

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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DAWN ZIMMER
Mayor



Robert W. Phillips, Chairman
Michael Blumenfeld, Vice Chairman
Steven Bauman, Commissioner

**Minutes of the March 24, 2016
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:25p.m.

The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by Suzanne Hetman, Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS	
Chairman Robert W. Phillips	ABSENT
Vice Chairman Michael Blumenfeld	✓
Commissioner Steven Bauman	✓

Also Present: Suzanne Hetman, board secretary, Ben Choi, Esq., attorney for the board, and Daisy Amado, recording secretary.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the March 10, 2016 meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting.

BOARD MEMBER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Phillips						✓
Vice Chairman Blumenfeld		✓	✓			
Commissioner Bauman	✓		✓			

HEARINGS

(1) Liquor License #0905-33-164-010, Whiskey Bar, LLC d/b/a Mills Tavern, 125 Washington Street, Case number 15-22

Thomas Jannarone, Esq. appeared before the board on behalf of licensee. Board attorney advised there is a joint request for an adjournment on this matter as there was a miscommunication for the amount of time on the penalty. Mr. Jannarone was referring to the 2012 penalty chart instead of the revised chart. **Board agreed to reschedule this hearing to the April 28, 2016 board meeting.** No vote was taken.

(2) Liquor License #0905-33-115-005, 340 Sinatra Drive HOQ, LLC d/b/a House of Que, 340 Sinatra Drive, Case number 15-24

REQUEST WAS MADE TO GO OFF THE RECORD AT 6:29PM.
BACK ON THE RECORD AT 6:34PM

Thomas Jannarone, Esq. appeared before the board representing the licensee. Board attorney advised there is a request for an adjournment on this matter in order to assure the complainant that corrective action is being taken to remedy the noise complaints. Board attorney did advise that he is ready to proceed as the witness, Mr. Paul Tinuzo, was present at meeting as well as the licensee, Mr. McGarr. Mr. Jannarone mentioned that the House of Que is ‘experiencing growing pains with entertainment’ as they had bands playing live music and they have stopped having bands. Building management is taking all measures to remediate any issues with noise. Mr. Jannarone further advised that the witness and the licensee are working together; have exchanged cell phone numbers; and is requesting to re-adjourn to see if matters are worked out. Mr. Jannarone also mentioned that at the next meeting his client may outline all procedures taken to correct noise issues. Board attorney advised that it is in the City’s best interest to have licensee workout issues with witness. **Board agreed to reschedule this hearing to the April 28, 2016 board meeting.** No vote was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor’s letter dated March 11, 2016 to the Board was read for the record informing of the two police officers injured and attacked during Leprecon Day. Additionally, one police officer was injured and required stitches during the evening of the Halloween Pub Crawl. Mayor’s letter stated that the same level of scrutiny and enforcement as with the Zero Tolerance policy will be in effect to bars over serving guests year-round not just on special themed events. Letter further stated the Hoboken Police Department will enhance ABC related enforcement efforts and ABC Board is on notice and fully informed of City’s procedures going forward. In her letter, the Mayor also asked for any suggestions for overall improvements to the ABC laws, regulations or procedures from the Board.

Commissioner Bauman stated the Board should respond to the Administration as follows: first thanking the Mayor for the notification; Board agrees on zero tolerance and action taken on citizens not abiding by the law; Board has increased penalties last year across the board; and the board should inform the public that the ABC board meets and any citizen may come before the board with any complaints, questions or concerns.

Board discussion as to how Public Safety Director would attend ABC meetings and importance of having a representative from Police Department attend some meetings; complaints are now sent to Lieutenant Roofe. Vice Chairman advised he would draft a response letter to the Administration. Board secretary advised the letter may be discussed during closed session. Board attorney asked to be copied on the letter.

Also discussed during New Business: 1) Benjamin Choi will not be attending the board’s April 14, 2016 meeting, however Alysia Proko, Esq. will sit-in as we have Pier 13 on the agenda; 2) Tavern Sheets received for St. Patrick’s day will be distributed to Board next week, board attorney just received same; and 3) SantaCon resulted in three charges.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Phillips						✓
Vice Chairman Blumenfeld		✓	✓			
Commissioner Bauman	✓		✓			

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

(Minutes taken/submitted by D. Amado)