

BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

A. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioners - Forbes, Morgan, and Scott.

STAFF PRESENT: Ray Reynolds, Community Development Director; Tom Benedetti, Senior Code Compliance Officer; Bruce Robertson, Staff Assistant.

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Action: To approve the Agenda.

Motion: Forbes Second: Morgan

Votes: All Ayes Motion carried.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes, March 21, 2000

Action: To approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion: Morgan Second: R. Scott

Votes: All Ayes Motion carried.

III. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

- a. **John Paul Drayer, West Hollywood**, suggested using a "trigger" system to begin the public hearing process should a certain number of nuisance violations be made against a city business.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING - None

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Forbes congratulated newly elected Mayor Prang and Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Koretz on their recently elected City Council positions.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS – None

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Study Session on the General Role of the Business License Commission.

Tom Benedetti began the discussion speaking about the recent neighborhood concerns regarding Barfly and stated that this situation may not have escalated to its current level had these concerns been brought before the appropriate body (The Business License Commission) and remedied at this level.

Mr. Benedetti's suggestion, to the Commission was that businesses could be brought before the Commission once a certain number of neighborhood complaints have been received, by the City. He also suggested that a predetermined number of calls to the Sheriff's might also trigger an action by the Commission. He clarified by stating that thresholds would need to be set that would activate this kind of action, against a business. This would be one way of dealing with neighborhood concerns before they escalate to the crisis level.

Chair Forbes asked questions regarding how business nuisances could be monitored by the Commission?

Ray Reynolds responded that nuisances could be brought under the purview of this Commission by means of an ordinance adopted by the City Council.

Mr. Reynolds also commented that the Commission's direction from the City Council was to review the future role of the Commission. Direction was given to look at what the Commission's role could be with regard to special events (specifically CSW), economic development issues, and whether or not taxi licensing should be brought under the purview of this body.

Chair Forbes suggested that the current traffic situation on Sunset Boulevard is partly a result of valet operators violating their approved valet plans and suggested that this should also come under the purview of the Business License Commission.

Mr. Benedetti recommended to the Commission that an ad-hoc review committee be formed which could begin to define the Commission's future role and involvement in city matters. This role may include areas already discussed such as a trigger system to review business compliance of municipal codes and CUP conditions, involvement in special events, and the Commission's possible future role in monitoring compliance to the City's business license ordinance.

Commissioner R. Scott requested that Staff look into the role of Business License Commissions in other cities.

Chair Forbes suggested that when a transfer of ownership occurs within a business that this might be a time for the past activities of the business to be reviewed by the Commission. This would allow a review of any nuisance issues that may have come up during this recent period of operation and allow a public forum for these issues to be heard.

Staff indicated that this would be a worthy and worthwhile undertaking and suggested that this process be streamlined and activated through the use of a triggering system when businesses reached a predetermined threshold of neighborhood complaints.

Chair Forbes asked that the following be considered to fall under the purview of the Business License Commission:

- Sign Ordinance
 1. Signage restrictions to be a part of all business license conditions.
- Promoters
- Extended Hours permits
 1. Neighborhood impact to be reviewed by the Commission.
 2. Neighborhood to be noticed when application for Extended Hours permit is made.
- Businesses attracting a given number of patrons, on a regular basis, that could have an impact on the neighborhood.

Action: To establish an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing the future role of the Business License Commission. This committee shall consist of staff, and two (2) commission members. If available, a council office and the Chamber should be included as a part of this committee and review process.

Motion: R. Scott
Votes: All Ayes

Second: Morgan
Motion carried.

Commissioners Scott and Morgan will represent to Commission as committee members.

The ad-hoc committee shall meet to discuss the future role of the Business License Commission with regard to the following, and shall report back to the Commission at the May 2, 2000 meeting:

- Extended Hours permits.
- Review trigger threshold.
- Signage/Handbills.
- Transfers of ownership.

VIII. Action: To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Business License Commission to be held on May 2, 2000 from 6:00 p.m. until completion at the City of West Hollywood, Community Conference Room, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Motion: Forbes

Second: Morgan

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF

5/2/00

CHAIRPERSON: _____

ATTEST:

BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER: _____