

## **Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 1, 2007**

**Attendance:** Jerry Aumand, Matt Badalucco, Richard Berkeley, Richard Conti, Rob Curry, Jeff Gritsavage, Jim Linnan, Karen Waldron, Dino Kacani

Excused: Maude Baum, John De John

Absent: Terrence Gorman, Lucy Prudencio

Staff: Joni Buccos, Michael Weidrich

Guests: Erin Brewer

The meeting commenced at approximately 5:45 PM.

Meeting was conducted by Jeff Gritsavage, Board Chair

There was a quorum present.

Jim Linnan moved to accept the minutes from the October 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Jerry Aumand seconded the motion and all were in favor

### **Opening Remarks**

- The meeting opened by all present introducing themselves to Erin Brewer, proprietor of EB Essentials, guest and potential Board inductee.
- Gritsavage asked the BID staff to contact Judy Stacy, city gardener to obtain tulip bulbs for planting in the district.

### **Special Events Update**

- Michael Weidrich presented the Special Events Update. He spoke of the general success of A Taste of Lark 'n Art reporting on the amount of positive surveys. For the next installments of restaurant week he will streamline the menus. He plans to re-introduce the event in the spring, i.e. March or April.
- Winter WonderLark is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 pm. The Santa Speedo run will kick off the event. The BID will be hiring performance artists, seeking Carolers and a horse and carriage for hire.
- Maura Gannon had presented to Weidrich hosting a volunteer party at her home for all BID volunteers. The time and date are tba.
- It is time to plan the Annual Meeting. Weidrich has spoken with the BID's accountant. A full audit will be necessary this year as we have brought in the required revenue for such procedure. Weidrich proposed holding the Annual Meeting at the Albany Institute of History and Art.
- Champagne on the Park is scheduled for 05.08.08 and is currently in development. This year will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tulip Fest and COP will kick off the celebration. Weidrich is planning to theme the gala around the marked year 1948. Some costuming will be provided by Cap Rep Theatre. Weidrich has been meeting with the Special Events Committee from the City and is working out the logistics.
- Art on Lark is scheduled for 06.14.08. Weidrich has applied for an arts grant for the event in the amount of \$5000. He plans to close the street and incorporate more performance art including dance, music, poetry and improv.
- Lark FEST 2008 is scheduled for 09.20.2008
- The BID staff has been meeting to discuss Hudson 400, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary Henry Hudson's arrival in Albany. LarkFEST 2009 will mark the actual anniversary and a re-enactment will be set. The celebration will continue through out the year and Weidrich is working with a think tank of the other Albany BIDs as to how we can promote and brand Hudson 400 throughout the city.

### **Committee Updates**

- Gritsavage proposed that the Planning Committee, which consists of Badalucco, Curry, Conti, Gritsavage and Linnan shall begin meeting and corresponding with the Zoning Board of Appeals. The BID shall make a presence to support desired appeals. The committee shall meet, and then report back to the entire board for approval/discussion of the applicants.
- **Vacant Seats on Board**
- Gritsavage discussed the empty seats left on the Board with Junco's relocation and Fretto's consistent absence. Gritsavage shall be able to appoint a candidate for the seat, upon approval from the Board; he/she can sit until the next annual meeting when that member will then be up for re-election.
- Gritsavage then proposed that guest Erin Brewer be nominated for the vacant Business Owner seat. Richard Conti moved; Richard Berkeley seconded the motion; all were in favor that Brewer filled the seat. She was then announced as official board member.

### **2008 Budget**

- Weidrich informed the board that the initial tax assessment estimate was incorrect and that we would be receiving around the sum of \$90,000, an estimated \$18,000 increase. To operate optimally, the BID must apply for more grants for security and quality of life. The BID staff will research obtaining a snow blower through the local TroyBilt corporation, and also research Lowe's and Home Depot to see if they offer and community grants or discounts. The board discussed the purchase of the snow blower and resolved to purchase it outright if necessary. Jim Linnan moved to approve the purchase of the equipment with no resolution up to the amount of \$2000. Richard Berkeley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

### **Bylaws**

- The Bylaws will be voted upon at the December board meeting.
- Richard Berkeley called for any final requests/changes to the current ByLaws. Proposed changes were regarding simple majority, vote by phone. This would require the BID purchasing a quality speaker phone for the board room.
- **December Board Meeting/Holiday Party**
- Gritsavage will be hosting the final Board Meeting of the year at his town house, 266 Lark Street, on Thursday December 7th. The Board will first vote on the 2008 Budget, the Revised ByLaws, and the festivities will follow.

### **Other Business**

- Weidrich reported on Tech Valley Communication's introduction of Albany Free Net (WiFi) to the Lark Street Area. He has discussed the potential of the BID's web page being the home page for Free Net. The WiFi program will allow for security and marketing opportunities. There is a potential for a live action security camera as well as cameras to promote our festivals and events. Weidrich would also like to promote a package to each business that is not currently on the web for design and layout.
- Potential legal and privacy issues were discussed with the cameras. The general consensus resolved that WiFi good, cameras bad.
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Rob Curry motioned to close the meeting

Richard Berkeley seconded the motion

Meeting closed at approximately 7:04 p.m.