



**Little Italy Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 1, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.
Porto Vista/Glass Door Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Vito Altieri / Jim Barone / Courtney Rose for Jenn von Stauffenberg / Domenic Brunetto / Marianna Brunetto / Tom Cervello / Charlie Coradino / Joe Cordileone / Sandi Cottrell / Dino Cresci / David Crum / Jim DeSpensa / Steve Galasso / Rich Gustafson / Pasquale Ioele / Perry Meyer / Danny Mocerri / Lou Palestini / Jack Pecoraro / Frank Stiriti / Luke Vinci / Catt White / Tom Zolezzi

Board Members Excused

Tom Di Zinno / Christopher Morgan / James Pieri, Jr. / Fr. Joseph Tabigue

Guests

Aaron Osborne, Porto Vista Hotel / Michelle Danks, ArtWalk / Pete Molinari, resident / Brijet Myers, Mercato / Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office / Teresa Therault, FVC New Alternatives / Rosalie Andrews, Retail Insite / Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / Curt Brooker, Fuse Events / Felicitas Machado, New Alternatives / Talia Urista, New Alternatives / Officer Marlo Woods, SDPD / Nick Bruno, Bruno Family / Del Stewart / Susan Keating, LIRA & resident / Christie King, Meissner Jacquet / Julie Burnham / Mark Shulman, The Physical Therapy Effect / Stacy Dion, Cox / Annie Eichman, LIRA / Ciro Villa, Torrey Pines Bank / Joe Scaglione / Sumrall Howell / Kelly Williams, HG Fenton / Mike Zarconi, SHLRE / Noria Urtason from Supervisor Ron Robert's office

Staff (Non-Voting)

Marco Li Mandri, Rosie DeLuca, Chris Gomez, Jeri Keiller

1. Introductions

President Steve Galasso called the November 1st 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. October 4, 2016 Board Minutes

Luke Vinci moved to accept the October 4, 2016 Board minutes. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

3. Community Reports

Luke Vinci from DCPC informed the board that there was nothing new to report. Marco expressed his frustration with Civic San Diego for not enforcing the district standards with new developments.

Julio DeGuzman from the City Attorney's office reminded everyone to report non-emergency crimes at (619) 531-2000, or to call 911 in the case of an emergency. Marco asked again about having the Association assigned people who must work off their Community Service hours for misdemeanor crimes. Currently only the Alpha Project and Urban Corp are designated as such. The Association has been asking for this status from the City Attorney's office for over a year now.

Marlo Woods from the SDPD Asked the Board to please call the proper City department when dealing with a non-emergency. This will help to free up the non-emergency line. Marco thanked Marlo for the SDPD officer presence at our Trick or Treat on India Street event, they helped pass out candy. Extensive discussion occurred on the continuing incidents of aggressive behavior by street people as well as homeless people encamping under the bridges.

Annie Eichman from LIRA updated the Board on current LIRA activities.

Noria Urtason from Supervisor Ron Robert's office reported that Little Italy was granted \$25,000 from Supervisor Ron Roberts towards the Amici Dog Park.

Our Lady of the Rosary Luke Vinci reminded everyone about the upcoming Spaghetti Fund raiser dinner that will take place on Saturday, November 5th from noon – 9:00 pm.

David Crum from Washington Elementary School updated the Board on current school activities.

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

- Joe Scaglione on behalf of the USO is feeding 300 military families on Tuesday, November 22nd and is looking for volunteers.
- Bill Stewart is looking for a small space to open business in Little Italy, he makes Limoncello and Cordials.
- Teresa from New Alternatives announced the kick-off of this year's Toy Drive in Little Italy. Please contact the Little Italy office if you would like a donation box placed in your business. Talia Urista told her story about being a child in the foster care system, and the help that she received from New Alternatives.

5. Committee Reports

(Organization Committee) – Steve Galasso, Chair

- YTD Financial Report: Lou Palestini reviewed the financial reports.
Motion: *Luke Vinci moved to accept the YTD financial report. Perry Meyer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Update on Annual Dinner, Income and Expense report Marco reviewed the Annual Dinner Income & Expense report. He also thanked Noria for the use of the County Building.
Motion: *Frank Stiriti moved to accept the Annual Dinner Income & Expense report. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- NIAF Annual Conference – Update Marco spoke about the annual NIAF Conference, where he was a speaker and did a PowerPoint presentation. A focus of the conference was to address the fact that Little Italys are going away,

and an effort needs to be made to preserve them. Marco is hoping that NIAF will put energy and resources towards this cause.

- Trip to Sacramento with Chris and LIA Officers Chris reported on his recent trip to Sacramento, taken with Lou and Danny, to receive recognition for our mobile app.

(DISI Committee) – Christopher Morgan, Chair

- 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.
- FESTA update, preliminary income and expense Sandi Cottrell updated the Board on the success of this year's FESTA and thanked everyone for their support.
- Bulls of St Agata update Chris reported on the Bulls of St Agata event that took place on Saturday, October 22nd. We are looking to expand the event in the next year.
- Christmas Village, shutting down India Street from Cedar to Grape – December 3rd Chris updated the Board on the upcoming Tree Lighting & Christmas Village event. The event has expanded, so we will need to step up the fundraising. We will be lighting (2) trees: the poinsettia tree at India & Fir, and the new tree planted by Fenton at India & Date.

(Parking Committee) – Luke Vinci & Tom Cervello, Co-Chairs

- Freeway Overpass Lighting (State, W. Hawthorn & W. Grape) – status Chris reported that a contractor has been selected and that the project is moving forward.

(Community Advisory Board) – Jack Pecoraro, Chair

- Roma Market review and recommendations Marco reported that the new Roma market is scheduled to open in February. They will be selling groceries, prepared foods, along with beer and wine. The site will have underground parking.

(Sidewalk Operations, Beautification & Order) – Rich Gustafson, Chair

- Removal of tables and chairs at Piazza Basilone Marco reported that we are experiencing chronic homeless problems in the district. PD is aware of this as an ongoing issue. We will be removing the tables and chairs from the Piazza Basilone during the week in hopes of deterring the homeless.

(Legacy Committee) – Charlie Coradino, Chair

- Brochure Chris reported that we are drafting a letter to send out with the brochure, the brochures are now ready and will be handed out on Friday.

- Hard Hat tour of the Piazza, scheduled for November 4th Marco reported on a Hard-Hat tour that will take place at the Piazza Famiglia with Fenton rep's, along with the Legacy Committee.
- Update of the Piazza Pescatore – pending donation Tom Zolezzi is working on the fundraising for this project.
- Update on Piazza Giannini – pending pad completion Marco reported that we are still raising funds for this project, we have already received \$25,000 from B of A.
- Dog Park contributions, latest grant from Supervisor Roberts - \$25,000, 2/3 to goal Marco reported that we are currently at around \$80,000 in donations towards the Amici Dog Park, which is 2/3 of our goal. Chris reported that a local artist Michael Leaf will be donating art for the dog park.
- Other:
 - Amici Park Amphitheatre Marco reported that we may install new sensor lighting and cameras to track noise and trash offenders.
 - Fundraising opportunities Marco reported that there will be many fundraising opportunities in Little Italy. Annie asked if a fundraising flier can be distributed, Chris responded that this is the plan.

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

- Next meeting The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Thursday, November 3rd @ 4:00 pm

(Project Review Committee) – Jim Barone, Chair

- Asaro project at India and Beech Marco reported on the Asaro project at India and Beech. The development will be 385 ft high (35 stories), will have 3,000 square feet in retail space, a piazza, automatic parking, a fitness club with a pool, offices, and residential units.

6. Other

- SDA Property Marco reported that the property at State Street between Grape & Hawthorn just closed escrow. Demo and construction will begin soon.
- Apartments on Columbia Street Marco reported that the new apartments being built on Columbia Street will be six stories high.
- John Basilone's 100th Birthday Joe Cordileone reported that this Friday will be John Basilone's 100th Birthday. He also reported that The United States Marine Corps Birthday is celebrated every year on November 10th.

7. Next meeting: December 6th, 2016 at 8:30 am at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall.

Motion: *Danny Mocerri moved to adjourn the November Board meeting. Frank Stiriti seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

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