

Little Italy Association
General Board of Directors Meeting
September 1, 2015 - 8:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall - 1654 State Street

Board Members Present

Vito Altieri / Domenic Brunetto / Pat Brunetto / Marianna Brunetto / Tom Cervello / Charlie Coradino / Sandi Cottrell / Jim DeSpensa / Tom Di Zinno / Steve Galasso / Pasquale Ioele / Perry Meyer / Lou Palestini / Jack Pecoraro / James Pieri, Jr. Demetrios Sparacino / Frank Stiriti / Fr. Joseph Tabigue / Luke Vinci / Catt White

Board Members Excused

Domenic Brunetto / John Contasti / Dino Cresci / Danny Mocerri

Board Members Absent (un-excused)

Jim Barone / David Crum / Rich Gustafson / Tom Zolezzi

Guests

Mark Shulmer, The Physical Therapy Effect / Julio DeGuzman, City Attorney's office / Roberto Alcantar, Senator Marty Block's office / Marsha Lyon, SAY San Diego / Kathi Meyer, Meyer Fine Art / Susan Nelson, Village Walk / Annie Eichman, LIRA / Mike Zarconi, Sullivan-Hill / Michele Basile, guest / Melissa Schofield, CBRE / Nate Benedetto, Strom Commercial / Erick Smith, 7-Eleven / Sean Christensen, ArtWalk & Festa / Samantha Hewitt, Olive PR / PJ Busalacchi, Busalacchi Restaurants / Nicole Sieve, WES / Curt Brooker, ArtWalk / Jodi Doucette, Doucette Law Group / Susan Russo, Grande North Neighborhood Committee / Lorie Azar, City of SD / Rosalie Rhine, Retail Insite / Terry Jordan, Extraordinary Ballroom

Staff (Non-Voting)

Marco LiMandri, Rosie DeLuca, Chris Gomez, Jeri Keiller

1. Introductions

President Steve Galasso called the September 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. July 7th, 2015 Board Minutes

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

3. Community Reports

- Roberto Alcantar from Senator Mary Block's office updated the Board on the alcohol railings issue. The ABC in Sacramento has agreed that permanent or temporary barriers should not be a requirement. The ABC code requires a "delineation" between outdoor alcohol consumers and the passing public. Marco added that he hoped that we would be permitted to work with current restaurants that have barriers and re-apply to the ABC for their removal and replacement of delineation "markers" embedded in the sidewalks. The Board gave Roberto a round of applause for his work on fixing this issue. Roberto also reported that CalTrans will allow us to "adopt" the yard across from the Little Italy Association

office. Last, the Sound Wall for the back of Washington Elementary School is in process.

- Jason from SDPD introduced himself and asked the Board if there were any questions or concerns for the area.
- Fr. Joe Tabigue from Our Lady of the Rosary informed the Board and SDPD that they have been experiencing problems on the Church steps with loitering at night.

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

- Prescription Drug take-back day is on September 26th

5. **Committee Reports**

(Organization Committee) – Steve Galasso, Chair

- Year to date Financial Report Lou Palestini turned the reporting of the financials over to Jeri Keiller. Jeri informed the Board of a new report format that will be used commencing FY 16. Marco reported that we are in the process of creating a revamped Finance Committee.
- Rough draft resolution on the creation of a new “Fundraising Component” for the Board members, authorize Org Committee to finalize Steve Galasso reported that we are phasing into becoming a “Get-Or-Give” Fundraising Board. A final resolution will be presented to the Board in October.

Motion: *Perry Meyer moved to authorize the Organization Committee to come back with a final resolution at the October Board meeting. Tom Di Zinno seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

- Results from Nominations Committee for eligibility of appointment to the Board: Marco reported that the Board Nominations postcards were sent out. The Nominations Committee has recommended the following Board Slate for 2015-2016 & 2017:

TWO-YEAR TERMS:

Business Directors (4 Recommended):

1. Pat Brunetto
2. Steven Galasso
3. Perry Meyer
4. Christopher Morgan (new)

Property Owner Directors (7 Recommended)

1. Vito Altieri
2. Domenic Brunetto
3. Charlie Coradino
4. Dino Cresci
5. Jim DeSpensa
6. Pasquale Ioele
7. Tom Zolezzi

ONE-YEAR TERM:

Community-at-Large Representatives (7 Recommended):

1. Marianne Brunetto
2. John Contasti
3. Tom Di Zinno
4. Lou Palestini

5. James Pieri, Jr.
6. Demetrios Sparacino
7. Frank Stiriti

Residential Tenant Representatives (0 Recommended)

Grand Total of Proposed New Board Members: 18

Motion: *Luke Vinci moved to adopt all Board of Directors on Slate as allowed by the Bylaws. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

- Nomination of Secretary of the Board for a new 3 year term, election to be held at the October Board meeting Marco asked the Board if there were any nominations for Secretary of the Board for a new 3 year term.

Motion: *Fr. Joe Tabigue nominated Luke Vinci to serve as Secretary for the new term. Pasquale loele seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

Marco asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary, none were heard. Marco reported that we can still solicit nominations at the October Board meeting.

- Larry Kuntz resignation letter Due to the relocation of his business outside the Little Italy district, Larry Kuntz submitted his resignation from the Board of Directions.
- Status of lighting of bridges, from surplus parking meter revenues Marco updated the Board on the status of the lighting of bridge underpasses in Little Italy.
- Conversion to LED lights in Little Italy Lorie Azar from the City of San Diego, Environmental Services spoke to the Board about the conversion to LED lights. All new lights should be installed by the end of FY 2016.

(DISI Committee) – Marianna Brunetto, Chair

- Mercato Update Catt White updated the Board on the current activities of the Mercato.
- Olive PR Report Samantha Hewitt from Olive PR reported on PR and Social Media Activity for Little Italy.
- Ferragosto update Luke Vinci reported that they are still waiting on the final numbers for the Ferragosto event. Frank Stiriti asked the Board to give Luke a round of applause for putting together this event which benefits the School, the Church, and the Little Italy Association.
- Festa Task Force update Sandi Cottrell reported that the Festa planning is well underway, we are currently seeking \$500 Gesso sponsors.
- Taste of Little Italy Income and Expense report Sandi Cottrell reported on the Income & Expense for the Taste of Little Italy.

(Parking Committee) – Luke Vinci, Chair

- Update on use of parking meter funds for parklets Marco reported that this project is in process.

(Community Advisory Board) – Jack Pecoraro, Chair

- Cedar Park Marco reported on the progress of the new Cedar Park restaurant. Susan Nelson, a resident from Village Walk, gave her input on the project.
- Beer bike issue – status Marco reported that we are experiencing ongoing issues with Beer Bikes (AKA: Social Cycles) cruising through Little Italy.

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

- Security Task Force Recommendations: Tom Di Zinno reported that we continue to look for funding mechanisms. A new blog will be up in October of November which will help to keep the community informed of crime going on in the area. Tommy and Marco are still sorting their way through the actual specifics of the program, its name, timeline for implementation and fundraising.

- a) County Mental health funds, invite Alfred Aguirre to our future meeting
The County of SD is currently sitting on \$172 million allocated towards Mental Health Services. We would like to get some of these funds allocated to our area to help us deal with the homeless issues.

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

- Alexan minutes from Project Review Marco reviewed the minutes of the Trammel Crowe Alexan Project proposed for Grape, State & Hawthorn Streets. The project is restricted by the Airport Authority overlay zone and the potential build out is not as high as was originally anticipated.
- Public art allocation from Trammel Crowe The developers have agreed to do underwrite \$50,000 for a public art installation on the corner of Hawthorn and State that will serve as gateway art to Little Italy from the I 5 offramp.

(Legacy Committee) – Charlie Coradino, Chair

- John Asaro Art Show – Revenue generated for Piazza Famiglia, results Marco reported that the John Asaro Art Show that was held at Meyer Fine Art was a great success. Perry Meyer presented the Board with a \$20,000 check as our portion that will go towards the Piazza Famiglia.
- Fundraising efforts for Piazza Famiglia, Dog Park, Piazza Giannini, Piazza Lo Vecchio Marco reported that he is working on fundraising for the Little Italy Piazzas.

6. Adjourn Board meeting at 9:55 to go into closed session – Only Board members allowed to be present: Discussion and decision on lawsuit filed by San Diegans for Open Government against all BIDs in the City, Theresa McAteer, Esq. to report on motions and actions.
7. Re-adjourn Board meeting at 10:22. No report given after legal update. We have responded to the lawsuit and are reviewing our options.
8. Adjourn Board meeting
Motion: *Jim DeSpensa moved to adjourn September Board meeting. Vito Altieri seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:23*
9. Next Board Meeting: 8:30 am October 6th, 2015, Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall.

Minutes for Board meeting submitted by Rosie DeLuca, staff.