

Little Italy Residents Association

Meeting Minutes: January 18, 2008

Guests:

Nancy Graham, President, Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC)

Matthew Awbrey, Office of Councilmember Kevin Faulconer

Officer John Graham, San Diego Police Department

Chris Gomez, Little Italy Association (LIA)

1. Nancy Graham provided overview of current, upcoming, and future projects and initiatives in the downtown area

Ms. Graham provided an update on such projects as the renovation of the Balboa Theatre, the new Main Library, the Civic Center Project, the Pedestrian Bridge over Harbor Drive, the Children's Museum/ Museo de los Ninos, and the improvements necessary to implement the "Quiet Zone". Initiatives and planning processes such as the Educational Task Force, the "C" Street Master Plan, the Neighborhood Design Guidelines, the Downtown Lighting Study, the Parks and Public Spaces Study

2. Community and Neighborhood Issues

Mr. Awbrey, of Councilmember Faulconer office, spoke on many issues concerning the downtown area. Of great interest was the search for the determining the location of the new permanent homeless shelter.

Officer John Graham of SDPD answered many questions concerning break-ins, traffic problems and local nuisance issues. Officer Graham also suggested to use the web page for the Community Resource Directory to obtain more information on contact phone numbers and various resources available.

<http://www.sandiego.gov/gangcommission/directory/index.shtml>

Mr. Chris Gomez gave updates on upcoming events in the neighborhood including "Kettner Nights", "Carnival" and "Art Walk". Two new proposed neighborhood projects: community gardens (to be located at the end of Fir Street) and "Heritage Way" (to be located on Date Street between Front and Union Streets) were also discussed. Mr. Gomez also provided the phone number for the Little Italy Security Service (a service paid for through our "Maintenance Fee"): 619.818.2548.

Mr. Nick Watson provided an update on the activities that are addressing the serious problems and proposed opportunities resulting from the closure of two elementary level schools in the downtown area. Mr. Philip Bona of CCDC also provided information and insight into this issues. The membership unanimously supported a motion to request the President, Dahvia Lynch, to write a letter addressed to the Board of Education stating our grave concern over the present situation, request that the moneys accumulated from downtown developer funds be allocated immediately to our existing local public elementary school and used to support innovative educational opportunities throughout the downtown area.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Hallahan