



**Little Italy Association**  
**General Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 5, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall**  
**1654 State Street - San Diego, CA 92101**

**Board Members Present**

Vito Altieri / Jenn Borba von Stauffenberg / Marianna Brunetto / Tom Cervello / Charlie Coradino / Sandi Cottrell / Dino Cresci / Jim DeSpensa / Steve Galasso / Rich Gustafson / Pasquale Ioele / Perry Meyer / Christopher Morgan / Lou Palestini / James Pieri, Jr. / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabiguo / Luke Vinci / Catt White / Tom Zolezzi

**Board Members Excused**

Jim Barone / Domenic Brunetto / Pat Brunetto / John Contasti / David Crum / Tom Di Zinno / Danny Mocerri / Jack Pecoraro / Demetrios Sparacino

**Guests**

Ted Keiller, resident / Jayne Barnett, WES / Sumrall Howell, Hairy & Merry / Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / John Pergolizzi, Our World Friend Charity / John Falcone, Sal D'Acquisto Realty / Loreto Di Cesare, Filmmaker / Cermana Valentini, Filmmaker / Cheree Hazel, T-Short Galleries / Rosalie Andrews, Retail Insite / Sean Christensen, ArtWalk / Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / Marlo Woods, SDPD / Julio De Guzman, City Attorney's office / Mark Shulman, PT Effect / Tom McMahan, Porto Vista Hotel / Brijet Myers, Mercato / Susan Keating, LIRA / Alissa Gabriel, City of San Diego / Nate Benedetto, Strom Commercial / Caroline Song, City Attorney's office / Mike Zarconi, SHLRE / Crystal V., Amici Pet Hospital / Umberto Falcone, resident / Clarisa Elmore, WES / Michele Brone / Joe Scaglione, USO / Kate Webb, Draw From Within / Anthony Napoli, AMN Real Estate / Roberto Alcantar, Senator Marty Block's office

**Staff (Non-Voting)**

Marco LiMandri, Rosie DeLuca, Chris Gomez, Jeri Keiller

**1. Introductions**

President Steve Galasso called the April 2016 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 1, 2016 Board Minutes**

Frank Stiriti moved to accept the March 1, 2016 Board minutes. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

**3. Community Reports**

- Luke Vinci on behalf of DCPC thanked everyone for attending the recent meeting on the Downtown Mobility Plan. Luke gave a brief report on the meeting outcome.

**LITTLE ITALY ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO**

- Julio De Guzman from the City Attorney's office reported that Caroline Song is a new prosecutor at the City Attorney's office, and gave a brief explanation of the Community Courts process.
- Anthony Bernal from Councilmember Todd Gloria's office reported on the following issues:
  - Revisions to MAD Ordinance will go to City Council on 4/17 or 4/18
  - Downtown Mobility Plan will go to City Council in May
  - FY 17 Budget is in process
- Susan Keating from LIRA gave a brief report on the last meeting.
- Fr. Joe Tabigue from OLR gave updates on Church issues.
- Jayne Barnett from WES informed the Board that they are involved in the Downtown Mobility Plan, they have the potential to lose school parking if it goes through as-is. They are still looking for car sponsors for their Van Go event, and are also looking for restaurants to donate food for the event.
- Suzi de la Pena from SDPD gave the following updates:
  - Vehicle break-ins
  - Moving over to PD Special Events
  - New Community Relations Officer will be Marlo Woods

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

- Tal Moore from e-popcorn introduced himself to the board
- Alissa Gabriel from the City of SD Storefront Improvement Program introduced herself to the board. Alissa advised that the City's Storefront Improvement grants will pay 50% of improvement costs, up to \$8,000
- Cheree Hazel from T-Short Galleries announced that her business will be opening on or around May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Kate Webb from Draw From Within spoke about her art therapy studio
- Little Italy Endowment check from The San Diego Foundation Marco informed the Board that we received our semi-annual endowment check from The San Diego Foundation.

#### 5. Committee Reports

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

- YTD Financial Report: Lou Palestini gave a YTD financial report.  
Motion: *Sandi Cottrell moved to accept the YTD financial report. Jenn Borba von Stauffenberg seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Joe Cordileone confirmation vote to serve on the Board, first meeting in May 2016 The Org Committee is recommending the appointment of Joe Cordileone to the Little Italy Board of Directors.  
Motion: *Marianne Brunetto moved to appoint Joe Cordileone to the Little Italy Board of Directors. Dino Cresci seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

- Casino Night – status Chris Gomez reported that we are inquiring about the use of the roof of the County Parking Structure to hold the Little Italy Casino Night. We are looking at June or July.
- Issues at Piazza Famiglia with City Attorney’s office Marco is currently working with the City Attorney’s office regarding the agreement to manage the new Piazza Famiglia on Date Street at the Fenton property on India & Columbia Streets.
- Update on Cal Trans lot leasing for Nursery Marco reported that we are still in negotiation with Cal Trans regarding the triangular lot across from the Little Italy office.
- Authorization to pursue a \$100,000 line of credit with Torrey Pines Bank for repayment of MAD advance Marco reported that we are looking into opening a Line of Credit from Torrey Pines Bank in order to pay off the MAD Advance, which is due on June 30, 2016. We currently owe \$80,000 on the advance, but if a new ordinance is passed then our \$34,000 admin fees will be reduced to \$3,500. The \$30,000 that is saved in admin fees will be applied to the advance due, leaving a balance of \$50,000. The Org Committee is recommending that Lou negotiate with Torrey Pines Bank regarding the Line of Credit.  
*Motion: Luke Vinci moved to authorize Lou Palestini to negotiate a Line of Credit with Torrey Pines Bank. Frank Stiriti seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Invite Anthony Bernal and Chris Ward, District 3 Candidates to address the Board in May at the Monthly meeting The Org Committee is recommending that we invite both Anthony Bernal and Chris Ward to the May Board meeting.  
*Motion: Catt White moved to authorize LIA Staff to invite candidates Chris Ward and Anthony Bernal to speak at the May Board meeting. Tom Zolezzi seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Roberto Alcantar from Senator Marty Block’s office reported on the following issues:
  - Will have a status update on triangular lot by end of the day today
  - Sound Wall at Washington Elementary School – trees can be used to help with school barrier and can be financed via “Cap & Trade” funds.
  - Senator Block will not seek reelection

Marco publically thanked Roberto and the Senator’s office for the progress made on these pending issues.

***(DISI Committee) – Christopher Morgan, Chair***

- Review of Minutes Christopher Morgan updated the Board on decisions made at the recent DISI Committee meeting.
- Mercato Update Catt White updated the Board on current Mercato activities.
- Olive PR Report Courtney Rose updated the Board on current PR and Social Media activities.

- Upcoming ArtWalk Sandi Cottrell reported on the upcoming ArtWalk event that will take place on 4/30 & 5/1.
- VanGo! Event Support Marco informed the Board that Washington Elementary School has asked Little Italy to supply the maintenance for their VanGo! Event that will take place in June.  
*Motion:* Luke Vinci moved to approve authorize the Association to provide WES event support for their VanGo! Event. Marianna Brunetto seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- Memorial Day Stickball Tournament The Stickball crew would like to add a Memorial Tournament in Little Italy. The DISI Committee is recommending that we write a letter of support for this new event, it would be contingent upon support from the adjacent property owners. Board members wanted to ensure that affected residents will know about this Sunday game on Columbia Street.  
*Motion:* Perry Meyer moved to authorize the Association to write a letter of support in regards to a new Memorial Day Stickball Tournament. Marianna Brunetto seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- New Website Chris Gomez reported that the new redesigned Little Italy website is up and running.
- Hairy and Merry pop-up shop at Amici Park Hairy & Merry is running a pop-up shop at Amici Park, on a trial basis. More information to follow.

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

- Update on Amici Dog Park crowdfunding launch – timeline Catt White reported that the crowdfunding program to benefit the Amici Dog Park has been launched.
- Medical Marijuana Store in Little Italy – Status Marco reported that he has been informed that a new Medical Marijuana Store has opened in Little Italy. Annie Eichman added that the property is in escrow, so we aren't sure what will happen to the store.
- Lofty's notes Marco reported on the discussions held at the CAB Committee meeting regarding Lofty's Coffee planned for the old Operating Engineer's building at the corner of Cedar & Columbia.
- Civic San Diego ruling on Entrada Luke reported that Civic San Diego has withdrawn the CUP for Entrada, so they can no longer have live music or dancing.

***(SOBO Committee) – Rich Gustafson, Chair***

- New CBD meeting to go over YYD budget, increase for next year, setting FY 17 budget A meeting will take place soon to set the FY 17 budget.
- Security issues along State Street There have been ongoing issues with security and homeless along State Street, we are investigating ways to deal with this.
- City County effort on mental health housing – meeting with Nicola Macchione Marco reported that Nick from the County of San Diego will present to the Board to discuss ways to deal with the mentally ill.

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

- Status of Piazzas: LoVecchio, Giannini, Costanza, Pescatore, Tom Fat Charlie reported that we are currently in meeting phases regarding development of these new Piazzas. We will be launching fundraising campaigns and working with donors to fund these piazzas.

**(Finance Committee) – Marianna Brunetto & Tom Cervello, Co-Chairs**

- Upcoming meeting The next Finance Committee meeting will take place on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am
- Approval of NCA agreement A copy of the Closed Session minutes approving the NCA agreement were provided to the Board in the packet.
- Proposal for Dog Wash with Hairy and Merry at Amici Park A pilot program with a pop-up shop has been launched. The Finance Committee will consider the results and report back to the Board in May.

**6. CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER PENDING LEGAL ISSUES IN THE FORM OF A LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION:**

**7. Report from Closed Session, announce decision of the Board to the public** The Motion: *Jim DeSpenza moved to re-adjourn the Board meeting to the public. Catt White seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

The Board meeting was re- adjourned, and the decision of the Board was announced to the public.

**8. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall.

**9. Motion to adjourn**

Motion: *Steve Galasso moved to adjourn the April Board meeting. Sandi Cottrell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

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