

**ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 @ 1:00 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg
Vice-Chair Richard Watts
Member Leonard Kohl
Member Barbara Hill
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator
Chris Beaver, Attorney
Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary
Kevin Hall, Inspector
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

Not Present:

Member Richard Shin

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Kohl moved to approve the agenda for December 14, 2023 and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – November 9, 2023

Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the minutes for November 9, 2023 and was seconded by Member Kohl. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Extension of Conditional Approvals:**

The Slice House - Maegyne Held- Requesting 60-day extension of conditional approval for interior expansion.

Maegyne Held appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mrs. Held explained that they are waiting for the parts for the new oven. Mrs. Held is requesting to change the original request from a 60-day to a 90-day approval. Member Kohl moved to approve the 60-day to a 90-day extension and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Social Coffeehouse and Speakeasy - Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval for location transfer.

Sean Coogan appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Coogan explained that he needs more time to finish the installation of the sign and anticipates a late January opening. Member Kohl moved to approve the 90-day extension and was seconded by Vice-Chair Watts. Motion carried.

Atrium Spirit - Laxmiben Patel and Timothy Herbert - Requesting 60-day extension of conditional approval.

Laxmiben Patel and Timothy Herbert appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mrs. Patel was accompanied by an interpreter. Mrs. Patel and Mr. Herbert were also accompanied by their attorney, John Quinn. Mr. Quinn stated that the floor plan from the last meeting has been confirmed and submitted to Mrs. Hildebrand. Mr. Quinn explained that the Fire Marshal still must do the final inspection. Mr. Quinn requested a 90-day extension. Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the 90-day extension and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Violations:**

Big Dog's Paradise and Bar:

Employee: Lara Lynn Reed

The above individual, Lara Lynn Reed, was an employee of a license holder and sold or provided alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one years in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Lara Reed appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Ms. Reed admitted that the violation did occur. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion for a \$150.00 fine. There was no second. Motion failed. Member Kohl made a motion for a \$250.00 fine and was seconded by Vice-Chair Watts. Vote was 3:1. Vice -Chair Watts opposed. Motion carried.

Licensee: Brian Adkins

Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Brian Adkins appeared before the Board and was sworn in and was accompanied by his attorney Joseph Capristo. Mr. Adkins admitted that the violation did occur. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion for a \$1000.00 fine, \$500.00 from the previous violation, 3-day suspension and RAST training and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried. The 3-day suspension will start on December 15, 2023 and end on December 18, 2023.

- **Applications:**

International Beverage Cadillac Jacks - Application of Harshkumar Patel and Paul Choporis to downgrade their Class D-BWL license to a Class A-1 BWL license with a reduction in square footage and t/a International Beverage Cadillac Jacks (Shreeji Beverages, LLC), 21367 Great Mills Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653. And requesting permission for a Beer and Wine Tasting 365-day permit.

Harshkumar Patel and Paul Choporis appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mr. Patel and Mr. Choporis were accompanied by their attorney, John Quinn. Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the 90-day conditional approval pending the new Traders license and updated lease and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Cook's Spirit- Application of Dinal S. Patel to transfer Cooks Liquors and Groceries Class A-1 BWL license from Brittini R. Brown and Connor N. Cook, Administrators for the Estate of Diane E. Cook, Taylor Cook, and Mason Cook and t/a Cooks Spirit (Cooks Spirit, LLC), 18400 Point Lookout Rd., Park Hall, MD 20667

Dinal Patel appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mrs. Patel was accompanied by her attorney, John Quinn. Vice-Chair Watts moved approve the 90-day conditional approval pending the Traders license, Use and Occupancy, Health Department, Fire Marshal and closing of the sale of business and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

The Local 235- Application for Megan Bell to purchase a Class B (Restaurant) BWL license and t/a The Local 235 (The Local 235, LLC), 25188 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood, MD 20636.

Megan Bell appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mrs. Bell explained that she has just come off Morris Point Restaurant liquor license. Member Kohl moved to approve the 90-day conditional approval pending the Traders license and Fire Marshal and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

- **Special Privilege application:
New Years Eve Permit requests**

Member Kohl made the motion to approve the New Years Eve permits for 2024 and was seconded by Vice-Chair Watts. Motion carried.

- **Officer/Member changes:
Bollywood Masala and Taphouse 1637** - Removing Julia Ann Rudolfo; adding Rajneesh C. Kaushal

Vice-Chair Watts moved to remove Julia Rudolfo and add Rajneesh Kaushal and was seconded by Member Kohl. Motion carried.

- **Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brew** - Removing Michael Kaplan and Lynn Schweinfurth; adding Sarah Mussetter and Todd Wilson

Vice-Chair Watts moved to remove Michael Kaplan and Lynn Schweinfurth and add Sarah Mussetter and Todd Wilson and was seconded by Member Kohl. Motion carried.

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- FY25 Budget Review

Mrs. Hildebrand explained to the Board that she would like to increase the Inspector's hours. She presented two options: 1. increasing from 20 hours to 30 hours or 2. Increasing to full time. Mrs. Hildebrand stated that the AEC's costs had decreased and would compensate for the increase of either option. She explained that the current part-time status of the Inspector position does not allow for the legally required number of inspections and that the requirements of the job support a full-time position. The Board supported a full-time position and requested Mrs. Hildebrand to include this in the budget.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

For the month of November, Deputy Myers reported:

- 15 Alcohol Compliance checks – violation
- 8 DUI's- Sheriff
- 9 DUI's - MSP
- 2 stationary surveillance - no violations
- 2 Alcohol Violation Summon served.
- 5 State Park surveillance - no violations
- CAC and MALA meetings (virtual)

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the month of November, Inspector Hall reported:

- 25 inspections, 5 follow-ups
- Attended a meeting with Mrs. Hildebrand at an establishment.

BOARD MEMBERS TIME

- Discussion of raising fines.

Chairman Willenborg agrees that fines should be raised but Member Shin was absent so the discussion will be at a later time.

- Appreciation Award for Mr. Leonard Kohl

Chairman Willenborg presented Member Kohl with a appreciation award for his 8 years of being on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to adjourn at 2:42 pm, seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chair