

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Friday, May 6, 2022

9:00 AM

**Special Meeting - To participate remotely on Zoom, Enter Webinar
ID: 913 9805 3207 Passcode: 701607**

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Basement, conference room

Council Liquor License Review Committee

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Linh Song, called the meeting of the Council Liquor License Review Committee to order at 9:07 a.m. in the Basement Conference Room, Guy C. Larcom Jr. City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street.

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry participated via Zoom. Rachel Weinberg of the City Clerk's Office was present in person with the Committee members.

ROLL CALL

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[22-0485](#) Council Liquor License Review Committee Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2022 and March 11, 2022

A motion was made by Councilmember Disch, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, that the Council Liquor License Review Committee Meeting Minutes of February 18 and March 11, 2022 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 6/21/2022. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

New Quota Liquor License Applications

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry and Administrative Assistant Rachel Weinberg reviewed the applications received by the City Clerk's Office. A total of ten applications were received by the due date of Friday, April 22, 2022. All ten applications were provided to city staff for a preliminary review, including for outstanding treasury obligations and building or fire code concerns. Ms. Weinberg noted that a number of the applicants would require Building Department approval of new build-outs and renovations. Chela's was also flagged for a property tax liability at their former location.

City Clerk Beaudry stated the Committee could make decisions on the applications today or a future meeting could be scheduled for interviews or further review if deemed necessary by the Committee.

The Committee reviewed each application and noted the following:

Up From the Skies, LLC (The Hidden King), 210 S. Main Street: This applicant was highlighted for their commitment to the preservation of a historic space and a return to its original use from the 1800s as a tavern. It was also noted that the tavern-style concept would not include TVs or sports-bar theme.

Chela's Restaurant and Taqueria, LLC, 693 S. Maple Road: This applicant was noted for their commitment to the community, reuse of existing equipment and a unique offering of food.

The Upkeep Games, LLC, 2121 W. Stadium Blvd: This applicant was highlighted as a very unique offering and a small start-up business in a different part of town. Their sustainability statement included a commitment to limit the use of plastics.

Lowertown Proper, LLC, 1031 Broadway: This application was noted for its location, which is currently an under-served area for dining and drinking. The applicant included a commitment to pay a living wage.

Tatsu, Inc. (The Seoul), 620 E. Liberty: This applicant is currently in the review process for a downtown development district license. It was also noted that the applicant has two other licensed businesses.

Liberty Drinks LLC, (TBD) 118 W. Liberty: This application provided a

similar offering to many of the other downtown restaurants. It is a partnership between two existing downtown restaurant/bars.

Spiedo, LLC, 307 and 311 S. Fifth Ave: This applicant has an existing business in Detroit and provided a commitment to sustainable food and an effort to be a carbon neutral business.

Majek, LLC (Kerrytown Sweetwaters Coffee and Tea), 407 N. Fifth Ave: This is an existing business seeking to add alcoholic beverages to their offerings and was noted for their location near residential neighborhoods.

Jibarito A2, LLC (Jibarito), 309 S. Main Street: This applicant has an existing downtown business. Their sustainability statement included a commitment to A2Zero goals, including electrification.

A2Wineman, LLC (Zinovia's), 512 S. Main Street: This applicant is offering a unique food concept (Ukrainian food) and a neighborhood location and is looking at solar options. The timeline for opening is longer than others.

Councilmember Griswold left the meeting at 10:00 a.m. prior to the vote.

Following the discussion of each application, Councilmember Grand moved, seconded by Councilmember Song, that the Committee recommend that City Council award new Class C quota licenses to the following businesses at their June 6 Regular Session:

Up From the Skies, LLC (The Hidden King), 210 S. Main Street

Chela's Restaurant and Taqueria, LLC, 693 S. Maple Road

The Upkeep Games, LLC, 2121 W. Stadium Blvd.

Lowertown Proper, LLC, 1031 Broadway

Spiedo, LLC, 307 S. Fifth Ave.

Majek, LLC (Kerrytown Sweetwaters Coffee and Tea), 407 N. Fifth Ave.

Jibarito A2, LLC (Jibarito), 309 S. Main Street

A2Wineman, LLC (Zinovia's), 512 S. Main Street

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION/UPCOMING BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The owner of Chela's Restaurant thanked the Committee for their work and the recommendation of his application for a license. He expressed his appreciation for local government helping small businesses.

The owner of Majek, LLC (dba Sweetwater's Coffee and Tea) spoke about his business, stating he is a partner with the City and the Farmer's Market being a Kerrytown business.

Brad Greenhill, of Spiedo, LLC, introduced himself and spoke about his restaurant in Detroit and his commitment to sustainability. He stated he sources most of his food from his own farm in Detroit and buys all locally sourced meats. He stated he is excited to come to Ann Arbor.

Drew Pompa, of Spiedo, thanked the Committee for their work and reiterated his partner's commitment to sustainability.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business before the Committee, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

**City Clerk's Office
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