

**Little Italy Association**  
**General Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 8, 2014 - 8:30 a.m.**  
**Convivio Center**  
**2157 India Street**  
**San Diego, CA 92101**

**Board Members Present**

Jim Barone / Marianna Brunetto / Tom Cervello / Sandi Cottrell / David Crum / Jim DeSpensa / Steve Galasso / Rich Gustafson / Pasquale Ioele / Larry Kuntz / Perry Meyer / Danny Mocerri / Lou Palestini / Jack Pecoraro / James Pieri, Jr. / Frank Stiriti / Luke Vinci / Catt White

**Board Members Excused**

Vito Altieri / Pat Brunetto / John Contasti / Charlie Coradino / Dino Cresci / Tom Di Zinno / Rollin Ellis / Demetrios Sparacino / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Tom Zolezzi

**Guests**

Annie Eichman, LIRA / Sean Christensen, ArtWalk / Scott Gray, Porto Vista Hotel / John Falcone, Sal D'Aquisto Real Estate Group / Madeleine Falco, Intrax English Institute / Jayne Barnett, Washington Elementary School / Michelle Proctor, ArtWalk / Rachel Gregg, Speaker of the House Toni Atkins office / Becky Mendoza, San Diego Private / Anthony Torregiani, Sal D'Acquisto Real Estate Group / Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office / Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / Michael Zarconi, SHLRE / Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / John Morris, SDPD / Umberto Falcone, resident / Brijet Myers, Little Italy Mercato / Jeri Keiller, resident / Denis Desmond, MTS / Don Varley, MTS / Erick Smith, 7-Eleven / Stephanie Lloyd, Mission Federal / Sally Preston, Mission Federal / Susan Ranft Keating, guest / John La Raia, HG Fenton / Kate Webb, Draw From Within / Vincent Ferner, McMillin / Nate Cadieux, McMillin / Budge Missan, 7-Eleven / Victor Garcia, 7-Eleven / Fe Damasco, 7-Eleven

**Staff (Non-Voting)**

Marco LiMandri, Rosie DeLuca, Chris Gomez

**1. Introductions**

President Steve Galasso Mocerri called the September 2014 meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Board as well as guest introductions were made. The meeting was turned over to the Chief Executive Administrator, Marco Li Mandri (non-voting).

**2. July 1, 2014 Board Minutes**

Frank Stiriti moved to accept the July 1, 2014 Board minutes. Luke Vinci seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

**3. Community Reports**

- Julio DeGuzman from the City Attorney's office reminded all to always report incidents to the SDPD Non-Emergency line (619) 531-2000
- Rachel Gregg from Speaker of the House, Toni Atkins office updated the Board on current Assembly activities.
- Suzy de la Pena from SDPD updated the Board on incidents in the area.
- Annie Eichman from LIRA informed the Board on their next meeting where Scott Peters and Carl De Maio will be speaking.
- Principal David Crum from Washington Elementary School (WES) updated the board on current school activities.

- Tom Cesarini from Convivio Reminded the Board that the Convivio location is available to rent for parties and meetings. For more information, visit their website at [www.conviviosociety.org](http://www.conviviosociety.org).

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

- Anthony Napoli reported that the Labor Day Stickball Tournament was a great success.
- Sally Preston from Mission Federal Credit Union announced the opening of a new branch in Little Italy at 1370 India Street.
- Madeleine Falco from Intrax English Institute reported that she is doing Community outreach for the Institute which teaches the English language.
- Perry Meyer from Meyer Fine Art invited all to visit his gallery for the Italian Poster exhibit to be held from October – December, as well as the Dali Exhibit which has been extended through September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Amici Pet Hospital will be holding their Open House on October 11<sup>th</sup>
- Scott Gray from Porto Vista Hotel introduced himself.
- Nathan Cadieux from Mc Millin Company informed the Board that they recently closed escrow on a property at between Columbia & State Streets which will be developed into a new Apartment Complex.

#### 5. Committee Reports

##### **(Organization Committee) – Steve Galasso, Chair**

- Year to date financial report: Lou Palestini reported on the YTD financials for June '14 and July '14.  
*Motion: Luke Vinci moved to accept the Year-to-date Financial Reports. Frank Stiriti seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Approval of Programs Budget FY 2014-2015  
The DISI Committee is recommending approval of the Programs budget that was provided to the Board in the packet.  
*Motion: Perry Meyer moved to approve the Programs budget as presented. Luke Vinci seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Update on School Board decision designating Amici Park as surplus property  
Marco reported that on July 29<sup>th</sup>, the SD Unified School District voted to designate Amici Park as a Surplus Property. We will write a letter to them expressing our desire to enter into a 66-year lease for the property.
- Annual Dinner Income and Expense Report Marco reported that this year's Annual Dinner was a great success, and thanked Larry Kuntz once again for allowing the Association to use the rooftop of Nelson Photo for the event. The event netted \$5,600.00.  
*Motion: Marianna Brunetto moved to accept \$5,600.00 as the net profit for the Annual Dinner. Danny Mocerri seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

- Launching District Management Alliance to solve property assessment district issues with the City Marco updated the Board on the process of which MAD funds are received from the City of San Diego. A District Management Alliance will be formed with its function to bring issues to the City and Mayor's office. He asked that the Board endorse this effort to create the new Alliance.

Motion: *Marianna Brunetto moved to authorize staff to move forward with the formation of the District Management Alliance. Rich Gustafson seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. Unanimously approved.*

- BID Court Case Marco updated the Board on the Corey Briggs Case, where he is suing the City of San Diego claiming that BID assessments are improperly imposed illegal taxes
- Covering Cost of Marco to attend "Project for Public Spaces" Conference in Pittsburgh, not to exceed \$2,000 – paid from Programs budget Marco reported that in the past the Board has covered the costs for Annual conference such as these. The Org Committee is recommending that we cover his direct travel costs for this year's conference. The amount covered is not to exceed \$2,000.00, and will come from the Programs budget.

Motion: *Catt White moved to approve covering the cost of Marco to attend the "Project for Public Spaces" conference, not to exceed \$2,000.00 Perry Meyer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

**(DISI Committee) – Marianna Brunetto, Chair**

- Mercato Update Catt White updated the Board on the current activities of the Mercato.
- Olive PR gave an update on PR work done for Little Italy last month.
- Agreement with Mossy Fiat We would like to enter into an agreement with Mossy Fiat for a \$15,000 sponsorship that will be split between the Mercato and Festa.

Motion: *Luke Vinci moved to approve entering into an Agreement with Mossy Fiat for a \$15,000 sponsorship. Perry Meyer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

**(Parking Committee) – Luke Vinci, Chair**

- Parking conversion status Marco report that we are in the process of converting from Diagonal to Perpendicular parking spots on the side streets of the district.
- Authorize the use of \$25,000 in Parking district revenues to fund the Street Car planning document for Little Italy Marco reported that staff is recommending that the Association contribute \$25,000 in Parking District revenues to fund the Street Car Planning Document for Little Italy.

Motion: *Danny Mocerri moved to authorize the use of \$25,000 in Parking District Funds to help fund the Street Car Planning document.*

*Perry Meyer seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. Unanimously approved.*

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

- Update on outdoor railings issue with the ABC We are still working on this issue. San Diego is one of the only cities with railing requirements. Marco reported that Alameda, San Francisco, Solano and Contra Costa County allow for outdoor alcohol serving without barriers.

**(Sidewalk Operations, Beautification and Order – (SOBO) – Rich Gustafson, Chair**

- Meeting A meeting will be taking place soon.

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

- Caliber Auto Body site development by CityMark Will meet soon on this project.

**(Legacy Committee) – Charlie Coradino, Chair**

- Moving Piazza Pescatore due to inability to reach agreement with Broadstone Alliance on the south side of building for Piazza Marco reported that due to the inability to reach an agreement with Broadstone regarding the Piazza Pescatore, we have decided to look for a new location for this project. The staff would like to find an alternate location and send to the DISI Committee

Motion: *Danny Mocerì moved to authorize staff to find a new location for the Piazza Pescatore. Jim Barone seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. Unanimously approved.*

- Authorization to enter into agreement for Crowdfunding effort with Catt White Marco reported that we would like to enter into an agreement for Crowdfunding with Catt White in order to fund the Tom Fat project on the side of the Alsco building. Catt would receive a commission on all funding received through this program.

Motion: *Frank Stiriti moved to authorize entering into an agreement with Catt White for Crowdfunding. Perry Meyer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

6. **SANDAG presentation on the Bus Rapid Transit overlay lot and its impact on Downtown** Representatives from SANDAG gave a presentation on their plans for a new office building location that would be combined with the bus lot. The Board gave feedback on the project, and offered alternatives to the bus lot.
7. **Next meeting:** October 7, 2014 – 8:30 a.m. at or Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall (Meeting date later changed to September 30<sup>th</sup> through recommendation of Organization Committee)

Danny Mocerì moved to adjourn September Board meeting. Lou Palestini seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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