

Little Italy Association
General Board of Directors Meeting
April 7, 2015 - 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall
1654 State Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Board Members Present

Vito Altieri / Domenic Brunetto / Pat Brunetto / Tom Cervello / John Contasti / Sandi Cottrell / David Crum / Jim DeSpenza / Steve Galasso / Rich Gustafson / Larry Kuntz / Perry Meyer / Danny Mocerri / Lou Palestini / Jack Pecoraro / James Pieri, Jr. / Demetrios Sparacino / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Luke Vinci / Catt White

Board Members Excused

Jim Barone / Marianna Brunetto / Charlie Coradino / Dino Cresci / Tom Di Zinno / Pasquale Ioele / Tom Zolezzi

Guests

Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / Pete Molinari, resident / Mark Shulman, The Physical Therapy Effect / Annie Eichman, LIRA / Curt Brooker, ArtWalk / Umberto Falcone, resident / Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / Mike Zarconi, Sullivan-Hill / John Falcone, Sal D'Acquisto Realty / Sumrall Howell, Hairy & Merry / Terry Carrilico, resident / Michele Basile, resident / Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office / Jeri Keiller, resident / Crystal Van Lom, Amici Pet Hospital / Robert Jones, SD Downtown News / Jodi Dolcett, Attorney / Susan Keating, resident / Joe Scaglione, USO / Madeleine Falco, Intrax English Programs / Anthony Bernal, Todd Gloria's office / Christopher Morgan, Hairy & Merry

Staff (Non-Voting)

Marco LiMandri, Rosie DeLuca, Chris Gomez

1. Introductions

President Steve Galasso called the April 2015 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 (non-voting).

2. March 3rd, 2015 Board Minutes

Frank Stiriti moved to accept the March 3, 2015 Board minutes. Perry Meyer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

3. Community Reports

- Julio DeGuzman from the SD City Attorney's office spoke briefly about how public offenders are dealt with in their office.
- Anthony Bernal from Todd Gloria's office spoke briefly on the following issues:
 1. Water
 2. Audit Committee
 3. MAD Budget
 4. Lights under bridges. Chris Gomez reported that we need to flood the bridge underpass ways with lighting, to discourage homeless from sleeping there. Marco asked about the timeline on this, it would be considered extraordinary security. Also, we would like to be considered for a water re-use pilot area.

5. Roaming Valet. Chris reported on the requirements needed to operate a valet service in Little Italy; however Ace has implemented a “roaming valet” service which bypasses all local regulations and codes. He stated that we should not be held to a higher standard of operating our valet while others can simply park and pick up cars.

Motion: James Pieri, Jr. moved to authorize staff to write a letter to the City of SD citing Ace’s violation of codes. Jack Pecoraro seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- Suzy de la Pena from the SDPD reported on the following issues:
 1. Homeless in Little Italy
 2. Rock & Roll Marathon will take place on May 31st
 3. Bike thefts, they are an easy target
 4. ATM use – be diligent
 5. New law regarding tow trucks, person requesting tow must now sign paperwork to have a vehicle towed
 6. Scavenger hunts – a brief discuss took place.
- Annie Eichman from LIRA informed the Board of the next LIRA meeting that will take place on Thursday, April 23rd at the Firehouse Museum.
- Fr. Joe Tabigue from Our Lady of the Rosary thanked the Association for the Easter parking accommodations.

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

- Richard Bregante from the SD History Center at Balboa Park spoke about a Balboa Park Centennial celebration that will take place on April 26th at the Town & Country Hotel. Richard asked for supporters from some of the old time families to consider supporting the effort.

5. Committee Reports

(Organization Committee) – Steve Galasso, Chair

- Year to date Financial Report Lou Palestini reported on the YTD financials for March 2015.

Motion: Jim DeSpenza moved to accept the Year-to-date Financial Reports. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- Working with Jeri Keiller on working on the accounts Marco reintroduced Jeri Keiller to the Board. Jeri will be working with Rosie and Lou on the Little Italy accounting, and the standardization of financial reports.
- Letter from San Diego Foundation on interest Marco reported that our semi-annual earnings from the San Diego Foundation were \$230.51.
- Letter on lighting of bridges, from surplus parking meter revenues Marco referred to a copy of a letter that was (provided in the Board packet) sent to Anthony Bernal requesting the use of Parking District Surplus Finds to provide maximum allowable LED lighting for the State Street, Hawthorn Street, and Grape Street Bridge underpasses.
- Postponement of Casino Night, new planned date (to be determined) Marco informed the Board that a meeting will take place today in effort to set a new date for Casino Night.
- Progress on issues with Senator Block: (sound wall, Cal Trans lot, railings) Marco reported that they are currently in a holding pattern on the issues proposed to Senator Block.

- USO Award – Joe Scaglione Joe Scaglione presented the Association with an award for all of our efforts towards the “Healing Warriors”.

(DISI Committee) – Marianna Brunetto, Chair

- Mercato Update: Catt White updated the Board on the current activities of the Mercato.
- Olive PR Report, San Diego Magazine cover: Courtney gave an update on PR Activities, as well as Social Media. Also, the “Storage Wars” episode that was filmed in Little Italy will air on April 8th at 9:30, and the National Geographic episodes on the Festa will air on 4/25 and 5/2 at 8:00 pm.
- Ferragosto sponsorships and update: Luke Vinci gave an up-to-date report on Ferragosto sponsorships. They are currently seeking ad sponsors.
- ArtWalk Sandi Cottrell gave a report on ArtWalk, which will take place on April 25th & 26, 2015.

(Parking Committee) – Luke Vinci, Chair

- Application for use of surplus parking meter revenues in Little Italy - status Marco reported that funds that are not spent in community Parking Districts will be taken back. We have put in an application to use them here in Little Italy.
- Downtown Mobility Plan: Luke Vinci reported on the bike lanes designated in Little Italy. A discussion took place.

(Community Advisory Board) – Jack Pecoraro, Chair

- Letter to SDPD Vice on alcohol permits: Marco referred the Board to a copy of a letter and reviewed it for new alcohol permits in Little Italy.
- Opposition to Rite Aid hours: Rite Aid has filed a permit requesting extended sale hours for alcohol for their location at 1411 Kettner Blvd., both LIA and LIRA wrote letters in opposition to the permit request.
- Bracero hours, Ariel Suites: The DISI Committee endorsed the Bracero concept, hours and plan for the proposed restaurant.

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

- Meeting with City on budget, mandated reserve This issue has not yet been resolved, Marco will attend another meeting tomorrow to try and get our MAD Reserve Requirement eliminated.
- Consideration of 5% increase for next 3 years Marco reported that we are recommending a 5% increase in MAD Assessments to keep up with the increased costs of managing the homeless. This will go to the SOBO Committee for a recommendation to the Board.

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

- Broadstone report on use of outdoor space – update on encroachment : Marco reported that we are looking into a possible encroachment permit on the corner of Fir and Kettner.

(Legacy Committee) – Charlie Coradino, Chair

- John Asaro Art Show: Marco reported that John Asaro has offered to hold an Art Show, with 50% of all proceeds to go to Little Italy towards the Piazza Famiglia. The show will be held at Meyer Fine Art and will begin on July 9th, a reception on

July 18th, and will conclude on August 1st. Perry Meyer added that we need to get as many people to the show as possible.

- Hole in One Event: _ This event has been postponed to a later date.

(Project Review)

- Lennar Project: _Marco reported on the Lennar Project proposed for Columbia Street, between Ash & Beech Streets.

6. Other

- None

7. Next meeting: May 5, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. at or Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall

- Danny Mocerri moved to adjourn April Board meeting. John Contasti seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Minutes for Board meeting submitted by Rosie DeLuca, staff.