

Minutes  
Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 7:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via 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 October 25, 2022, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Mona Hatoum, Erin Sullivan, Kara Hughley, Mike Velasquez, Joe Krisch

Commissioners Present: None

Establishment Representatives Present: Aaron McGovern (Biergarten Haus and Brine), Michael Rosato (Sospeso), Blair Zervos (Sospeso), Sandra Basanti (Pie Shop)

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
  - Co-Chair Hatoum called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. She noted that this is Ms. Sullivan’s first meeting as Co-Chair.
  - Co-Chair Hatoum moved to amend the agenda by moving Pie Shop to after H Street Country Club and update the date of the next meeting which will be November 22, 2022. The agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.
  - The minutes from the September 27, 2022 meeting of the Committee were approved without objection.
  
- II. Community Comment
  - Co-Chair Hatoum asked if any members of the community in attendance had any comments. Ms. Pat Broom and Ms. Julia Coulter introduced themselves, and Ms. Coulter provided comments with respect to Biergarten Haus and Pie Shop.
  
- III. New Business
  - Discussion of application by Biergarten Haus, Inc. t/a Biergarten Haus at 1355 H Street NE (ABRA-083695) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
    - Mr. Aaron McGovern appeared on behalf of Biergarten Haus and Brine. With respect to Biergarten Haus, he noted that it is going into its thirteenth year and recently went through a cosmetic facelift and menu relaunch.
    - Ms. Coulter, a community member and vice present of the condominium board at The Maryland Apartments, shared her concerns with respect to amplified noise during trivia on Tuesdays. Mr. McGovern apologized and indicated that he would address that with the outside vendor and turn off the amplifiers and sound systems at 10:00 pm. Mr. McGovern also offered to provide his personal phone number to resolve any issues quickly.
    - In response to a question from Ms. Coulter, Mr. McGovern also provided a preview of the World Cup plans for Biergarten Haus.
    - Co-Chair Hatoum noted that the settlement agreement with Biergarten Haus was signed in 2010, and asked if Mr. McGovern would be open to updating the settlement agreement to be in line with the current form. Mr. McGovern indicated that he would, as long as it would not require restricting hours.
    - Ms. Hughley moved that the ABL Committee recommend to ANC 6A that they write a letter of support in favor of Biergarten Haus’ renewal application.

- Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
- Discussion of application by DC Culinary Academy, LLC t/a Brine at 1357-1359 H Street NE (ABRA-110889) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
  - Mr. McGovern shared that Brine teaches culinary arts through the DC Department of Health, and that even though they have a tavern license, they operate as a restaurant. He noted that there has never been an ABRA violation at Brine.
  - Co-Chair Hatoum noted that the settlement agreement with Brine was signed in 2016, and that it may be helpful to update.
  - Mr. Velasquez moved that the ABL Committee recommend to the ANC that they write a letter of support in favor of Brine's renewal application.
    - Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
- Discussion of application by Rosato, LLC t/a Sospeso at 1344 H Street NE (ABRA-100766) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
  - Mr. Michael Rosato appeared on behalf of Sospeso. He noted that they are not making any changes to their license, and they are going into their sixth year of operations.
  - A Committee member noted that the settlement agreement was signed in 2016. Co-Chair Hatoum indicated that she would send the current form to Mr. Rosato.
  - Ms. Sullivan moved that the ABL Committee recommend to the ANC that they write a letter of support in favor of Sospeso's renewal application.
    - Mr. Velasquez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
- Discussion of application by Par Bar, LLC t/a H Street Country Club at 1335 H Street NE (ABRA-076649) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
  - Mr. Blair Zervos appeared on behalf of H Street Country Club. He noted that they are not changing hours or operations. He shared that they are currently operating on a reduced schedule, and they have a large rooftop deck that is partially covered. He indicated that he worked on a settlement agreement with the neighborhood many years ago, and he would be happy to take a look at the new form. He also shared that they had a scheduling issue with ABRA recently that resulted in a fine for not having an ABL manager on duty, but they quickly resolved the issue.
  - Co-Chair Hatoum indicated that she would send the current form of the settlement agreement after the meeting. Mr. Zervos noted that the current settlement agreement reflects earlier hours for the back portion of the deck than the front.
  - Ms. Hughley moved that the ABL Committee recommend to the ANC that they write a letter of support in favor of H Street Country Club's renewal application.
    - Mr. Krisch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
- Discussion of application by Dangerously Delicious DC LLC t/a Pie Shop at 1339 H Street NE (ABRA-087422) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
  - Ms. Sandra Basanti appeared on behalf of Pie Shop.
  - Co-Chair Hatoum gave Ms. Coulter a chance to provide comments. Ms. Coulter raised that residents of The Maryland Apartments sometimes hear people

- screaming and yelling in the back of the establishment at night. Ms. Basanti indicated that she would have security keep a closer eye and make sure the space is not being used by people who are not authorized to be there.
- Ms. Basanti noted that they are not seeking any substantial changes to their license.
  - Co-Chair Hatoum indicated that an addendum to Pie Shop's settlement agreement was recently signed, so it is up to date.
  - Ms. Sullivan moved that the ABL Committee recommend to the ANC that they write a letter of support in favor of Pie Shop's renewal application.
    - Ms. Kara seconded the motion. Mr. Velasquez abstained. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0, with one abstention.
- Discussion of application by Lattice Partners LLC t/a Copycat Co. at 1110 H Street NE (ABRA-096474) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
    - Co-Chair Hatoum stated that no one from the establishment was present, and that she attempted to contact them via their website. She noted that there is no settlement agreement in place with them.
    - Mr. Velasquez noted that it is the Committee's practice to have settlement agreements in place, and he volunteered to make contact with them with respect to entering into a settlement agreement.
    - Mr. Velasquez moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC oppose Copycat Co.'s license renewal application unless a new settlement agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and further that the Chairs of the ABL Committee, as well as Committee member Velasquez, and the Chairs of the ANC represent the ANC in this matter.
      - Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
  - Discussion of application by Ceetapitol Square Bar and Grill LLC t/a DC Capitol Square Bar & Grill at 1500 East Capitol Street NE (ABRA-118000) for renewal of its Class C Restaurant License.
    - Co-Chair Hatoum stated that she was unable to reach anyone from the establishment, but they signed a settlement agreement in August 2021, as they opened recently.
    - Ms. Hughley moved that the ABL Committee recommend to the ANC that they write a letter of support in favor of DC Capitol Square Bar & Grill's renewal application.
      - Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
  - Discussion of application by Langston Bar & Grille, LLC t/a Langston Bar & Grille at 1831 Benning Road NE (ABRA-076260) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
    - Co-Chair Hatoum stated that she was unable to reach anyone from the establishment, and the most recent addendum to the settlement agreement was from 2010.
    - The Committee members discussed how to handle the recommendation when no representatives from the establishment attend the meeting. The Committee noted the importance of establishment representatives attending the meetings so there is an opportunity for dialogue with the community, but that there is a difference between not being able to make contact and the representative willfully not

- attending. It was noted that the Committee can make more of an effort to get in contact with the establishments prior to the meeting.
- Ms. Sullivan volunteered to try to get in touch with Langston Bar & Grille with respect to updating the settlement agreement.
  - Ms. Hughley moved that the ABL Committee recommend to the ANC that they write a letter of support in favor of Langston Bar & Grille's renewal application.
    - Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
- Discussion of application by LMW, LLC t/a Little Miss Whiskey's Golden Dollar at 1104 H Street NE (ABRA-079090) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
    - The discussion with respect to Little Miss Whiskey's Golden Dollar was moved to the end of the agenda, as the representative was not present.
    - Co-Chair Hatoum stated that she made contact with the establishment, but they were unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict.
    - Co-Chair Hatoum noted that settlement agreement is from 2008 with an addendum in 2016, and that their summer garden hours are expansive. She stated that the addendum was with respect to no live music on the patio and recorded music ending by a certain time. She noted that she has not heard any complaints and they do not appear to be asking for anything substantially different. She noted that it may make sense to reach out to them regarding updating the settlement agreement.
    - Ms. Sullivan moved that the ABL Committee recommend to the ANC that they write a letter of support in favor Little Miss Whiskey's Golden Dollar's renewal application.
      - Ms. Hughley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
  - Closing Remarks
    - It was noted that the Committee should be mindful that any unique circumstances from the original settlement agreements are not lost when they are updated to the current form of agreement.
    - The Committee members thanked Ms. Sullivan for stepping up as co-chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.