

Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes November 27, 2006

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Blair Maddy, Jeffrey Gordon, Lucy Prudencio, Jeff Gritsavage
Excused: Richard Conti, James Linnan, Maude Baum
Absent: Theresa Kellom, Joe Rabito, Brienne Fretto, Rob Curry, John DeJohn, Brad Junco
Staff: Fredd Brewer, Lindsay Cahill
Guests: Matt Montesano, APD, Michael Weidrich, 1st Friday event coordinator

The meeting commenced at approximately 5:45 PM.
There was not a quorum present.

Public Comment:1st Friday Event

- Jeff Gritsavage gave a brief summary of 1st Friday, the monthly art event that has taken place in and around the Lark Street area since September 1st.
- Michael Weidrich, 1st Friday Event Coordinator, explained the event to the board members present. On the first Friday of every month, various galleries and other establishments hold a simultaneous art exhibit opening. During the event, some local businesses offer discounts and promotions for their store. Last month, over 500 visitors were in the Lark Street area for the event. Michael is hoping to get more support from the Lark Street BID. The next event will be held Friday, December 1st. Michael explained that the lowest sponsorship level for the event is \$25.
- Jeff Gritsavage sees the event growing every month, and would like to see the Lark Street BID become more involved by either sponsoring or promoting the monthly event. Jeff has suggested renting the empty store front at 215 Lark Street (formally the Lark Street Bookshop) at the cost of \$50.00 to be utilized as a venue for the upcoming event. Jeff will look into what it would take to get a 1 day insurance rider for the event. All present board members thought it would be appropriate for the Lark Street BID to become involved in the art event. An email will go out to all board members to discuss and vote on the involvement of the Lark Street BID with the 1st Friday art event.

Albany Police Department Update:

- Matt Montesano, APD stated there was a robbery 2 weeks ago at the Mobil gas station located on the corner of Dana Ave. and Madison Ave. At the time of the board meeting, no arrests had been made. The police believe it is the same individual who robbed the Mobil on the corner of Delaware Ave. and Whitehall Rd.
- There has been an increase in car theft lately, where people are leaving their keys in the car unattended. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR KEYS IN YOUR CAR WHEN NOT SUPERVISED.**
- Matt gave an overview of the reorganization of the Albany Police Department, which will start Monday, December 4th. Lark Street will still have double coverage. The odd side of Lark Street will be in division 1 (uptown) and the even side of Lark Street is in division 2 (downtown). **Contact 434-4000 if you have a non emergency to report to the Albany Police Department.**

- Matt confirmed that there was a robbery on the corner of Lark Street and Hudson Ave involving a screwdriver two weekends ago. The suspects were arrested that night.
- Lucy Prudencio, owner of Dunkin Donuts, stated that the motorcycle problem she was experiencing in her parking lot has lessened due to the weather. Lucy has 3 designated parking spots where the motorcyclists are allowed to stay and hang out. Blair stated that the board should begin discussing solutions to help solve the noise problem for 2007.
- Jeff Gritsavage witnessed another business owner get frustrated with the panhandling problem on Lark Street. Matt reiterated that the only way to appropriately deal with the problem is to file a complaint with the Albany Police Department and then follow up with the District Attorney's Office.

2007 Draft Operating Budget:

Washington Park Concert Series:

- The grants are submitted and being reviewed. The Lark Street BID will not find out the outcome of the grants for the concert series until December. A contract has not been drafted between the Lark Street BID and Maura Gannon outlining the services to be provided once the Concert Series is approved. Fredd will contact the Council of Community Services regarding hiring a lawyer to draft up a contract for the Washington Park Concert Series.

2007 Tax Assessment:

- Blair Maddy summarized what was discussed in the last board meeting regarding the tax assessment. The board decided to leave the percentage rate the same as last year. Blair reiterated the need of board members to educate the Lark Street BID Members about the assessment.
- Blair will email all board members the proposed tax assessment strategy and 2007 Draft Operating Budget for approval.

Time Survey

- After reviewing the time survey results, it was concluded that there is no good time for all board members to meet. Blair hesitates to change the board meeting time at this point.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:15pm.