

MINUTES
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION

February 26, 1991

I. CALL TO ORDER

A special Study Session of the West Hollywood Business License Commission held on the above date in the City Council Chambers in the Werle Building, 626 N. Robertson Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA, was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Chairperson Carole Ellis.

A. Pledge of Allegiance led by Bernice Altschul.

B. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Sonnenburg, Elliott,
Ellis, Forbes, Maggio

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Anne Browning, Manager
Jennifer Davis, Planner
Gay Forbes, Director
Corey Roskin, BL Officer
Derek Widdiss, Staff

Approval of Agenda:

Action: To approve agenda as prepared by
staff.

Motion: Sonnenburg
Second: Forbes

Motion carries unanimously with all ayes from Commissioners.

Chairperson Ellis requests to pull item from Consent Calendar for BL Commission discussion.

Motion to pull item for discussion passes with all ayes from the Commission.

II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke regarding set up of BL meeting room at Werle Building. Made formal complaint against Commissioners for improper quorum discussions and City Attorney (Mike Jenkins).

Thomas Crail, West Hollywood - complained about the meeting room set-up. Indicated that he invited business

community to work with BL commission regarding setting up of nightclub standards.

Corey Roberts, West Hollywood - spoke regarding anti-Gay treatment that is ongoing at Barney's Beanery.

Pete Seigel, West Hollywood - spoke against Barney's Beanery.

Steve Martin, West Hollywood - spoke against Barney's Beanery.

Jordan Pimer, West Hollywood - spoke against Barney's Beanery.

Richard Grey, West Hollywood - spoke against Barney's Beanery.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Resolution BL 90-09
Fleetwood's dba L.A. Blues
8290 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Resolution of Fleetwood's approving Dance business license.

Commission opened with discussion regarding Fleetwood's application and status of their ABC license.

Staff indicated that the status of Fleetwood's ABC license is not known at the present time.

Anne Browning indicated that Code Enforcement (Gary Walsh) has been out to the site and did not note any violations.

There is continued discussion amongst staff and Commission regarding approvals pending (Sheriff's Dept., ABC, etc.).

Commissioner Sonnenburg makes a motion to continue (for discussion) Resolution BL 90-09 until next regularly scheduled BL meeting and requests staff to provide additional information to BL Commission.

Motion: Sonnenburg
Second: Maggio

Additional discussion is given by Commissioners regarding the language used in drafting Resolution BL 90-09.

City Attorney (Mike Jenkins) outlines why particular language was used in the resolution.

Motion to continue item to next meeting (March 5, 1991)
is approved by Commission (all ayes).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke regarding Business License Ordinance exemption of "home occupations" as being "discriminatory" against business owners who pay for commercial space.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Elliott requests language change to Business License Ordinance.

City Attorney indicates that any changes Commission would request would have to go through the Council for a formal amendment of the BL Ordinance.

Additional staff discussion regarding procedures that need to be followed to address Commissioners concerns regarding amendments to BL Ordinance.

Commissioner Sonnenburg makes a motion to move the Consent Calendar.

Motion: Sonnenburg
Second: Forbes

Motion carries with all ayes from the Commission.

III. STUDY SESSION

Discussion of establishing standards for Dance and Entertainment businesses in the City of West Hollywood.

Staff report presented by Corey Roskin.

Mayor Heilman gives a brief presentation regarding what the Council is looking for in terms of establishing a consistent set of standards for Dance and/or Entertainment clubs.

Commissioner, staff and City Attorney discuss issues relating to establishing standards across-the-board for nightclubs.

After extensive discussion a motion is made by Commissioner Forbes to continue item until April 2, 1991.

Motion: Forbes
Second: Sonnenburg

Motion to continue item approved (all ayes from Commission).

IV. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairperson Ellis asks for a report from staff regarding Bar One.

Anne Browning indicated that a letter was received from Bar One stating that Mr. Scotto would be divested from restaurant (club) by February 26, 1991. It was further stated that their legal representative, Mr. Mark Lehman was working on the business arrangements that could allow Mr. Scott to sell his business interest back to the corporation.

Chairperson Ellis requests that staff enforce the conditions placed on Bar One in relation to their business licenses and report back to Commission as regards the final outcome of the transfer of ownership from Mr. Scott.

Chairperson Ellis asks about the status of Barney's Beanery and the on-going problems with residents (re: anti-Gay accusations).

Anne Browning stated the Council had been made aware of the problems with Barney's Beanery and are setting up a mediation with all interested parties in order to find a resolution to any problems brought before the Council.

Chairperson Ellis asked about the monies available to the BL Commission for seminars/meetings.

Anne Browning stated that the BL Commission is allocated \$2000. that has to be utilized by the end of the fiscal year (June 1991). The Commissioners are given the discretion as to how monies will be spent amongst itself.

V. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Forbes speaks regarding why the BL Commission does not hear Entertainment licenses.

Minor discussion by Commissioners regarding defining the term "nightclub".

City Attorney offers comments in relation to establishing language for defining the term "nightclub".

Commissioner Elliott asked about the deletion of Circus of Books on-site security guard.

City Attorney (Mike Jenkins) gave a full report regarding the licensing of Circus of Books and conditions imposed by the City Council (1990).

Commissioner Elliott asked about the status of the Paris House on Sunset Boulevard.

Staff indicated that the business is operating as a "Model Studio".

Commissioner Elliott requested a retreat for the BLC members to discuss issue of Roberts' Rules of Order.

City Attorney indicated that a videotape is available through the City Clerk's office and can be utilized by Commissioners who need information regarding Roberts' Rules of Order.

Anne Browning stated that a retreat could be scheduled in the future for the BLC.

V. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corey Roskin spoke regarding Council's request for a joint meeting between the Council and the BLC.

VIII ITEMS FROM CITIZEN'S

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke regarding incorrect usage of the term "club". Indicated that Fleetwood's and Bar One are not "clubs", but are actually restaurants.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Ellis adjourned meeting to next regularly scheduled Business License Commission meeting of March 5, 1991.

Chairperson

Staff Liaison to Commission