

ANC 6A ABL Committee
April 20, 2010
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Committee members present: Commissioner Mary Beatty (ANC 6A05); Michael Herman; Jaki Downs; Tish Olshefski

Committee members absent: Anne Marie Koshuta

Commissioners: Kelvin Robinson (ANC6A)

Community: Saundra Seran; Coralie Farlee (ANC6D); Margaret Holwill; Phil Toomajian; Nick Sarris (new establishment, not yet named)

I. AGENDA/MINUTES

- a. **Agenda** – Motion to accept agenda. No objections.
- b. **Minutes** – Motion to accept minutes presented at last ANC meeting. No objections.

II. COMMUNITY COMMENT

- a. Coralie Farlee-Question about when the public comment period will be held on the change to VA. Chair Beatty stated that this should occur in the next few months and may take the form of a rulemaking.
- b. Margaret Holwill-General comment about encouraging standard opening time in restaurants/bars particularly lunch hours to support new retail on H Street.

III. REVIEW OF ANC6A MARCH MEETING RE: ABL RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. **Queen Vic**
ANC accepted our recommendation on the VA Agreement.
- b. **Public Hearing re: Moratorium**
ANC agrees we should hold this public forum. Planning will begin this evening.
- c. **Chow VA**
ANC agreed with our recommendation to not accept the VA as modified by Chow VA because it would set a precedent for similar modifications by ABRA. We will move forward with a VA for Chow after ABRA's public hearing on VA's.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1) CT Application – Nick Sarris (1220 H Street, LLC—next to the two empty lots, near Sticky Rice)

- a. Wanted to come in and meet us. Greek "Mezza" establishment (small plates, tapas-like). Full kitchen but hitting the food/drink ratio for restaurants will be tough. Not trying to get a CT to avoid the kitchen/food issues but concern is about the ratio.
- b. Wanted us to have a copy before he submits it.
- c. Q: What is the name? A: Two possible but no name yet.
- d. Q: Accoustic entertainment? A: light music such as guitar
- e. Q: Are you using both floors? A: main level and top floor for dining. Trying to keep entire kitchen in the basement.
- f. Q: Dining seating only or some bar? A: Bar--10 on one floor and 12 on the other.
- g. Q: How many seats for dining? A: 150 including the bars.
- h. Q: Deliveries in the back alley? A: Yes.
- i. Q: You understand that if you do serve in the back it is a summer garden and you need to make a substantial change? A: Yes. Understand that.
- j. Q: Community member--willing to consider opening at lunch? A: Yes.
- k. Q: When do you intend to file the application? A: Waiting probably a week to 10 days.

Mary Beatty recommends that the ANC protest this application unless we have an approved VA prior to the petition date. Seconded by Jaki Downs. Unanimous.

While Mr. Sarris had not filed his application yet, he presented a copy that he intended to file and assured us he will make only the changes to his application that were discussed in the meeting. That is, that he will request opening hours to include the possibility of serving lunch.

2) Public Hearing Plans

- a. The purpose of the hearing is to consider whether we should recommend a moratorium on CT licenses. We had a hearing in 2007. The conclusion of the hearing was that it was too early in H Street's development to consider a moratorium. We had about 50 to 60 people. Most of the emails were in favor of a moratorium. Most of those present were opposed to a moratorium. We agreed to re-assess in one to two years.
- b. Few things we need to consider:
 - a. Do we need to do research on what is going on in other parts of the city before we plan the hearing or do we proceed with planning? Last time we had people from Adams Morgan, U Street, Mt. Pleasant, etc.
 - i. Some time has passed, couldn't hurt to do research.
 - ii. Might consider inviting the same people back to get an update.
 - iii. Recommendation from the audience to talk to someone at the DC Office of Planning on their experience with other areas of the city.
 - iv. Mary proposes we do a lot of time in our next meeting to do this research and bring in some presenters.
 - b. How do we want to advertise to the community? Last time we did multiple processes—flyers, newspapers, email, blogs. Mary has found that the best way to get people out is with a flyer. We used CSOSA to assist us distributing flyers but the effectiveness was spotty.
 - i. Internet is great but it doesn't reach everyone.
 - ii. Flyers close in to H Street would be very important. They need to be neutral. Encourage the pertinent commissioners to find a way to get them distributed.
 - c. Question: Looks like it could be July?
 - i. What about September after we have the summer months under our belts.
 - ii. Agree September should be our goal.
 - d. May need a budget for this for advertising and can Mary proceed? Mary will get a bid from Hill Rag and Voice of the Hill. She will also look at the cost of hiring a firm to distribute the flyers.

Motion that the ABL committee request funds for publicizing the public hearing not to exceed \$2000. Second by Jaki Downs. Unanimous.

Recommendation to include a speaker about new ruling on "standing room" in restaurants. Adjourn 8:10 am.

Next regular meeting date is May 18, 2010, however Chair Beatty knows that she will be out, so the next meeting may be moved or someone else may chair.