



Minutes – Italian Village Society Monthly Meeting

Date: August 11, 2015

Location: Junior Achievement (Formerly 2nd Avenue Elementary School)

Board Members Present: Christopher Vidoni, President; Mike Navarro, Vice President; Stephanie Harris, Treasurer; Mark Bair, Secretary.

1. Opening and Introductions:

President Chris Vidoni called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM and made introductions.

2. Approval of the Minutes: Mike Navarro

Minutes were approved for July 2015 meeting.

3. Guest Speaker: Marty Stutz, COTA Vice President, Corporate Communications, Marketing, & Customer Service. His main points:

The C-Bus ran for the first time on a holiday--July 4th. Since this was successful, it will run on summer holidays, including Labor Day. There are no plans at this point for service on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Some COTA buses are using compressed natural gas (CNG), which is fossil fuel, but cleaner and less expensive. COTA now operates 104 CNG buses out of a fleet of 350 active fixed-route buses. The transition of the entire fleet is expected to be complete by 2025. This commitment, based on both environmental and economic factors, will result in air quality improvements in central Ohio and a substantial reduction in operating fuel costs. In the first two years of CNG operation, COTA has saved more than \$1.5 million in fuel costs.

A lot of young people want to live in a dense area with little need for a car, and easy access to transportation and to pay their fare with a phone app, but that technology is expensive and not fully tested. COTA knows they need to try to keep those people in town and not lose them to Denver, Charlotte, etc.

Fares account for 20% of COTA's costs. The other 80% is subsidized by things like sales tax.

While the CBus is free, it has sponsors, which include 5/3 Bank. And while CBUS is free, it can stimulate spending, from which sales tax revenues support COTA. CBUS being free has drawn complaints, however. It appears unfair to some that the better off have a free bus and those with low-paying jobs that rely on the COTA for transportation every day have to pay. COTA does not want to have two bus systems, one "first class" and the other "coach."

Nothing was really said about making the CBus routes further north than 3rd Ave.

4. Complete Streets Implementing Committee – Andy Klein

Andy K distributed minutes and announced the next meeting. Un-designating N. Fourth and Summit Streets as US 23 has been an ongoing topic. Andy reported that State Rep. Michael Stinziano accepted our invitation to advise us on how best to proceed with the next steps.

Stinziano noted that both US 23 and US 40 on E. Main are nightmares for their neighborhoods, that he does have a good relationship with ODOT Region 6, and they're willing to work with us, but first we must convince the city's engineers at Public Service to move this forward. Since US 23 is a federal designation, there may be reluctance on the city's part to such a proposal since designation is tied to federal money, which the city relies on in its budget.

Andy shared a Draft Mission Statement for Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee

The Streets Committee meets monthly on the last Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm at Seventh Son Brewery to discuss issues surrounding the public use of our streets and sidewalks. Our goal is to make our neighborhood streets "complete streets" in the sense they should unite our neighborhood, not divide it, and safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit riders and adjoining residents as well as vehicular traffic. We address such issues as parking, cross-walks, lighting, street trees, sidewalk amenities, signal timing, one-way vehicular traffic and development as it affects our neighborhood's streets and sidewalks and their safe use.

5. Crime Report--officer Steve Smith

There have some thefts (bicycles), and a couple burglaries. Most incidents of pedestrian safety have been on High Street, none on 4th in the last couple of years.

6. Italian Village Park/Pavilion Update--Stephanie Harris

The city is gearing up to look at designs for the new Italian Village Park pavilion. A panel that includes Steve Hurtt and Stephanie will look at different designs. There are around thirty architect's portfolios submitted. The panel will narrow it down to three of these architects, who will do the pavilion design. Things will begin sometime in September.

7. Membership Report--Mike Navarro

A new welcome letter will go out to new and existing members. More are signing up and paying online.

8. Italian Village Commission Report--Josh Lapp

Josh lap could not attend this meeting. Look for the agenda to be shared on the IVS Website and Facebook in the near future.

9. Treasurer's Report--Stephanie Harris

10. Announcements

Streets Committee meets August 27th at Seventh Son 5:30

Italian Festival Oct 9, 10, 11

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Italian Village Society Secretary, Mark Bair