



Little Italy Residents Association

Meeting Minutes: January 25, 2007

First, we would like to express our gratitude to the “W” for hosting our January LIRA meeting. Our “meeting room” was elegant, the hors d'oeuvres exquisite, and the service outstanding.

Early Morning Garbage Collection Proposal

To alleviate the logistical problems inherent in trash pickup in a densely populated downtown area, the city has been asked to allow the trash pickup to begin at 4:30 a.m. Although business associations have supported the plan, the residents were unanimous in expressing concern over the additional amount of noise to be created in the early morning hours. The members requested that a letter expressing opposition to this proposal be sent to the appropriate authorities.

The members also suggested

- A more comprehensive recycling program be instituted in the downtown area.
- Although the company that is requesting the early morning garbage collection has sited other cities that have allowed this to be instituted, the members request a less biased evaluation of the advantages and problems of this regulation.
- Exploration of increased efficiency in the method of private trash collection (i.e. contracts could be awarded for districts rather than for individual buildings, maximizing efficiency in time, fuel consumption, and traffic congestion)

The Proposed Community Plan

Ms. Tara Lake, of CCDC, updated the group on the progress of hiring a consultant for the Community Plan. She stated that the deadline had past for submission of RFP's (request for Proposals), and the applications were being



reviewed. It has not been decided, as yet, if CCDC will hire one team of consultants to develop separate plans for all the downtown communities, or several teams will be hired to independently create plans for specified neighborhoods. Ms. Lake estimated that this deliberation process would last until the end of March. Requests for community input will be solicited well after that date.

Crime in the Neighborhood:

Officer John Graham reported that the crime level in Little Italy is very low. The only new crime warning Officer Graham reported was the repeated complaints of a man knocking on condominium doors at night asking for money. Officer Graham suggested that residents do not open their doors at night for anyone they do not know.

Parking Meters

The Citizens' Task Force recommendations for changes in the parking meter rates and maximum duration had been instituted in Little Italy and parts of downtown for several months. The results have been quite favorable: the parking meter revenue has increased (due to the fact that the time duration has been adjusted to match the needs of the community), while the number of parking citations have decreased.

Quiet Zone (no Train Whistles)

It has been determined that the costs associated with improvement in the train crossing are within the city's approved budget. Construction of the improvements necessary to institute the "Quiet Zone" is scheduled to begin before this summer.

Other related news is that the train tracks will be out of service from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am., Wednesday through Sunday nights for nine months beginning this March. For more information, see:



http://www.ccdc.com/resources/resource_files/QuietZone_Fact_Sheet.pdf

CCAC Approval of Projects in Little Italy

Ken Cluskey and Laura Garret summarized the issues the Centre City Advisory Committee has been discussing.

- The committee gave approval for a proposed high-rise condominium/ mixed use high-rise to be located at the corner of India and Beech. The building would contain 80 living units, comprised of both 3 and 2- bedroom units. This tower is to have a floor plate of 10,000 sq. ft. and will be approximately as tall as the adjacent “Allegro Towers”. Plans for the project were provided for those present to review.
- As a point of information, Ken Cluskey notified the group that a new fire station will be located at the southwest corner of West Cedar Street and Pacific Coast Highway.

Crudo Restaurant and Nightclub

There has been a history of complaints from Little Italy Residents concerning the amount noise and disruption (largely urination and vomiting) to the surrounding neighborhood. A committee was formed and given the authority to compose and send a letter to the authorities expressing grave concern over this situation. The letter should focus on two main points: the negative impacts of the present circumstances, and the fact that these problems are largely the result of Crudo violating the conditions of their Conditional Use Permit.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Hallahan