. Domenic Brunetto / Stefano Brunetto as an Alternate
3. Marianna Brunetto
4. Charlie Coradino
5. Dino Cresci
6. Jim DeSpenza
7. Tom Zolezzi / Julius or Nathan Zolezzi as an Alternate
8. Pasquale leole (New)

Subtotal: 8

1-Year Term:

Community-at-Large Representatives

1. John Contasti
2. Rollin Ellis
3. Tom Di Zinno
4. Lou Palestini
5. James Pieri, Jr.
6. Frank Stiriti

Subtotal: 6

Residential Tenant Representatives

1. Luke Vinci

Subtotal: 1

Grand Total of Proposed new Board Members: 19

Marianna Brunetto motioned to accept the nominations as recommended by the Nominations Committee. Perry Meyer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Nomination of a new Treasurer for a 3-year term expiring in 2016

The current 2-year term for Treasurer is up for a new 3-year term. Luke Vinci nominated Lou Palestini as Treasurer for a 3-year term. Frank Stiriti seconded the motion. Marco requested more nominations for Treasurer. Hearing none, the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Update on Piazza and Landmark Sign fundraising

As previously mentioned, Marco reminded all Board members that they must help raise funds for the Piazza and Landmark Sign rehabilitation. Our current donation amount is at \$32,500, the goal is \$40,000. We are in the final phase of fundraising; the dedication will take place in November after the Board meeting.

Annual Dinner – Income & Expense

A copy of the Income & Expense report for the 2013 Annual Dinner was provided to the Board in the packet. The Association netted approximately \$4,000 from the event.

Taste of Little Italy Income & Expense

A copy of the Income & Expense report for the 2013 Taste of Little Italy was provided to the Board in the packet. The Association netted approximately \$12,000 from the event.

Support for Wounded Warriors Dinner

Joe Scaglione will be putting on dinners for the Wounded Warriors again this year and is seeking the Association's endorsement for his efforts. Marianna Brunetto moved to endorse Joe Scaglione's efforts for the Wounded Warriors dinner's. Sandi Cottrell seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ariel Suites Public Art on west wall

Joshua Hanna and Steve Donlan showed drawings for the Public Art planned for the west wall of the Ariel Suites. The public art depicts a fisherman pulling in a tuna. Marco thanked Joshua and Steve and Leo Frye for this excellent piece of public art which will be built on the western side of Ariel Stes, over the Trolley tracks. Tom Di Zinno moved to endorse the Public Art. Jim Barone seconded the motion. A brief 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.

Ferragosto

Luke Vinci reported on the outcome of the Ferragosto. The goal was to raise \$100,000.00; they were able to raise \$120,000.00 of which will be split between Little Italy, Our Lady of the Rosary, and Washington Elementary School. Marco congratulated Luke on the success of the event.

Community Advisory Board

Minutes

The minutes from the Community Advisory Board which took place on July 18th were provided to the Board in the packet.

SOBO Committee

Dog Bag sponsorship agreement, authorization to negotiate

We have been approached by Harry & Merry Pet Spa and Dog wash regarding a potential sponsorship for the Little Italy dog bags in the amount of \$8,000.00. Frank Stiriti moved to authorize staff to negotiate an agreement to underwrite the costs of the bags. Jim Barone seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Neighborhood Plan/Project Review

Date Street Piazza final review

A conceptual plan on the proposed Date Street Piazza was distributed to the Board. A task force meeting regarding the Piazza will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 17th at 6:00 pm at the Fenton building. This will possibly be the last opportunity to weigh in on the design, so Marco encouraged all interested parties to attend the meeting.

Legacy Committee

Pending RFPs based upon accounting and legal services

Marco informed the board that he and Charlie Coradino are in the processing of reviewing RFPs that were submitted to the Association for accounting and legal services.

County Park Update and Presentation of Plan

Marco spoke briefly about the County Park, and then introduced Sal Giametta from the County of San Diego. Sal gave a brief overview of the project:

- Project is 13 years in the planning
- Underground parking lot on the South Side of property is near completion
- Entire project is expected to be complete in May 2014

Sal then introduced Charlie Marcasano, Project Manager for the Waterfront Park. Charlie showed diagrams of the project and spoke about the elements of the park. The park is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2014. Discussion followed. Everyone thanks Sal and Supervisor Roberts for getting this great addition to the County building and the waterfront done so quickly.

Next Board meeting

The next General Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 1st, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall.

Motion to adjourn

Luke Vinci moved to adjourn the September General Board and Annual meeting. Rollin Ellis seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes for Board meeting submitted by Rosie DeLuca, staff.