City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Friday, February 18, 2022

3:45 PM

Special Meeting - Annual Liquor License Renewal Process (rescheduled from Friday, February 4)

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second floor, City Council chambers

Council Liquor License Review Committee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Council Liquor License Review Committee was called to order by the Chair, Linh Song, at 3:50 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL

Staff members Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk; Rachel Weinberg, Administrative Assistant; and John Reiser, Assistant City Attorney; were in attendance.

Present: 4 - Lisa Disch, Kathy Griswold, Linh Song and Julie Grand

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Disch, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

22-0219 Council Liquor License Review Committee Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022

A motion was made by Councilmember Disch, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, that the Minutes be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 3/21/2022. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Annual Liquor License Review Process

City staff updated the Committee on the status of the annual liquor license renewals, noting that the City Treasurer was still waiting on outstanding personal property tax payments from three licensed businesses:

Cafe Zola - \$10,504.92 Nagomi Sushi (Liberty Street) - \$919.64 (2019) and \$770.26 (2020) Shalimar - \$1438.57 (2019) and \$6737.10 (2020)

The Treasurer provided a memo stating that he will be working with the City Attorney to seek other legal remedies for collection. However, staff recommended that the City Clerk's Office send an additional follow-up letter via certified mail. The Committee concurred and it was determined that a letter would be sent requesting payment prior to the next Liquor Committee meeting on March 11.

INFORMATION/UPCOMING BUSINESS

Quota Liquor License Process

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry updated the Committee on the new quota liquor licenses. It was noted that 7 new licenses were given to the City as a result of the new Census population numbers. Staff provided the Committee with information regarding the previous quota license application process and asked for direction on how the Committee might want to handle the process this year.

The Committee reviewed the previous quota application criteria that were used and suggested updated priorities include a commitment to A2Zero, encouraging BIPOC ownership, and a wider distribution of businesses in other neighborhoods besides downtown. Staff agreed to take this direction and bring back a revised application process for review at the next meeting.

A member of the audience encouraged the Committee to consider new applicants who might not yet be open or ready to quickly open.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business before the Committee, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

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