

## **Little Italy Residents Association**

Meeting Minutes: October 13, 2009

Guests:

Mrs. Joyce Summers: Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC)

Mr. Gary Smith: President, Downtown Residents Association

Mrs. Laura Garret: Centre City Advisory Committee (CCAC)

### **1. General Downtown update**

Mrs. Summers noted several downtown developments and issues that directly effect Little Italy. Among those noted was the commencement of construction of the improvement for the Front and Cedar Street Stoplight. The completion date is projected to be March 2010.

The "Quiet Zone" improvements are now in the bidding process. Please see XXXX for further information. For more information, please see <http://www.viva-city.info/cityNews.htm#first>

The CCDC Budget is under review and the priorities for funding are being discussed. Those interested should provide input by Nov. 4.

An update on the progress new Main Library was also provided by Mr. Smith.

### **2. Winter Homeless Shelter location**

Mrs. Summers provided an update on the status of the proposal for locations of this years Winter Homeless Shelter. The City Council discussed the issue earlier that afternoon. At this time, the shelter will most likely be located in the downtown area. For more information, please see <http://www.viva-city.info/cityNews.htm>

### **3. Proposed New Off-Lease Dog Park**

The proposed new dog park was also discussed. The scheme envisions locating the off-lease dog park on the top level of a new parking structure on property just north of Washington School. This plan also involves redesigning the bocce ball courts located at south side of Washington School. For more information on the proposed park, please contact the Little Italy Business Association.

During this discussion, clarification was asked concerning the rules of the current grass area that is used for a dog park. Mrs. Wardlow, Principal of Washington Elementary explained that the area is owned by the City of San Diego, and is maintained by the Park and Recreation Department. The use of the park is shared by the public and the school. Confusion on the exact hours and "on-lease" nature of the park are not clearly noted in signage, the and unfortunate conflicts result. Mrs. Summers will make a formal request of Park and Recreation to provide the appropriate signage for the park.

### **4. Proposed new scheme for the Parking Meter Operation in Little Italy.**

Mr. Gary Smith addressed this issue, providing background on the changes to the times of operation, duration of parking allowed, and fees levied that have already been implemented in Little Italy and throughout downtown. The results of these changes thus far appear successful- the overall utilization of the parking spaces has increased thereby increasing the revenue to the city from the parking meters, and a reduction in parking tickets issued. The reduction in parking tickets issued is believed to be the result of assignment of more appropriate time limits in many locations.

Mr. Smith explained that the proposed involving the parking regulation deals with a change in assignment of control of the regulations as well as control of the parking fees collected.

### **5. Non-conforming Use Permits (N.U.P.)**

In Little Italy, the application for a Non-conforming Use Permit usually involves a business expansion such as the providing of live entertainment, extended hours of operation, use of city property to use as seating for sidewalk cafes.

At this time, there is no mechanism for notification of LIRA of these applications. Each business is required to post the notice of application, and property owners are also noticed. It was suggested that LIRA should request formal noticing by the appropriate governing agency.

### **6. Washington Elementary School**

Mrs. Janie Wardlow provided a summary of the programs and initiatives the students and administration are involved in. Please visit [washingtonelementary.org](http://washingtonelementary.org) for more information.

### **7. Centre City Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Garret reported that there are no issues on this month's CCAC agenda that directly concern Little Italy.

Elections for CCAC membership will take place on Oct. 26. Although there are not seats up for election this year, the seats for charitable organization and civic group are open to Little Italy residents and business owners. For more information, please see: <http://www.ccdc.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/planning.ccace>

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Hallahan