

Minutes from 8/3/2011 Lark St. BID Meeting

Attendance: Matthew Badalucco, Chris Schloss, Alex Monticello, Mark Brogna, Jerry Aumand, RA DePrima, Luis Perez, Rob Curry, Stephen O'Neill, Elissa Halloran, Richard Conti

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Sara-Becca Smith

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00.

A motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made. However, it was noted that a correction was needed before approval. In the "Other Business" section, it was written that "It was also noted that as a small District there is a finite pool of people to pull from so would it be wise to limit ourselves in this manner." Wise was changed to "unwise" and the minutes were approved.

Executive Committee Report:

Matthew Badalucco reported that a meeting with Mike Yevoli and Megan Daly of Capitalize Albany Corp. had been held to review this year's progress and plans for next year. They advised that the BID be prepared for further reductions in Community Development Block Grant funding.

Executive Director Report:

Mary Spinelli reported that the line up for LarkFEST had been announced, that Lite POM from POM Wonderful had been secured as a \$15K Title Sponsor and that Radio Disney, through Cooley Volkswagon, would be sponsoring a kids area. The kids area would also have support from WMHT and WEXT, and have PBS characters as one of the attractions. The Silent Disco would be returning this year but would be located in the Trinity Church parking lot, rather than Hudson Avenue. This change was made in order to better define the perimeter of the Silent Disco and help to minimize headset losses, as well as permit extending the hours of the Silent Disco until after the end of the regular event at 5:30. Additionally, two rows of bike racks, snow-fencing, and hired security guards would be used to define and secure the area. These changes are projected to increase the revenue from the Silent Disco.

Several businesses opened in the District or will be opening soon including, Subway at the corner of Washington and Lark, Noho Pizza, Mr. Tikka Kabob, and Romeo's Pizza. The Jackbitz & Joltz space is being considered by both a framer and a bookstore and have been in contact with the realtor for the space. RA DePrima mentioned that the Gyro Station was going on the market. Spinelli also mentioned that loading zones had been added to State and Spring Streets this past month.

Operation Safe Corridor is set to have a kick off press conference on September 8. The signs for the corridor will be hung at the end of the month and businesses throughout the District have been contacted to participate as a "safe haven" business. A Walk and Watch

training was held and a number of community members attended along with two TV stations. A public safety committee meeting is needed before moving forward with the program.

Special Events Committee:

Sara-Becca Smith mentioned that volunteers were needed for LarkFEST. RA DePrima noted that County Waste would not be providing recycling services at the event but that the City would be providing recycling services per Frank Zeoli.

Spinelli addressed the issue of the \$200 refundable deposit required of merchants when requesting a booth space at LarkFEST. Spinelli stated that in the Policies and Procedures of the event application there are clauses regarding subletting and leaving booth spaces empty but that each year there are merchants who do both. Subletted and or empty spaces translates into lost revenue for the BID and in 2010 would have amounted to \$3K. The deposits are due by September 2, 2011 and are to be returned the week after the event. Stephen O'Neill voiced his disapproval of the deposit and stated that he did not agree with punishing all the merchants even though it is a few businesses that are the culprits. Spinelli stated that merchants used to be charged for the spaces like all vendors.

Finance Committee:

Chris Schloss reported that the Cash Flow Statement is showing a balance of negative \$1600 at year's end. This is partially due to bringing in \$7K at Art on Lark rather than the projected \$15K. The paperwork for the line of credit through the Community Loan Fund was signed. This line of credit has a lower interest rate (seven percent) than the line with Key Bank (twelve percent). Repair work was needed for the basement toilet and more work is needed in the basement bathroom due to water damage and mold. The work is projected to cost around \$500.

Quality of Life/Public Safety:

Richard Conti reported that no public safety committee meeting had been scheduled yet. Progress is being made on the permit parking system for the area. The system would be in effect from 8am to 6pm and would include provisions for businesses and employees as well as visitors. A public hearing for the ordinance has not yet been scheduled. Conti also mentioned the proposed annual entertainment permit which would have no grandfathered in uses and a separate licensing system.

Environmental Committee:

DePrima reported that fourteen bike racks had been installed out of the sixteen that were approved. The two racks that have not yet been installed are going to be located at the Stewarts on New Scotland where construction work is being completed. Photos of the installed bike racks are going to be submitted to the City. Additionally, bicyclists now

have full lane use on Lark Street. Bike decals indicating lane usage were added to both sides of the street recently.

DePrima also reported that the sidewalk sweeper operators have not been traveling the full length of the District when cleaning, nor have the operators been thorough in their cleaning. He reported that they have not been crossing Madison to clean up to Price Chopper or over Madison to Willett.

DePrima also mentioned that the Department of Social Services have given him a work trainee for 35 hours a week doing street maintenance and labor. He offered to have the trainee clean the District and said that all insurance, including workers comp, is covered by DSS.

Other Business:

Rob Curry said that UHPP had been issued two citations without fines from the City in regards to garbage that had been dumped behind one of UHPP buildings. After opening the bags of trash it was discovered that staff from Bombers Burrito Bar had deposited the garbage there. Bombers management had been spoken to & the issue addressed. The UHPP site is still under contract and off the market while the interested party does their due diligence.

Badalucco complimented Spinelli and Smith on the work that they completed recently cleaning up the front yard.