

## **Minutes from 5/19/2011 Lark St. BID Meeting**

Attendance: Matthew Badalucco, RA DePrima, Mark Brogna, Chris Schloss, Richard Conti, Jerry Aumand, Luis Perez, Alex Monticello, Mike Sperduto, Richard Conti,

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Sara-Becca Smith

The Meeting was called to order at 6:15

### Executive Committee Report:

Matthew Badalucco asked for the Board to make a motion to approve the minutes from last month's board meeting. The motion was made & seconded. The minutes were approved. Badalucco reported that the BID was discussing opening a line of credit with Community Loan Fund. This line of credit would replace the Key Bank line of credit which has an interest rate of over 12 percent and signators from years ago that are no longer involved with the BID. A motion was made to approve moving forward with the new line of credit. The motion was approved with one abstention, R.A. DePrima.

### Executive Director Report:

Mary Spinelli reported that Champagne on the Park made a profit of \$11,000 this year which was down from last year. While the Silent Auction and Honorary Committee were up ticket sales were lower. For Art on Lark, Spinelli asked for volunteer assistance and reported that \$3,000 had come in so far in booth fees. The Grand Street Community Arts Youth FX program will be showing their short films in the Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood building in addition to a number of artists using the space to showcase their artwork. Chrysler approached the BID to see about having a presence at LarkFEST. They are interested in having a display of vehicles but are not interested in sponsoring the event. A possible site for them would be the UHPP parking lot seeing as they allowed the use of the building as a gallery space for Art on Lark. R.A. DePrima stated that he could ask Brian Stratton for volunteer assistance for Art on Lark if needed. Spinelli also stated that a volunteer clean up day with Hackett Middle School has been scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 3pm. The volunteers, who include children, staff, and parents, are from the Time Dollar Program which allows kids and their families to receive a "time dollar" for every hour that they volunteer. The "time dollars" can then be spent in the Time Dollar Store at Hackett. Children can buy a variety of items in the store including school supplies, backpacks, gift cards, and toys. Mike Sperduto offered to provide the volunteers with ice cream for the clean up as a thank you to them for their service.

### Business Retention & Recruitment:

Sara-Becca Smith reported that the next Lark U forum that is being planned with the Legal Project was going to be scheduled as a brunch or lunch event with a networking component added in. Sperduto offered the Moo Room at Ben & Jerry's as a possible location.

### Special Events Committee:

The committee had nothing to report but RA DePrima stated that progress was being made on organizing the six week concert series. The series is being planned for Monday evenings starting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. John DeJohn has agreed to sponsor the event and would sell food at the park. Badalucco said that in order to proceed in budgeting for the event, he thought it was important to have funds secured beforehand, that we would need to investigate liability insurance coverage, and the City would need to approve the amplification of music as well as the closure of Little Lark.

### Finance Committee:

Chris Schloss reported that the Cash Flow Statement is now showing a yearend balance of negative \$5,000. The lack of a \$5,000 cash sponsor for Art on Lark, which the BID did have last year, contributed to this number. Additionally, it was discovered that previously the payroll taxes were being accounted for twice. This has now been corrected. Schloss stated that Jeff Gritsavage was supposed to tender his resignation following the last board meeting. As Gritsavage had not done so and was not in attendance, Schloss stated he would be asking the Board to vote on Gritsavage's removal from the Board if no resignation has been tendered by that time.

### Quality of Life/Public Safety:

Richard Conti stated the Public Safety Committee met in April and that the Walk and Watch training was being planned. Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Night Out, a crime prevention event. An event for the evening is being planned in Dana Park and might involve closing Little Lark to traffic. The neighborhood associations will be participating as will the APD. Conti stated that a work group needs to be put together in order to organize the event. The NEU officers will be getting cell phones in the near future. It was noted that no police officers were in attendance at this meeting.

### Environmental Committee:

RA DePrima reported that the bike rack applications were resubmitted to the City and were being expedited. The BigBelly outside of Amazing Wok might be reinstalled by the City. The Chinese-speaking APD officer spoke to the owner/manager of Amazing Wok about their waste disposal and was told that they have trash removal services and that the staff would be spoken to about inappropriate dumping. DePrima requested that the Board approve a resolution to change the name of Dana Park to Dana Commons. The resolution would be sent to Nick D'Antonio, head of the City of Albany Department of General Services. The board agreed to resolution for the name change so long as each of the neighborhood associations was supportive as well.