



## **Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 6, 2008**

**Attendance:** Jerry Aumand, Matthew Badalucco, Maude Baum, Rob Curry, Jeffrey Gritsavage, Dino Kacani, Donald Keenan, Jim Linnan, Lucia Prudencio, Karen Waldron

**Staff:** Mary Spinelli, Michael Weidrich

**Guests:** Matt Montesano, APD

The meeting commenced at 5:45 pm.

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

### **Opening Remarks**

Don Keenan gave kudos to the Winter Issue of the Lark Street Herald.

Michael Weidrich reported that there had been a lot of positive feedback.

Gritsavage asked everyone to look over the minutes for the February Board meeting. Jim Linnan voted to approve the minutes. Karen Waldron seconded the vote and all were in favor.

### **Special Events Update**

Champagne on the Park

- Michael Weidrich reported that Key bank would be sponsoring the event with a \$5,000 donation (a \$1,500 increase from 2007).
- Three Honorees had been confirmed as eba Inc., Blaire Maddy and Maura Gannon
- Keith Prey has been booked as the Live Swing/Big Band
- Weidrich has begun the Honorary Committee mailing

Monday Night Concert Series

- Weidrich reported the BID would be receiving the Grant money for concert series in the fall time
- There is no final lineup of bands as of yet
- Maura Gannon will be speaking at the next Board Meeting to Report on her progress

Art on Lark

- Weidrich reported that the BID would be receiving its grant money at the Arts Center in Troy on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 and anyone who would like could come to the ceremony
- Registration is now open for artists and performers for Art on Lark

- Joni Buccos is working on putting together a fashion show for the event
- Maude Baum will be organizing Creative Chaos this year as well as recruiting dancers to perform

#### A Taste of Lark

- The dates had been set for Monday April 7 thru Friday April 11
- Weidrich reported that information had gone out to restaurants for the event and there was only one response thus far.

This began a discussion about the concept of A Taste of Lark being a “restaurant week” and how it compares and contrasts to Downtown Albany’s restaurant week.

Jerry Aumand pointed out the quality and quantity of Downtown’s meal for \$16.09 versus that of Lark Street for \$10 or \$20. Board members suggested if the restaurants were not enthusiastic about a ‘restaurant week’, per say, to look into changing it to one slow night of the week, every week throughout the summer. Maude Baum suggested combining restaurant themed night with having retailers staying open later.

#### Annual Meeting

- Michael Weidrich stated that this year’s Annual Meeting would be held at the Albany Institute of History and Art during lunchtime due to a much lower cost and proposed two dates in April to possibly schedule it

### **Committee Update**

#### Development Committee

Jim Linnan discussed logistics and preliminary planning for BID expansion down New Scotland Avenue. Linnan suggested using Richard Conti and Richard Berkley for legal support to put a plan in place. Jeffrey Gritsavage proposed to move forward with all efforts to expand the district. Maude Baum expressed concern for the possible loss of the uniqueness of the District by incorporating others outside of Lark Street as well as the “Lark Street BID” name. Rob Curry suggested having a resolution with the understanding of making it attractive to all members. Jim Linnan proposed a vote to move forward with putting a plan together. Jeffrey Gritsavage seconded the vote and all were in favor with the exception of Maude Baum who voted in favor with the provision of it being only a proposal at this time.

#### Planning Committee

Jeffrey Gritsavage proposed a vote to support three local businesses in their efforts:

- The Wine Bar and Bistro

Expansion of its hours from 5pm to 12am to a seven day permit with hours from 10am to 2am

- o Lark Tattoo

Needs a Special Use Variance to continue functioning as a tattoo shop

- o The Tea Room

Needs a Special Use Variance

Maude reminded the board members that no vote was needed due to the bylaws stating that a vote was not needed of the board to support BID businesses

Maude Baum motioned to adjourn. Jim Linnan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.