

Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2008

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Matt Badalucco, Matt Baumgartner, Richard Berkley, Erin Brewer, Richard Conti, Rob Curry, Megan Daly, Jeffrey Gritsavage

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Michael Weidrich

Guest: Brigidann Rauch

The meeting commenced at 6:10. Robb Curry asked present members to review October Minutes. Richard Conti moved to approve minutes. Jerry Aumand seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Opening Remarks

Robb Curry thanked all who helped with the Halloween Party and for its overall success. Matt Baumgartner offered to have the party again next year in conjunction with the BID.

Committee Reports

▪ Public Safety

Richard Conti reported that the Safety Committee met on October 24th and discussed several issues:

1. Private Security Cameras
2. Panhandling

Michael Weidrich mentioned that Tech Valley launched a free WiFi program this week on Lark Street.

▪ Business Retention

Richard Berkley stated that there was no new news to report. Robb Curry asked about vacancies. Michael Weidrich reported that Jackbits and Joltz were officially closed and that Totem appears to be closed as well. Also, a psychic gallery is opening in the space where Smoke and Mirrors had been.

At 6:20, the meeting went into Executive Session

7:10 the meeting came out of Executive Session

Jeffrey Gritsavage noted that the Strategic Prioritizing would have to be done at a later date. Richard Berkley asked that the prioritizing be done via email.

Executive Director's Report

Michael Weidrich discussed Planning for 2009. He went over the schedule of dates for 2009 Board Meetings as well as Events. Weidrich presented a draft budget and noted that the rent on all tenants was being raised to compensate for an increase in utility costs. There was also an energy audit done and results are pending.

Matt Badalucco noted that the budget should be the same as 2008 because of the economic downturn. Matt Baumgartner stated that the BID should not set the bar too low.

Weidrich discussed that the BID would be redistributing marketing and moving away from print advertising. He also stated that money was being budgeted for new computers to upgrade and maintain the BID website.

Jeffrey Gritsavage discussed having a combination Holiday Party and Board Meeting for December with the University Club as a possible location and

suggested that each board member could pay for themselves to save the BID the cost.

Jeffrey Gritsavage introduced Brigidann Rauch to present the results of her survey. The survey had a response rate of 45% and estimated that the Lark Street District employs approximately 400 full-time and 350 part-time employees, most of them employed at non-profits followed by bars and restaurants.

Other Business

Richard Conti reported that the building on the corner of Chestnut and Lark had issues with painting the Lark side due to the power line being too close to the building to have any scaffolding or equipment.

At 7:40, the meeting went into Executive Session