

BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION

MINUTES

**Tuesday, September 5, 2000
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Sonnenburg called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL:
PRESENT: Commissioners – Maxine Sonnenburg, Terry Morgan, Rodney Scott and Stanley Stalford.

STAFF PRESENT: Wade Davenport, Code Compliance Manager; Lisa Chilton, Business License Officer; Bruce Robertson, Administrative Staff Assistant.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Stalford led A pledge of allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Action: To approve the Agenda

Motion: R. Scott

Second: Morgan

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes, August 1, 2000

Action: To approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion: Morgan

Second: R. Scott

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

III. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

a. **Charlotte Banta, West Hollywood**, commented that Kass Bah restaurant disturbs the peace of the neighborhood with entertainment and amplified music, and also expressed concern that the restaurant is being operated as a nightclub rather than a restaurant.

- b. **Martin Strudler, West Hollywood**, expressed concern over the noise levels at Kass Bah and Le Colonial restaurants and their use of amplified music and entertainment without the necessary permits.

Commissioner Morgan recommended that Staff look into the code violations that were brought up by members of the public regarding Kass Bah restaurant and Le Colonial and that the licensing histories of these businesses be reviewed.

Commissioner Stalford asked staff to review the valet parking plan of Kass Bah.

The Commission directed staff to agendaize both Kass Bah and Le Colonial for public hearings to consider whether the existing business licenses for both businesses should be modified, suspended, or revoked as part of the regularly scheduled Business License Commission meeting.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Modification to conditions of approval for Dance business license REG001058 and Entertainment business license REG001059 at 8358 Sunset Boulevard, - The Argyle Hotel.

Steven Afriat presented a brief report on behalf of the applicant.

Public Comment

- a. **Bill Watson, West Hollywood**, expressed opposition to extending the operating hours for dining at the Argyle Hotel.
- b. **Stephen Spurgeon, West Hollywood**, commented that the current restrictions placed on the Hotel by the Commission are working and should not be changed.
- c. **Geoffrey Smith, West Hollywood**, opposes amending the Hotel's current operating conditions.
- d. **Katherine Thulin, West Hollywood**, supports maintaining the Hotel's current restrictions.
- e. **Sandy Margolis, West Hollywood**, opposes extending the dining hours for the Hotel's restaurant terraces as she feels that this will unduly disturb the peace of the neighborhood.
- f. **Terri Gustafson, West Hollywood**, opposes the use of the Hotel's terraces as is being requested by the Hotel.

Commission Discussion

Sonnenburg

- Suggested allowing the dining areas to extend their hours gradually as they continue to comply with the City's noise ordinance.
- Recommended that a review period take place in three (3) months or sooner if it becomes necessary.

Morgan

- Recommended a trial period in which to Hotel's dining areas could remain open until 1:00 a.m.
- Suggested that the Hotel post good neighbor signs asking its customers to please remain quiet as they are near a residential area.
- Commented that a review period should be established where compliance to the Commission's restrictions could be evaluated.

Stalford

- Concurred with Commissioner Sonnenburg in allowing the dining areas to gradually remain open longer as they continue to control the noise emanating from the Hotel.

R. Scott

- Suggested that any decision made by the Commission be revisited in three (3) months from the time of its approval.
- Would allow the terrace to remain open until 12:00 a.m. on weeknights and 1:00 a.m. on weekends.

Action: To allow the Argyle to extend its hours of operation, as listed in Resolution 2000-01, of all outside dining areas and terraces by one (1) hour with an automatic review period to take place in 60 days. In addition if a citation is issued by the Code Compliance division for any violation of noise this will trigger an automatic review to take place at the next scheduled Business License Commission meeting. The Hotel is also encouraged to continue with the completion of the sound wall construction.

Motion: Sonnenburg

Second: Stalford

Roll Call Vote:

R. Scott	Aye
Morgan	Aye
Stalford	Aye
Sonnenburg	Aye

Motion carried.

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT - None

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

R. Scott – CSW (Christopher Street West) has brought forth an independent commission to review the organization. This commission will be made up of business and community leaders from West Hollywood and Los Angeles and has been set up to review the internal workings of CSW. Commissioner Scott will chair this commission.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- A. Boards/Commissioners Reception to be held on Tuesday, October 17th at 4:00 p.m. Location to be announced.
- B. A review of the handbill ordinance that was brought before the Commission at last months meeting was recently agendized and presented to the City Council. The Council discussed the ordinance and determined that this issue should be forwarded to the City attorney's office and not be returned to the Business License Commission for review.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Work Plan

Wade Davenport presented the commission with a draft of the proposed work plan. As a part of this proposed work plan Mr. Davenport made the following points.

- Defined roles of the Business License and Planning Commissions to be established.
- Triggering system to be established wherein any business that is cited three (3) times within an 18-month period would be brought before the Commission.
- All enforcement issues to be brought before the Business License Commission.
- Compliance time for Administrative Remedies citations issued to be appealed to this body.
- Business License Commission to be renamed the Code Compliance Commission
- Provision which would allow a violator the opportunity to come before the Code Compliance Commission, after receiving a third citation, to request an

extension for compliance before a particular issue would be forwarded to the City Prosecutor.

Commission Discussion

R. Scott

- Would like to see the City Council members and deputies involved in the process of developing this plan.
- Suggested that each commissioner present this plan to the Council member they were appointed by.
- Dialogues regarding this work plan can be discussed between council members and commissioners and then brought to the next commission meeting for further discussion among the Commission.

Sonnenburg

- Suggested that each Commissioner take time to review staff's proposal before the next commission meeting and to come back with suggestions or revisions to the proposed work plan before they are presented to the City Council.

IX. Adjournment

Action: To adjourn to a regular meeting of the Business License Commission to be held on October 3, 2000 from 6:00 p.m. until completion at the City of West Hollywood, Community Conference Room, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Motion: Morgan
Votes: All Ayes

Second: R. Scott
Motion carried.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF Oct 3, 2000.

CHAIRPERSON: 

ATTEST:
BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER: 