

Minutes from 11/17/2010 Lark St. BID Meeting

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Matthew Badalucco, Richard Berkley, RA DePrima, Matthew Montesano, Collin Rost, Chris Schloss, Alex Monticello

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Sara-Becca Smith

Guests: Virginia Hammer & the Madison Avenue Calming Project

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00

Madison Avenue Calming Project Presentation

Virginia Hammer of the Madison Avenue Calming Project presented a project proposal for restructuring Madison Avenue to the Board. The group is looking to gain support for the proposed project which would reduce Madison Avenue from four lanes to two lanes with a center turn/emergency vehicle lane and a bicycle lane in each direction. The intended benefits include decreased traffic speed, traffic infractions, and accidents; increased safety for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists; and increased access to businesses. Concerns that were brought up by the Board were how the change would affect:

- Parking
- Deliveries to businesses
- Traffic light timing
- The recent changes made at the intersection of Madison Avenue, Lark Street, and Delaware Avenue

Hammer addressed these concerns by stating that a traffic study/feasibility report with public hearings would be conducted before any changes would be made and that the section of Madison Avenue in the Lark Street District would receive special consideration.

Executive Director Report:

Mary Spinelli reported that 13 Big Belly Solar Compactors and recycling units had been installed in the District. This was the total number of units that Spinelli had requested for the area. Spinelli also reported the Community Loan Fund of the Capital District had approved the loan for the BID and the closing was scheduled for November 19. The loan was applied for to assist with budget shortfalls related to the repair of the roof and staffing. The deadline for contributing for the Dana Commons lights fund was scheduled for November 19. The lights are to be ordered after the deadline and DGS has agreed to hang said lights. Additionally, Winter WonderLARK plans are moving forward. An agreement has been made with the Historic Albany Foundation to split the cost of a trolley that will run the length of Lark Street and through Washington Park for the convenience of the holiday house tour participants and Winter WonderLARK attendees. Sponsorships for the trolley will be solicited. Sponsors will have their logo printed on a banner that will be hung from the trolley.

Executive Committee Report:

Matthew Badalucco reported that the executive committee would be meeting to review Mary Spinelli's performance for the year.

Business Retention & Recruitment:

No business reported

Special Events Committee:

It was suggested that a tree lighting ceremony be held in Dana Commons to celebrate the installation of the lights.

Finance Committee:

No business reported

Quality of Life/Public Safety:

Matt Montesano reviewed the incidents that occurred in the past month. Montesano also updated the Board on the Neighborhood Engagement Unit and where the APD was in the process of organizing and staffing the NEU. There will be two beats that travel down Lark Street giving the area double coverage. This does not include the coverage that Lark Street will also be getting through the Operation Safe Corridor project.

Environmental Committee:

No business reported

Other Business:

The proposed change to the Bylaws regarding the frequency of meetings was brought to vote. Article III Section 5.B. of the Bylaws states that regular meetings of the Board will be held monthly it was proposed that the Bylaws be changed so that meeting could be held every other month or monthly if necessary. Jerry Aumand motioned for the change. Collin Rost seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the change. Both Richard Conti and Mike Sperduto were called and asked to vote on the change over speaker phone. Both voted to approve the change.