

Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2009

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Matt Badalucco, Maude Baum, Richard Berkley, Erin Brewer, Richard Conti, Jeffrey Gritsavage, Dino Kacani, Donald Keenan, Lucy Prudencio

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Michael Weidrich

Guest: Matt Montesano, RA DePrima

Opening Remarks

The meeting commenced at 6:05. Richard Berkley moved to postpone the approval of February's minutes. Lucy Prudencio seconded and all were in favor.

Committee Reports

▪ Executive Committee

▪ Public Safety

Matt Montesano reported on robberies in the vicinity. RA DePrima asked if the focus could be on addressing the problem of aggressive panhandling

▪ Environmental Committee

DePrima asked if Richard Conti could draft legislation of "Green Fee" to be used for recycling bins at City Events. He also reported that the Environmental Committee was working with Chris Higgins to obtain an abandoned building on Livingston in order to set up a vegetable oil distribution project.

Michael Weidrich reported that the BID received its energy audit report back from NYSERDA.

Richard Berkley stated that the BID should ask the ALDC to apply for some stimulus funds from weatherization program.

▪ Business Retention and Recruitment

Jeffrey Gritsavage discussed vacant and underutilized properties and how the focus should be on the quality of incoming businesses. Weidrich reported that the National Education Bldg had been purchased and was being renovated to accommodate two separate retail spaces in the basement level as well as eight apartments in the upstairs levels. Richard Berkley reported that Theory had received a stop work order. Weidrich stated that Lark Computers got their variance to open. Berkley also reported that El Mariachi had purchased Totem to open as a take-out place and that they need a change-of-use permit. Also, the old 'Little Anthony's' building had sold but no paperwork was filed. Gritsavage announced that Cheri Gritsavage partnered with EB Essentials to include stained glass.

▪ Marketing Committee

Weidrich stated that the Marketing Committee had a meeting and brainstorming session and came up with a slogan for marketing Lark Street: "The Art of Good Living". Weidrich also reported that the new website will launch on April 1st with posters, postcards, press, etc.

▪ Finance Committee

Erin Brewer stated that the finance committee had asked Michael several months back to look into claims by Jim Linnan about the ALDC's willingness to give the building to the BID. As of 2004, the BID has been

paying 8% interest on the Capital Lease. Brewer suggested that the BID try to renegotiate the terms of the loan.

▪ **Special Events**

COP

Weidrich reported that there have been little Honorary Commitments in so far and that the BID was working on a very small budget. Erin Brewer asked if the BID could look into getting trailer toilets instead of port-o-potties.

AOL

Weidrich discussed the possibility of having food vendors at Art on Lark in order to raise additional funds for the event. Food Vendors would be limited to 5 or 6, non-competing businesses. Members agreed it could be done this year.

▪ **Election Committee**

Weidrich reported that there are three available spaces on the board. Two potential members are Chris Schloss of Scratch Bakery as a Commercial Owner and Kasim of Dino's Pizza as a Commercial Renter. Berkley stated that Jodi Danaher who is partnered with Opus Igor was interested in the commercial renter spot. Weidrich stated that Tyler from Lark Computers was also interested in the commercial renter spot. Weidrich also stated that the Board would need to elect a new Secretary.

Other Business

Michael Weidrich moved to approve the February minutes. Gritsavage seconded the approval with an abbreviation of the John DeJohn comments. All were in favor. Donald Keenan moved to adjourn. Lucy Prudencio seconded and all were in favor.