

Lark Street Business Improvement District
December 16, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Mark Brogna, Leigh Jagareski, Rich Conti, Chris Burke, Susan Pedo, Erica Scheer, Dan Fitzgerald, Dan Woycik

Other Attendees: Jeff Gordon

- I. Welcome and Introductions** – Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. Confirmation of Quorum** – Quorum was achieved.
- III. Approval of Minutes** – The November minutes were approved.
Motion: Approve Minutes (Mark, Dan W., all in favor)
- IV. Executive Session** – The board went into executive session. No action was taken.
Motion: Enter Executive Session (Erica, Dan F., all in favor)
Motion: Exit Executive Session (Rich, Chris, all in favor)
- V. Chairman's Report** (Chris) – Chris reported the Santa Speedo Race and accompanying event appeared to have gone well. Chris has drafted a calendar of events to be reviewed and discussed by the board in the beginning of next year. He initially proposed Lark Out Loud, Art on Lark, Taste of Lark and a possible recognition event to replace Champagne on the Park. We need to review other community event calendars to ensure we don't double book.

Chris met with DGS and will be meeting with a private contractor regarding street cleaning and snow removal. DGS will make shovels and salt available to us if we want to support volunteer activities to shovel snow and house the equipment at the BID office.

Chris and Rich negotiated with DGS to add six garbage cans to Lark Street similar to the ones we already have as well as a map to put out showing where to put your trash. Also, four new cans will be added to the intersection of Lark and Washington and DGS will clean the bus shelters. DGS is holding onto 20 planters for us that are being painted and then planted, so when we put them out, they're already growing. Chris will be in contact with the Central Avenue BID to see if they can add us to their watering route. DGS also offered us a seasonal employee during the summer to help clean the streets.

Chris has been in discussions with Gabriella Romero on a possible museum to replace the Trinity Church and \$1M in funds available for a farmer's market. Rich noted the current proprietor of the Washington Park Farmer's market is reconsidering his business model to become a nonprofit, making it eligible for

grants. He suggested collaboration to avoid unnecessary competition between the two. Moving the farmer's market to Lark will allow it to operate even on days when there are other events going on in the park. The board together noted an indoor market model similar to those in Philadelphia and Buffalo would be a great addition to the street.

Chris would like to continue to clean up the BID office and make space for some more storage, possibly for a snow blower.

VI. Finance Committee Report (Dan O.) – We're working with the new bookkeeper to get back on track and are submitting a voucher to the city for the money they owe us, roughly \$100k. Leigh reviewed the charges related to the web hosting for the board, noting we can get more savings on monthly charges if we switch to yearly plans for the calendar plugin, domain name and design platform. When obtained, she will bring the new yearly prices to the board for approval.

VII. Event Committee Report (Chris) – Mark, Chris and Elissa reached out to a lot of businesses in-person to get them to participate in the Taste of Lark event. There were mixed sentiments regarding the success of the event, with Mark reporting a healthy business day and Erica expressing concern there were not enough patrons staying later into the day and evening. Leigh has been in touch with a couple of vendors. Erin Harkes of Metroland is a potential event manager to plan Art on Lark and other events.

VIII. Public Safety & Communications Committee Report (Leigh) – Leanne of Headline Media is going to be our contracted person for ribbon cuttings and other events as needed. We're reviewing an agreement with Sarah from Wave Management to handle our social media. Leigh will send the existing proposals to the board for review.

Erica offered some feedback on the new website, noting it could use a little more work to make it look livelier and more artistic to accurately portray the vibe of our district.

IX. New Business – Dan F. is spearheading our membership project to determine exactly who are members are and how many of them we have. He will utilize tax rolls and tenant applications. Residential names and numbers present the most difficulty. In the meantime, Dan will reach out to see which board members would like to be on our new Membership Committee.

X. Old Business – There was no old business.

XI. Public Comment – Mark expressed his happiness about the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Lark and State, with carolers and Santa bringing great energy to the evening. He suggested bringing it to more street corners next year and possibly add a performance from the Albany Gay Men's Choir.

Mark noted our meeting minutes are well written and thorough and thanked

Erica for her efforts.

XII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned.

Motion: Adjourn Meeting (Erica, Mark, all in favor)

Recorder,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Scheer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Erica Scheer

Secretary of the Board