

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
June 16, 2020

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee (“Committee”) of ANC6A was held commencing at 7:00 pm EST on June 16, 2020, on a publicly posted WebEx Event.

Committee Members Present: Mark Samburg (Co-Chair)

Committee Members Absent: Nick Alberti (Co-Chair), Roger Caruth, Laura Gentile, Justin Rzepka, Ramin Taheri

Commissioners Present: Mike Soderman

Community Members Present: Aaron McGovern

I. Call to Order

Mr. Samburg called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm, and noted that a quorum was not present, so any recommendations to the ANC would be non-binding.

II. Community Comment

None

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

- Discussion of application by DC Culinary Academy, LLC, t/a The Outsider at 1357-1359 H Street NE (ABRA# 110889) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License
 - Mr. McGovern described vision for Brine Oyster, new concept in former Outsider space. Mr. McGovern noted that he also runs Biergarten Haus, next door to the proposed space for Brine Oyster.
 - Brine Oyster will be a New England-style seafood restaurant. Some outdoor space will be moved from the Biergarten footprint to Brine Oyster for outdoor dining without outdoor music or other entertainment.
 - Approximate seating of 35 inside, 35 outside.
 - Mr. McGovern stated that DC Culinary Academy will apply for a trade name change with ABRA shortly. Mr. McGovern noted that he is the sole owner of DC Culinary Academy, and that he will be bringing some staff from Russia House, which he also runs, to help with the opening.
 - Mr. McGovern stated that he is waiting for Stage 2 reopening before Brine Oyster would open.
 - Mr. Samburg asked what Brine Oyster’s target opening date would be if there were no coronavirus considerations. Mr. McGovern stated that July 4 would be the earliest possible date for opening, on a limited capacity.
 - Mr. Soderman confirmed that Brine Oyster will have no amplified music outside, and that the establishment is seeking the same settlement agreement currently in effect for The Outsider, rebranded to Brine Oyster. Mr. McGovern confirmed that to be correct.

- Mr. Soderman asked whether Brine Oyster intends to have sidewalk seating. Mr. McGovern stated that he would consider accordion windows “down the road,” but would not be seeking sidewalk seating.
- Mr. Soderman stated that the ANC would likely be receptive to future requests for sidewalk seating accommodations as establishments seek to return from coronavirus. Mr. McGovern stated that he would be interested in exploring that possibility.
- Mr. Soderman noted that sidewalk seating would most likely succeed if a contingent of owners approached ANC 6A and 6C with requests. Mr. Soderman noted that the major concerns would be safety and whether businesses were willing to lose parking space to accommodate additional seating.
- Mr. McGovern stated that he would consider discussing possibly raising the sidewalk seating idea with nearby owners.
- Mr. Samburg moved that the ABL submit a suggested motion that the ANC take no action on DC Culinary Academy’s application for renewal or for any anticipated application for a change of trade name. Mr. Soderman seconded, and the suggested motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next meeting date: August 18, 2020