

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
April 17, 2018

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee (“Committee”) of ANC 6A was held commencing at 7:00 pm on April 17, 2018 at Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 Tenth (10th) Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Committee Members Present: Jay Williams (Co-Chair), Christopher Seagle (Co-Chair) and Michael Herman.

Committee Members Absent: Justin Rzepka, Roger Caruth, and Mark Samburg.

Commissioners Present: None.

Community Members Present: Camelia Mazard and Lance Steglich (On the Rocks), Jim Briley and John Briley (Master Liquors)

I. Call to Order

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. The meeting proceeded with a quorum present.

II. Community Comment

None.

III. Old Business

None.

IV. New Business

A. Discussion of license renewal for Sky Globe, Inc. t/a Grand Liquors at 409 A 15th St. NE (License No. ABRA-108850).

- Mr. Williams, Mr. Seagle, and Mr. Herman all noted that they were not aware of any complaints about the establishment and noted that nobody was present to raise any concerns.

Mr. Williams moved/seconded by Mr. Seagle, to recommend that the ANC take no action regarding the license renewal of Sky Globe, Inc. t/a Grand Liquors. The motion passed 3-0.

B. Discussion of license renewal for Jumbo Liquors, Inc. t/a Jumbo Liquors at 1122 H St. NE (License No. ABRA-000420).

- Mr. Williams, Mr. Seagle, and Mr. Herman all noted that they were not aware of any complaints about the establishment and noted that nobody was present to raise any concerns.

Mr. Williams moved/seconded by Mr. Seagle, to recommend that the ANC take no action regarding the license renewal of Jumbo Liquors, Inc. t/a Jumbo Liquors. The motion passed 3-0.

C. Discussion of license renewal for 18th & D Liquors, Inc. t/a Master Liquors at 1806 D St. NE (License No. ABRA-074594).

- Mr. Williams stated that in the past there had been some complaints regarding Master Liquors, with particular focus on issues with loitering and individuals in the empty parking lot nearby. He noted, however, that he had not heard any complaints in a while and hoped that that meant conditions had improved between the neighbors and the establishment.
- Mr. Seagle concurred and also observed that nobody had raised concerns when this item was on the agenda, and nobody was present to raise any issues.
- Mr. Briley stated that the owners were working hard to do what they could to cut down on loitering, but there was only so much they could do given DC law. He also stated that he felt that there had been progress in working with the neighbors, especially as new development came in.
- Mr. Williams thanked the Brileys for attending the meeting and being willing to discuss issues with neighbors.

Mr. Williams moved/seconded by Mr. Seagle, to recommend that the ANC take no action regarding the license renewal of 18th & D Liquors, Inc. t/a Master Liquors. The motion passed 3-0.

D. Discussion of license renewal for Andy Lee Liquor t/a New H Wine & Spirits at 914 H St. NE (License No. ABRA-093550).

- Mr. Williams, Mr. Seagle, and Mr. Herman all noted that they were not aware of any complaints about the establishment and noted that nobody was present to raise any concerns.

Mr. Williams moved/seconded by Mr. Seagle, to recommend that the ANC not protest the license renewal of Andy Lee Liquor t/a New H Wine & Spirits. The motion passed 3-0.

E. Discussion of request by On the Rocks (1242 H Street NE) to amend its settlement agreement to allow patron seating, food preparation, and/or storage on its third and fourth floors.

- Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Mazard, who provided information regarding the pending request.
- Ms. Mazard explained that since taking over the location, the owners were interested in putting the third and fourth floors to use, but they were running into issues because those floors are zoned residential. Ms. Mazard stated that their understanding was that the zoning change could not happen without a change to the Settlement Agreement.
- Mr. Williams responded that he did not believe the Settlement Agreement would affect the zoning of the third and fourth floors, since different agencies dealt with those two issues. He also noted that when the building was built, the top two floors were outside of what was permitted and that there was a controversy with the ANC regarding the construction. One way ANC 6A was able to impose limitations was to put in the language in the Settlement Agreement. Mr. Williams stated that his understanding was that those floors should never have been built, but he acknowledged he did not have a firm grasp on the situation as he was not well-versed in zoning law.
- Mr. Williams stated he would be more comfortable considering a change to the Settlement Agreement after the zoning issue had been worked out (including giving

- the ANC's Economic Development and Zoning (ED&Z) Committee a chance to weigh in). Mr. Seagle and Mr. Herman stated that they agreed with that process.
- Ms. Mazard said she understood but was frustrated because she felt like they were getting the "run-around." Mr. Williams apologized, but stated that he believed this was at its core a zoning issue, and one that should be ironed out before any changes are made to the liquor license.
 - Mr. Williams asked Ms. Mazard if they would be willing to limit their rooftop hours of operation to 11:00 pm on weeknights and 12:00 am on weekends, and she said they would.
 - Mr. Seagle noted that the Committee had received some complaints regarding the establishment. Someone alleged that they were hosting pop-up marijuana parties (or were associated with individuals who do), and another person complained about curtains being drawn in the front window. He also expressed concerns with allegations that were made to ABRA regarding misleading investigators when the license was being transferred.
 - Mr. Steglich responded that the establishment is not hosting any marijuana-related events. He stated that the curtains are drawn when they are closed as a security issue, because they do not want people looking in to see an empty bar. When the establishment is open, the curtains are open. Mr. Steglich also stated that the individuals who were responsible for misleading the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) during the license transfer are no longer involved in the organization.

Mr. Williams moved/seconded by Mr. Seagle, to recommend that the ANC take no action regarding request by On the Rocks (1242 H Street NE) to amend its settlement agreement to allow patron seating, food preparation, and/or storage on its third and fourth floors until zoning issue has been resolved. The motion passed 3-0.

V. Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 7:25 pm.