Minutes

Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 7:00 pm Virtual Meeting—Held on Zoom

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee ("Committee") of ANC 6A was held commencing at 7:00 pm EST on January 24, 2023, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Erin Sullivan, Kara Hughley, Joe Krisch

Commissioners Present: None

Establishment Representatives Present: Sean Morris (Vybrations Restaurant and Lounge)

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
 - The agenda was approved without objection.
 - The minutes from the December 27, 2022 meeting of the Committee were approved without objection.

II. Community Comment

• Chair Sullivan asked if any members of the community in attendance wanted to make any comments unrelated to the "New Business" items on the agenda. There were no comments.

III. New Business

- Discussion of application by VYB Enterprises, LLC t/a Vybrations Restaurant and Lounge at 1123 H Street NE (ABRA-123389) for a Class C Restaurant License.
 - Mr. Sean Morris appeared on behalf of Vybrations Restaurant and Lounge. He
 indicated that the proprietors had been planning to attend the meeting but
 were unable to do so due to a family conflict, and that he would provide an
 overview and answer questions on behalf of his clients.
 - Mr. Morris indicated that Vybrations will be a food-focused restaurant with a vegan menu, and that there will be local live music on occasion playing R&B, jazz and Latin jazz. He stated that there would be no outside promoters, and that the proprietors would work with the ANC on the hours for the outside roof deck.
 - o In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Morris clarified that it will be a seated restaurant, and the applicants are doing significant work to the space, but they do not plan to enclose the outside. He also indicated that to his knowledge the proprietors have no relationship with the proprietors of the past establishments in that space, and that the expectation is that the space will be quite different from anything that has been there before, and that at least one of the proprietors is a resident of ANC 6D, so they understand the residential character of the neighborhood.
 - With respect to trash, Mr. Morris indicated that they are intending to contract with a private commercial company who will pick up at least three times a week.
 - With respect to security, Mr. Morris indicated that they are planning to contract security and also hire off-duty MPD officers.

- Mr. Morris stated that the proprietors do not have any other restaurants in DC, but they have one in Waldorf called Shark Bar, and he is not aware of any violations there.
- Chair Sullivan read a statement on behalf of Commissioner Mike Velasquez who
 was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Morris indicated that he spoke with
 Commissioner Velasquez prior to the meeting and that the proprietors share
 the sentiments expressed in his statement. He stated that the proprietors are
 willing to meet with neighbors informally as well.
- Chair Erin Sullivan opened the discussion for community comment, and neighbors raised questions and concerns about parking, private security, the relationship of the proprietors with prior owners, noise and soundproofing (particularly on the roof), food delivery, promotions, smoking, and whether the venue will operate as an entertainment venue as opposed to a restaurant. Neighbors also expressed disappointment that the proprietors were not in attendance at the meeting, especially since this venue has been a point of contention in the neighborhood and they are concerned about a repeat. A neighbor also invited the proprietors to attend the local community meeting.
- Mr. Morris offered to be a first point of contact for neighbor concerns and provided his phone number and email address during the meeting. He also indicated that the proprietors want to enter into a dialogue with respect to the roof deck hours and they are willing to restrict music on the roof in keeping with the character of the community.
- Committee member Joe Krisch moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license application of Vybrations Restaurant and Lounge, unless a settlement agreement is reached between the ANC and the license applicant prior to the protest deadline, and that the Chair of the ABL Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC and Commissioner Velasquez represent the ANC in this matter.
 - Committee member Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- The Committee members discussed that even though the vote was unanimous, they would ask Commissioner Velasquez to put this item on the regular agenda for discussion at the ANC meeting.
- Discussion of application by Naomi's Ladder II, LLC t/a Smokin' Pig at 1208 H Street NE (ABRA-104866) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
 - Chair Sullivan indicated that there was no representative from Smokin' Pig in attendance tonight, and that she reached out to ABRA as the establishment has been closed recently; ABRA confirmed that their license is currently active.
 - Committee member Krisch moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC take no action with regard to the license renewal application of Smokin' Pig.
 - Chair Sullivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.