

Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2009

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Matt Badalucco, Maude Baum, Matt Baumgartner, Richard Berkley, Richard Conti, Rob Curry, Jeffrey Gritsavage, Dino Kacani, Donald Keenan, Maria Pingeon (substituting for Megan Daly)

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Michael Weidrich

Guest: Matt Montesano, RA DePrima

The meeting commenced at 6:00. Jeff Gritsavage asked present members to review December Minutes

Matt Montesano reported on Public Safety Issues. The EB Essentials incident was looked into and records showed that one unit responded to the call and that the two males were advised to leave. A Soho Pizza driver was robbed of money and his vehicle twice in the South End on 12/14/2008 and 1/7/2009. There have also been a number of car break-ins near Lark on State & Chestnut.

At 6:15 RA DePrima reported on the Environmental Committee/Aurora Foundation Wind Energy Program through National Grid. There are currently eight participants in the district with wind energy. As of March 1st there will be one designated rep assigned to the Albany area. DePrima is working on a grant that would compensate merchants for the difference in cost. There have been 13 recycle bins distributed to date. County Waste is being asked to pick up the recycling from businesses. DePrima also noted the Energy Survey through NYSERTA available to businesses for \$100 which is refundable if recommendations are done.

Matt Baumgartner asked that the BID stop using paper copies at the board meetings in order to comply with the BID's mission of Environmental Sustainability.

Opening Remarks

Jeff Gritsavage asked if the Board Members would approve the minutes. Richard Berkley moved to approve December Minutes. Donald Keenan seconded and all were in favor.

Gritsavage reported that the Executive Committee had met and agreed to a cost of living adjustment plus 3%, which together amounted to a 6% increase. Jerry Aumand made a motion to approve the raises. Donald Keenan seconded and all were in favor.

Committee Reports

▪ Business Retention

Richard Berkley reported that both Cheeky Tiki and Lark Massage had closed. Michael Weidrich stated that Svengali Studios would be renting out space in the former Lark Massage. Richard Berkley also reported that Jackbitz remained closed and Magnolias was rumored to have closed. Berkley stated that two new businesses had opened; Opus Igor and Lark Computers. Weidrich reported that Lark Computers had zoning issues and were applying for a variance in order to officially open the business. Rob Curry suggested the BID post information on website for steps businesses need to take in order to open.

Jerry Aumand suggested a flyer be distributed to businesses in ‘empty’ buildings.

Weidrich reported Theory had work going on inside but no variance had been applied for and the owners had not returned phone calls.

▪ **Development and Expansion**

Jim Linnan was not present to report. Gritsavage stated the expansion efforts were being morphed into securing the building from the ALDC.

▪ **Finance Committee**

Weidrich reported that the Finance Committee had met twice since the last Board Meeting. Weidrich also reported that the 2009 Budget was now on its third and most lean version. Richard Berkley stated that given the challenging fiscal climate, the Committee had chosen to set conservative revenue expectations, and advocated adopting a tight budget.” Jeff Gritsavage moved to accept the Budget. Jerry Aumand seconded and all were in favor.

▪ **Election & Nominating Committee**

Michael Weidrich stated that the Nominating Committee would need to decide what should be done with the vacant Key Bank seat. Matt Badalucco moved to vacate the seat. Maude Baum seconded and all were in favor. Weidrich reported that a commercial property renter seat was also vacant and should be filled.

Executive Director’s Report

Michael Weidrich discussed the Strategic Priorities for 2009. Matt Badalucco moved to approve. Jerry Aumand seconded and all were in favor. Maude Baum stated that the priorities need to be quantitative. Richard Berkley suggested that the BID have a work plan of deliverables.

Other Business

At 8:00 Donald Keenan made a motion to adjourn. Matt Badalucco seconded the motion and all were in favor.