

Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2008

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Matt Badalucco, Maude Baum, Matt Baumgartner, Richard Berkley, Erin Brewer, Richard Conti, Rob Curry, Megan Daley, Jeffrey Gritsavage, Dino Kacani, Donald Keenan, Jim Linnan
Staff: Mary Spinelli, Michael Weidrich

Guests: Maura Gannon, Loren Grugan

The meeting commenced at 5:40 pm.

Meeting was conducted by Jeffrey Gritsavage, Board Chair, who called a quorum.

Opening Remarks

Jeffrey Gritsavage asked if the April minutes had been reviewed. Richard Berkley moved to approve the minutes. Richard Conti seconded, all were in favor.

Jeffrey Gritsavage introduced Loren Grugan. Mr. Grugan gave a brief description of his idea to start a rickshaw company operating on Lark Street. The company would start with 2 environmentally friendly bicycle rickshaws operating in the Lark Street and Washington Park areas of Albany during the evenings with no set rate of pay. Generally, Board members liked the idea, however, suggested setting a minimum fee for the rides. Rob Curry made a motion of resolution to support the business idea. Jerry Aumand seconded and all were in favor.

Special Events Update

Monday Night Concert Series

As reported by Maura Gannon

- A lineup of 6 female artists/groups has been determined:
 - Dollyrots
 - Odetta
 - Aimee Mann
 - Lez Zepplin
 - Searson
 - Marcia Ball
- Heineken will be the official beer sponsor for the event sponsoring a Billboard on I90 (valued at \$1,000./day) as well as Pint glasses in place of last years' coasters
- An additional \$20,000 will need to be raised for the event

Officer Elections

Jim Linnan volunteered to take the secretary position left open by Lucia Prudencio and Richard Berkley was asked to sit on the Executive Committee. Richard Conti moved to approve, Jerry Aumand seconded, and all were in favor.

Other Business

Jeffrey Gritsavage asked Board members to think about the emphases and concepts for 2008 to be discussed at the June Board Meeting.

Gritsavage brought to the board, Maude Baum's email request to bring 6 dancers for free as her guests for Champagne on the Park because she was one of the 2008 honorees. Richard Berkley made a motion to allow the 6 guests to pay \$25/ ticket which would be half the cost and have the Board pick up the rest of the cost. Jim Linnan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Special Events Update (cont.)

Champagne on the Park

- Michael Weidrich stated current sales, value of silent auction items and tasting station participants for the event to date
- Weidrich stated the need of volunteers and that he would be sending out an email with times and tasks

Art on Lark

- Weidrich notified the board that jurying of the musical acts would be held Tuesday May 13th and invited anyone who was interested to attend
- Weidrich stated that he had secured Fox 23 as a sponsor for Art on Lark, the Monday Night Concert Series and LarkFEST

Other Business

Jerry Aumand stated that Little Anthony's (formerly Food for Thought) had closed due to building and code enforcement coming in and shutting the restaurant down on a slight technical violation of some sort relating to the stove and a change of lettering on their sign out front. Richard Conti had spoken with building and code and the issue was that the initial permit was for the space to be used as a restaurant and that it was now being used almost strictly for takeout which would necessitate a different use permit. Aumand stated that his concern was that the BID should be supporting these businesses. Conti expressed that the organization should do better in working with small businesses on what they should and shouldn't do. Jeffrey Gritsavage expressed the need for the planning committee to act and function as a group dealing with code issues and redevelopment. Jim Linnan suggested putting together a welcome package for new businesses and also to meet with the building inspector to get input and regular notification to the BID of any building code enforcements. Matt Baumgartner suggested having an umbrella program within the BID and offered to be on a committee that would meet with new businesses. Erin Brewer stated that there was a need to walk new businesses through their first year. Matt Badalucco suggested that the BID reach out to these new businesses when they open.

Safety Committee

Richard Conti announced the next safety committee meeting would be held on Friday the 9th at 5:00 pm and that there would be distribution of the door hangers on the following Saturday May 17th. Media will be invited for some positive p.r.

Dino Kacani expressed his concern with the increase of damage and nuisance caused by kids throwing bricks, etc in the Park South neighborhood. Most of these kids were coming from the Boys and Girls Club around 8:30-9:00 pm.

Gritsavage stated that the BID could kick off the Walk and Watch program in that area and pairing up trained persons with untrained.

Gritsavage motioned to adjourn Jerry Aumand seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting ended at 7:20.