

Minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting of the City of Chelsea Licensing Commission.

Location: Chelsea City Hall Council Conference Room 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. Meeting opened at 6:12 p.m. by Chairperson James Guido.

Commission members present: Chairperson James Guido, Vice Chair Mark Rossi, Mike Mcateer, and Emily Cherniack. Gladys Vega on phone.

Present in Council Conference Room: City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher, Licensing Administrator Naomi Libran and Captain Keith Houghton, Officer McLaughlin from CPD and Councilor Roy Avellaneda from City Council.

Chair Guido asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2020 and June 18, 2020, McAteer motioned, Rossi seconded and vote unanimous.

Licensing Department Update: City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher outlined the specific conditions of the outdoor seating operation based on Covid-19. Restaurants would like to extend their hours and put up permanent structures for outdoor seating. Roy Avellaneda expressed his concerns about glass containers (beer bottles) being served while dining outside. City Solicitor Fisher said that issue was not in the guidelines, Vice Chair Rossi motioned to prohibit all glass containers include beer bottles, Vega seconded, vote unanimous in favor.

City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher spoke about Council adopted an order to seek the Commission's vote to lower the Section 12 Restaurant Liquor license fees. The restaurants pay the most in fees \$4500.00 and \$1800.00 respectively. She expressed the concerns of the current licensees who have outdoor seating permits. She also discussed or recommended lowering, as per a resolution adopted by the City Council, the Section 12 renewal fees for 2021. The commissioners decided that they would reduce the Section 12 fees by \$350.00 a month for every month the restaurant was not opened during the pandemic. During the renewal process, a fee reduction form needs to be completed and submitted with their 2021 renewal application. Chair Guido motioned to accept the form of reducing the fees, but Councilor Avellaneda summarized the monetary programs that the City Council is offering the community. Chair Guido then withdrew his previous motion and then he motioned to move to a public hearing at a later date. Vice Chair Rossi seconded, vote unanimous.

Licensing Administrator Libran reminded them that the Manotas Corp. d/b/an El Carriel disciplinary hearing was moved to a later hearing date, due to the fact that the commissioners requested that the owner be present at the next meeting.

Chair opened the continued Public Hearing for Wings El Corral d/b/a Wings at 408 Broadway – Licensee is seeking Change of Hours for an All Kinds of Alcohol License (On Premise) application and Entertainment license. Chair Guido read the Notice in the record and opened the public speaking portion. Attorney John Dodge and Mr. Pineda were present. Attorney John Dodge mentioned that there was a discipline action a year ago and since then there hasn't been any disciplinary action; they are asking to have their hours be put back in place. Captain Houghton stated since they have not been opened due to the fact of the pandemic, there is nothing to report. Councilor Avellaneda expressed his concerns not so much the hours are irrelevant. His concerns were about that this family restaurant has turned into a bar, packed with standing customers where dancing has been done and has security personnel. Public hearing portion closed. Vice Chair Rossi motioned to allow change of hours Thursday thru Sunday until

1:00 a.m. and Monday thru Wednesday until 11:00 p.m. Entertainment license follows liquor license hours and no dancing and conditions that windows remain unobstructed. Chair Guido seconded, vote unanimous.

Chair opened the Public Hearing for Rosa Pineda Family Restaurant, LLC d/b/a Sabor Centro Americano at 40-48 Central Avenue – a New Wine and Malt Beverages License Application. Chair Guido read the Notice in the record and opened the public speaking portion. Attorney Silvia Guzman and owners Mario and Ericka appeared. Captain Houghton has no issues. City Solicitor read a statement from Councilor Damali Vidot in which she expresses that the owner is a resident and has operated a successful family run restaurant. Chair Guido motioned to approve, Vice Chair Rossi seconded and license was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chair opened the Public Hearing for May Inc. d/b/a Mandarin Buffet at 1100 Revere Beach Parkway – Transfer of an All Kinds of Alcohol Beverages (On Premise) License application. Guido read the Notice in the record and opened the public speaking portion. Attorney Henry Hung along with Chuh Ji Zhang, Dezi Zheng Hong Qi Yang and mandarin interpreter Ying Jie Abel appeared. Attorney Hung informed the Board that the new owners are former employees of the restaurant and one will be the Manager. Rossi asked about the menu and Attorney Hung stated a Chinese buffet and Japanese sushi are on the menu. Hung confirmed that all employees are TIPS certified. Vice Chair Rossi motioned, McAteer seconded and license was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chair opened the Public Hearing for Emiliana Fiesta, LLC d/b/a Emiliana Fiesta at 35 Fourth Street – A New All Kinds of Alcohol Beverages (General On Premise) License application. Guido read the Notice in the record and opened the public speaking portion. Attorney Silvia Guzman along with Vladimir Chino Acuna, Denisse Chino and Carol Almazar appeared. Attorney Guzman expressed that is not a club and that it is a function hall and the prior application a club was applied for. Attorney Silvia stated that there are two City public parking locations on Chestnut Street and that they can have an agreement with Mr. Sneirson about have parking per diem. Gerald Sneirson expressed his concerns about the parking situation for over 400 attendees. Captain Houghton expressed that it will be a burden on the Police Dept. when there is a potential of 400 people filing out of a planned event on Fourth street which is right at the off ramp from the Tobin Bridge. Sneirson and Houghton gave examples of blocked driveways, double parking, congestion of cars picking patrons up after the event. CPD feels there may be an issue with controlling the peace of the community. The Licensee stated that normally a police detail doesn't appear but they hire a private security company and also, sometimes there is a Fire detail at these events. The commissioners have an issue with the occupancy limit, in which the question arouse about the influx of people at varies times coming and going into the planned event. Councilor Avellaneda approves of Emiliana Fiesta as a function hall and welcomes it to the city. Chair Guido amended his previous motion that when event has more than 250 needs to have food and a menu. McAteer seconded and voted and licensed approved unanimously with food requirement.

Chair closed the meeting around 6:55 p.m.

Next meeting August 27,2020

James R. Guido *Michael McAteer*
Paul Rossi *Emily Cheneau*