

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 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 September 27, 2022, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Mona Hatoum (Co-Chair), Ian Stanford (Co-Chair), Kara Hughley, Mike Velasquez

Commissioners Present: None

Establishment Representatives Present: None

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Co-Chair Stanford called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
 - Co-Chair Hatoum moved to amend the agenda by adding the placard that came in for The Pursuit Wine Bar & Kitchen to the top of the agenda. This placard was received by the Committee on Friday September 23 at 4:56 pm, well after the production of the original meeting agenda. Members of the Committee discussed the pros and cons of adding an item to the agenda at such late date. In this case, the deadline for opposing the renewal is November 7, 2022, which means that tabling the item until the next ABL meeting would mean that a recommendation could not be given to the ANC for consideration until after the deadline had passed. Therefore, the agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.
 - The minutes from the July 26, 2022 meeting of the Committee were approved without objection.

- II. Community Comment
 - Co-Chair Stanford noted that no members of the community were in attendance, and that he would check back to make sure that, if they joined, they had an opportunity to speak.
 - Mr. Velasquez noted that pursuant to a concern that Mr. Madison from 6A02 raised about a lack of information about ANC and ABL discussions of license applications, he forwarded a copy of the agenda to him.

- III. New Business
 - Discussion of application by The Pursuit Wine Bar & Kitchen at 1025 H Street NE (ABRA-113810) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
 - A Committee member asked if there had been any concerns with respect to this establishment, and the other Committee members indicated that there had been none.
 - The Committee members discussed the hours on the placard, and the most recent settlement agreement, which is from 2019, noting that it includes loitering language, but since that is no longer enforceable by law, no update is required.
 - Co-Chair Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC send a letter of support for the license renewal application.

- Ms. Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.
- Discussion of application by VibeZ on H at 1378 H Street NE (ABRA-117753) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
 - A Committee member asked if there had been any concerns with respect to this establishment, and a Committee member noted that there had only been a good comment - that they could not hear noise from the establishment.
 - The Committee members discussed the endorsements and the hours on the placard, and the most recent settlement agreement, which is from March 2021.
 - Co-Chair Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC send a letter of support for the license renewal application.
 - Ms. Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.
- Discussion of application by Bar Bullfrog/Bullfrog Bagels at 1341 H Street NE (ABRA-112890) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
 - The Committee members discussed the endorsements and the hours on the placard, and the fact that there is currently a pop-up restaurant operating out of the space that serves patrons on the sidewalk. It was noted that there is no settlement agreement currently in place.
 - Co-Chair Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC send a letter of opposition regarding the license renewal application unless a settlement agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and further that the Chairs of the ABL Committee, as well as Committee member Krusch, and the Chairs of the ANC represent the ANC in the negotiation of the settlement agreement.
 - Ms. Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.
- Discussion of application by The Queen Vic at 1206 H Street NE (ABRA-083930) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
 - It was noted that for this application there was a rescinded notice and an updated readvertisement of the notice.
 - The Committee members discussed the endorsements and the hours on the placard, noting that the hours of operation for this establishment are from 8:00 am to 5:00 am every day. It was noted that the settlement agreement is from 2010.
 - The Co-Chairs of the Committee noted that the owner raised concerns about any changes to the hours during the discussions around the renewal application for his other establishment, Granville Moore. The Queen Vic has extended hours due to the European football game schedule.
 - It was also noted that The Queen Vic's settlement agreement has a trigger clause about noise complaints during a period of time, but there may be some room to amend the language to be consistent with similar provisions that have been added to other settlement agreements, particularly since there have been complaints about the noise levels at the establishment during early soccer matches.

- Co-Chair Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC send a letter of opposition regarding the license renewal application unless an updated settlement agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and further that the Chairs of the ABL Committee, as well as Co-Chair Stanford, and the Chairs of the ANC represent the ANC in the negotiation of the settlement agreement.
 - Ms. Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.
- Discussion of application by Mythology, Lore, & Dirty Water/Beetle House DC at 816 H Street NE (ABRA-095033) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
 - The Committee members discussed the endorsements and the hours on the placard, noting that there is an existing settlement agreement from 2014, which includes outdated incident log language, but an update is not necessary at this time.
 - Co-Chair Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC send a letter of support for the license renewal application.
 - Ms. Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.
- Discussion of application by Ocean Lounge at 1220 H Street NE (ABRA-114106) for a substantial change of its Class C Tavern License to include a Summer Garden.
 - The Committee members discussed the endorsements and the hours on the placard, noting that they acquired the upper floors of the building, and that language was added to the settlement agreement when it was entered into in February 2022 relating to a potential future sidewalk café and summer garden since they had plans to do that.
 - Co-Chair Hatoum noted that the owner has been vocal, shown up to everything and been forthcoming with information.
 - Co-Chair Stanford noted that the application appears to be a standard license application with protest deadline, and there is no reference to a letter of support or opposition, so if the ANC takes no action, then it will go through.
 - Co-Chair Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC take no action with respect to the substantial change request.
 - Ms. Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.
- Discussion of Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee upcoming membership changes.
 - Co-Chair Stanford shared that effective October 14, 2022, he will step down from the ABL Committee, as he is moving out of the ANC. He noted that during his remaining time on the Committee he would be open to helping another member of the Committee get up to speed to serve as Co-Chair.
 - The Committee members thanked Mr. Stanford for his service on the Committee.
 - It was noted that Committee Member Erin Sullivan has offered to serve as Co-Chair via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.