



**Little Italy Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 4, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.  
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall  
1654 State Street - San Diego, CA 92101**

**Board Members Present**

Jenn von Stauffenberg / Marianne Brunetto / Joe Cordileone / Sandi Cottrell / Tom Di Zinno / Rich Gustafson / Perry Meyer / Danny Mocerri / Christopher Morgan / Lou Palestini / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Luke Vinci / Catt White / Tom Zolezzi

**Board Members Excused**

Vito Altieri / Jim Barone / Domenic Brunetto / Tom Cervello / Charlie Coradino / Dino Cresci / David Crum / Jim DeSpenna / Steve Galasso / Pasquale Ioele / Jack Pecoraro / James Pieri, Jr.

**Guests**

Annie Eichmann, LIRA / John Falcone, Sad D'Aquisto Realty / Anthony Bernal, Councilmember Todd Gloria's office / Umberto Falcone, resident / Roberto Alcantar, Senator Marty Block's office / Sumrall Howell, Hairy & Merry / Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office / Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / Dave Tuckman, GSWs / Stacy Dion, Cox / Nate Benedetto, Next Wave Commercial / Brijet Myers, Little Italy Mercato / Luisa De Marino, guest

**Staff (Non-Voting)**

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

**1. Introductions**

Vice President Danny Mocerri called the October 4th 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. September 13, 2016 Board Minutes**

Frank Stiriti moved to accept the September 13, 2016 Board minutes. Catt White seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Board minutes.

**3. Community Reports**

Luke Vinci from DCPC spoke on Civic SD's enforcement of standards, and the upcoming DCPC election.

Julio DeGuzman from the City Attorney's office asked for a 3-way partnership between the Community, SDPD and the City Attorney's office. Marco brought up the issue again about why the Association could not be designated as a recipient non-profit to receive the community members who must work off their misdemeanor offenses through public service. Julio stated he would check again with the appropriate person in the office.

Officer Marlo Woods from SDPD reminded the Board to utilize the police non-emergency number (619) 531-2000. A number of issues were raised regarding aggressive street people, encampments under the bridges and non-response from the police when calling the non-emergency number. While we were pleased with the responsiveness of our local PD officers, Marco and others stated that the call-in system was broken and didn't seem to be getting any better.

Anthony Bernal from Councilmember Todd Gloria's office announced that the Councilman is at the end of his 8-year term. His office was recently able to amend the MAD ordinance, as well as install new stop signs in the district. Marco thanked Anthony for his years of great service.

Annie Eichman from LIRA announced the next meeting date. All are welcome to attend!  
Neria Urtason from Supervisor Ron Roberts office reported on projects that the Supervisor has been working on.

Fr. Joe Tabigue from Our Lady of the Rosary thanked Officer Woods for his support. He also thanked Sandi for a booth space at the upcoming Festa. The annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser will take place on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Roberto Alcantar from Senator Marty Block's office announced the Senator will be in office until November 30<sup>th</sup>. They will try to resolve the issue with the CalTrans vacant lot near the LIA office, as well as the sound wall for Washington Elementary prior to his departure.

Marco welcomed four newborn members to the Little Italy community: Enzo DeLuca, Stella Ioele, Jordan Pieri, and Luigi Vinci.

Marco announced the passing of members of the Little Italy community: JoAnn Pecoraro, Mr. Ioele, David Baun.

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

- Kevin Melton for Assembly thanked all who voted for him in the primary election. He is looking forward to a close race!
- Dave Tuckman from GSWS spoke to the Board about the services his company can provide, and of his relationship with the Association.
- Chris Gomez reported on the new "Mina Lisa" mural that will be installed on the side of the State Street bridge.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

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

- YTD Financial Report: Jeri Keiller gave the end of the year financial report.  
Motion: *Tom Di Zinno moved to accept the YTD financial report. Joe Cordileone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*
- Governor's award for Historic education tied to the LI App. Authorization to use up to \$2,000 to send Chris and officers to Sacramento on November 10<sup>th</sup> to accept the award Marco reported that LIA will receive Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2016 from the Office of Historic Preservation for our interactive mobile app. We have been invited to a presentation ceremony that will take place on November 10<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The Org committed is

recommending that they, along with Chris Gomez, travel to Sacramento to receive the award.

Motion: *Marianna Brunetto moved to send Chris Gomez and the Officers to Sacramento to receive the award, and that the Association pay for the flights not to exceed \$2,000, to come from the Programs Account. Christopher Morgan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

- Engagement agreement with Devaney, Pate, Morris and Cameron to continue defense in lawsuit filed by Corey Briggs. Marco reported that our current attorneys McAteer & McAteer are retiring; however there is one more item that needs to be addressed in court in the defense lawsuit against Corey Briggs. The McAteer firm has recommended new counsel, the firm of Devaney, Pate, Morris and Cameron. Leslie Devaney is the former Assistant City Attorney in San Diego.

Motion: *Joe Cordileone moved to authorize the retaining of the firm of Devaney, Pate, Morris and Cameron to take over as our counsel in the Briggs lawsuit. Tom Di Zinno seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

- NIAF Annual Conference – Workshop on Little Italys, 8 years in the making The NIAF Annual Conference will be held this week, the focus will be on the preservation of Little Italys in the country. Marco will be the keynote speaker for this workshop. He will report back to the Board on the event.

**(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! Fundraising efforts and seeking major sponsors Sandi Cottrell gave a report and information on the upcoming Festa.
- Events for balance of year: Bulls, Trick or Treat on India Street Chris Gomez reported on the balance of events for the year in Little Italy.
  - Bulls of St Agata will take place on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Trick or Treat on India Street will take place on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sponsorships for Trick or Treat and the Christmas Tree Lighting will be greatly appreciated!

- Meyer Fine Art Show, 50% of revenues to be dedicated to the Piazza Giannini Perry Meyer reported that a fundraiser for Piazza Giannini took place on October 1<sup>st</sup>, unfortunately attendance was low. They will hold another fundraiser on Small Business Saturday.
- Other Marco reported that the bridge at State Streets has no lighting. We are working on correcting it.

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

- Freeway Overpass Lighting – status Chris reported that the freeway underpass lighting project is moving forward. Ace Electric has been selected, they are currently doing tests.

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

- Buskers Ordinance, work with Gaslamp Marco reported that he wants to work on an ordinance to regulate street musicians.

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

- Meeting to review budget Marco reported that a meeting to review the MAD budget will take place in late October or early November.

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

- Brochure preparation: Hard hat tour of the Piazza, scheduled for late October or early November to have a tour of the Piazza.
- Marco reported that we are working on the new Legacy Brochure
- Update on Piazza Pescatore Marco reported that Tom Zolezzi is working with Bumble Bee to secure a donation for the Piazza Pescatore.
- News brief to discuss Fenton and Gina Champion Cain donations Pending

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

- Next meeting The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00.
- GSMI idea on raising money for Holiday celebration Luke Vinci is suggesting that we have students from the Art Institute decorate Holiday Trees that can be placed on the street and auctioned off during the Tree Lighting.

**6. Chris Ward, Councilman Elect** Marco gave a background on issues we have had with local agencies, and is hopeful that Chris Ward can assist us. He then introduced Chris Ward to the Board. Highlights from Mr. Ward's presentation:

- New term will start in December, he will bring a new perspective.
- Already meeting with local agencies
- Has been to DC
- Website: Google "Chris Ward San Diego"

**7. Next meeting: November 1st<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:30 am. Location to be determined, and announced.**

Motion: *Marianna Brunetto moved to adjourn the October Board meeting. Luke Vinci seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

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