

**Little Italy Association**  
**General Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 5, 2015 - 8:30 a.m.**

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

**Board Members Present**

Vito Altieri / Jim Barone / Domenic Brunetto / Marianna Brunetto / Tom Cervello / John Contasti / Sandi Cottrell / Dino Cresci / Jim DeSpensa / Tom Di Zinno / Steve Galasso / Rich Gustafson / Pasquale Ioele / Larry Kuntz / Perry Meyer / Danny Mocerri / Lou Palestini / Jack Pecoraro / James Pieri, Jr. / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabiguo / Luke Vinci / Catt White / Tom Zolezzi

**Board Members Excused**

Pat Brunetto / Charlie Coradino / David Crum / Demetrios Sparacino

**Guests**

Susan Keating, resident / Anthony Napoli / Melissa Scofield, CBRE / Jason Coker, Indigo Grill / Sean Christensen, ArtWalk / Erick Smith, 7-Eleven / Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office / Ciro Villa, Torrey Pines Bank / Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / Michelle Danks, ArtWalk / Pete Molinari, resident / Mark Shulman, The Physical Therapy Effect / Curt Brooker, ArtWalk / Mike Zarconi, Sullivan Hill / Suzy de la Pena, SDPD / Sandra Pimentil, Deco Bike / Donnie Hodgkins, Grand Avenue Fine Estates / John Falcone, Sal D'Acquisto RE / Jodi Doucette, Doucette Law Group / Tom Landre, City of SD / Robert Jones, SDCNN

**Staff (Non-Voting)**

Marco LiMandri, Rosie DeLuca, Chris Gomez, Jeri Keiller

**1. Introductions**

President Steve Galasso called the May 2015 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. April 7th, 2015 Board Minutes**

Vito Altieri moved to accept the April 7, 2015 Board minutes. Frank Stiriti seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

**3. Community Reports**

- Luke Vinci from DCPD spoke briefly about the Columbia & Ash Street project.
- Julio DeGuzman from the City Attorney's office spoke about the process of the Community Courts.
- Suzy de la Pena from SDPD spoke to the Board on the following issues:
  - Process on dealing with homeless
  - Motorcycles on sidewalk
  - Burglary @ 750 State Street
  - Rock & Roll Marathon

Suzy also introduced Patty from the Towing Administration Department within the City of San Diego. Patty spoke briefly about new protocol in towing a vehicle from private property. You, or a designated agent, must be present to sign for it.

- Susan Keating from LIRA announced that Todd Gloria will be the guest speaker at their next meeting that will take place at 6:00 pm on 5/19/15, at the Firehouse Museum
- Fr. Joe Tabigue from Our Lady of the Rosary updated the Board on current activities.

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

- None heard.

#### 5. Committee Reports

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

- Year to date Financial Report Lou Palestini reported on the YTD financials for April 2015.  
*Motion: Perry Meyer moved to accept the Year-to-date Financial Reports. Tom Di Zinno seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Jeri Keiller update on working on the accounts – Internal Auditor Jeri informed the Board that she is working on a new Financial Report.
- Steve Galasso and Caffe Italia as Business of the Year for Little Italy – Speaker Atkins Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins chose Caffe Italia as her Small Business of the Year for the neighborhood of Little Italy. A celebration will be held on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, where she will recognize approximately 20 small businesses and present an Assembly Resolution to each.
- Status of lighting of bridges, from surplus sparking meter revenues Marco reported that the City is in the process of changing bridge underpass lighting to LED. We will be drafting and submitting an RFP for the underpasses in Little Italy, as we would be using Parking Meter Revenues.
- Update on Casino Night, new planned date, 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in February at Our Lady of the Rosary, split net profits with OLR It was decided that so as not to compete with other Little Italy events, that our Casino Night would be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in February, 2016. The event will be held at the OLR church hall, and we will split the event proceeds with the Church.
- Progress on issues with Senator Block (sound wall, CalTrans lot, railings) Marco reported that we sent a letter to Roberto Alcantar from Senator Block's office regarding a request for CalTrans to install a new safety wall behind Washington Elementary School.
- San Diego Symphony promotion of Godfather event, promotion of Mob attire and being Italian, discussion Jim DeSpensa spoke about the San Diego Symphony's Godfather event, and how they are promoting this event with a "mafia" party. Jim mentioned the UNICO's Anti-defamation committee wrote a letter to the San Diego Symphony, but did not receive a response.
- New City America contract review and extension We are in the process of updating the New City America contract for review and extension.
- Budgets for FY 2016 We will begin meeting soon.
- Annual Report is now available online and by hard copy.

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

- Mercato Update Catt White updated the Board on the current activities of the Mercato.
- Gran Fondo update Chris Gomez reported that Gran Fondo was a good event, with only a few noise complaints.
- Olive PR Report Courtney spoke about current Little Italy projects being covered.

- Ferragosto Luke Vinci informed the Board that Ferragosto is doing well with sponsorships, but still need \$30,000 more. They are still in the process of selling raffle tickets and ads.
- MTV Chris reported that MTV has contacted us to inquire about renting the Piazza Basilone from 10/21 to 10/26 for a concert that will take place during the European Music Awards.
- ArtWalk Sandi Cottrell reported this year's ArtWalk was a successful event, and the Artists did well
- Reconstituting of Festa Task Force with Sicilian Festival Group, meeting in May Sandi Cottrell reported that a meeting took place with the Sicilian Festa task force, it was a good meeting. Planning for this year's Festa is now underway.
- Taste of Little Italy Sandi Cottrell reported that this year's Taste of Little Italy will take place on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 35 restaurants will participate in this year's event.
- Rock & Roll Marathon update Chris reported that this year's Rock & Roll Marathon will take place on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. India will be shut down from 5:00 am to 9:00 am.

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

- Application for use of surplus parking meter revenues in Little Italy – status Marco informed the Board that we have put in an application to use the surplus parking meter revenues, it is in process.
- Grocery shuttle on Sundays, concept: We are investigating a grocery shuttle for Sundays.
- Update on Budget at Civic San Diego We are currently working on next year's budget with Civic San Diego.

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

- Meeting with City on budget, mandated reserve:, Waiting for number for FY 15 Marco reported that we are still waiting for a final FY 15 income number from the City of San Diego. He will be meeting with David Graham, there should be a resolution soon.
- Consideration of 5% increase for next 3 years Marco reported that due to the increased staff time needed to deal with homeless issues, we are considering a 5% increase in MAD Assessments for the next 3 years. This will be reviewed and recommended once the SOBO Committee meets in May.
- Amici Park Task Force – set meeting at end of this meeting New ideas will be discussed.
- Summer Jobs program among large companies We will seek sponsorships from large companies to fund a Summer Jobs program.
- Evening Security Marco asked Tom Di Zinno to head up a new Task Force for Evening Security, Tom agreed to do so.

Motion: *Larry Kuntz moved to authorize staff to set up a Security Task Force, with Tom Di Zinno as Chair. Luke Vinci seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. The Board voted almost unanimously in favor, Tom Di Zinno abstained from the vote.*

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

- Broadstone report on use of outdoor space – update on encroachment Marco reported that we cannot encroach on the Broadstone outdoor space for a Piazza without their permission.

**(Project Review)**

- Wayfinding System Chris reported that the Gateway Wayfinding System is underway.

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

- John Asaro Art Show – Opening on July 18<sup>th</sup> – Perry Meyer Kathi Meyer reported on an upcoming gallery fundraiser showcasing the artwork of John Asaro that they will be hosting to benefit the Piazza Famiglia. A meeting on this event will be held soon. All proceeds from this event will go to the Piazza Famiglia.
- Hole in One Event A Hole in One Event is still under consideration for the Fall.

**6. Other**

- Deco Bike Presentation Chris introduced Sandra from Deco Bike. Sandra gave a brief presentation on the upcoming Deco Bike project.

**7. Next meeting:** June 2, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. at or Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall

- Luke Vinci moved to adjourn May Board meeting. Steve Galasso seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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