

Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2008

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Matthew Badalucco, Maude Baum, Richard Berkley, Erin Brewer, Richard Conti, Terrence Gorman, Jeffrey Gritsavage, Dino Kacani, Jim Linnan, Lucia Prudencio, Karen Waldron

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Michael Weidrich

Guests: Maura Gannon, Matt Montesano

The meeting commenced at 5:35 pm.

Meeting was conducted by Jeffrey Gritsavage, Board Chair, who called a quorum.

Opening Remarks

Gritsavage moved to approve the minutes for the last Board Meeting. Richard Berkley suggested amending the minutes in reference to the resignation of John DeJohn. Jim Linnan voted to amend the minutes. Jerry Aumand seconded the vote and all were in favor.

Other Business

- Gritsavage stated that he had been contacted by John DeJohn in reference to having the St. Patrick's Day Parade to start at his location and proceed down Lark Street
- Board members expressed general support although a consensus was that it would be a logistical problem when factoring in staging, space and parking issues

Committee Update

Richard Berkley reported on the Business Committee meeting held on January 16, 2008. Action Items from that meeting included:

1. Dressing up the appearance of Lark Street possibly with lights in the trees
2. Having a map or brochure listing all the Lark Street Area businesses
3. Putting up historically appropriate signage to point to businesses located 'off the beaten path' of Lark Street

Jeffrey Gritsavage suggested targeting only unique business such as Hudson Books as opposed to Hudson Hair with the signage and the need to market Lark Street as a larger and greater shopping experience.

Maude Baum suggested signage off of the major highway exits directing patrons to "Lark Street" or "Lark Street Arts District" like those of the AIHA

Erin Brewer suggested a kiosk to hold maps and brought up the question of how to determine what businesses would be included

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Special Events Update

Grittsavage introduced Maura Gannon to speak about the Monday Night Concert Series

Maura Gannon reported on the status of the Concert Series 2008. Gannon stated she was writing the Grant proposal to the NY Council on the Arts and that there shouldn't be any difficulty in getting the grant. She also suggested having an all female roster of artists and listed possible performers. Richard Berkley suggested having a night of all local musicians possibly the Tuesday after the last Monday Night of the Concert Series as a fundraising event. Gannon stated that the cost of this years series would be down due to the lack of need for banners, branding, etc. and that there was a budget to hire set up and breakdown personnel.

Committee Meeting Update (continued)

Richard Conti reported on the Public Safety Committee and stated there was a shared concern of merchants and residents.

Topics included:

- Vehicle Theft
- Walk and Watch Door Hangers

Erin Brewer mentioned the influx of 'mentally ill' people on Lark Street Thursday nights.

Matt Montesano reported the increase of police patrolling in the area, both uniformed and plainclothes. Montesano also stated that there were a number of prior burglary suspects in the area being picked up.

Jim Linnan reported on the Development Committee.

Linnan reported the focus was on the possibility of getting New Scotland Avenue to be an extension of the Lark Street BID. Benefits would include having a larger tax base, more Grant funding sources and being able to tap into the suburban population who work in the Albany Med. Area to Lark Street.

Events Update

Michael Weidrich reported on 1st Friday. Weidrich stated that he had signed all 3 Albany BIDs to sponsor 1st Friday which is a first. He plans to hold a press conference at the end of the month to promote that.

Weidrich proposed moving the date of Art on Lark so as not to conflict with River Fest in Troy or the Saratoga Arts Festival. All agreed.

Board members then discussed COP honoree nominations including Maura Gannon as the most likely pick.

Jim Linnan motioned to close the meeting. Maude Baum seconded the motion and the February Board meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.