

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**– Chair Saltzman called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**– Chair Saltzman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Alden
Commissioner Eisenberg
Commissioner Kalonian
Commissioner Lo
Commissioner Matos
Vice Chair Zaden
Chair Saltzman

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas
Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi
Code Compliance Event Services Technician, Paige Portwood
Director of Public Works, Jackie Rocco
Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard
City Attorney, Lauren Langer

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission is requested to approve the Agenda.

ACTION: Approve the agenda for Tuesday, April 6, 2021. **Motion by Vice Chair Zaden, seconded by Commissioner Lo, and approved.**

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission is requested to approve the Minutes of the previous Business License Commission Meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

ACTION: Approve the minutes of Tuesday, March 23, 2021. **Motion by Vice Chair Zaden, seconded by Commissioner Lo, and approved.**

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. APPLICATION BY THE ARTIST TREE LLC, FOR CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS THE ARTIST TREE, LOCATED AT 8625 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD.

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by The Artist Tree LLC, for Cannabis Business Consumption Area (Edibles), for the business known as The Artist Tree, located at 8625 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Business License Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi, stated that the item was noticed as required by law.

Chair Saltzman reminded the Commission of the purpose and importance of Commissioner disclosures and Commissioner comments and their significance. No disclosures were made.

Commissioner Matos asked for clarification on when Commissioner questions could be made regarding information provided by the applicant. Chair Saltzman explained that questions for the applicant could be made during the public hearing and further explained that comments and judgements should not be part of the public hearing but of the deliberation process. City Attorney, Lauren Langer, reiterated Chair Saltzman's response.

Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided background information as provided in the staff report dated February 9, 2021.

Commissioner Matos asked for clarification regarding the consumption of edibles and the amendment of the code to allow onsite smoking. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided background information regarding the amendment to the code which now allows the applicant to add onsite smoking to the cannabis consumption business license (edibles). She confirmed that the Business License Commission is voting on whether to add the smoking and ingestion element to the applicant's business license.

Commissioner Matos inquired about the smoke emitting from the HVAC system and asked if it would be visible to residents. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, deferred to the applicant.

The applicant, AVIV HALIMI, offered to provide more information regarding the HVAC system. Chair Saltzman informed the Commission that questions can be made after the applicant's presentation.

Commissioner Lo requested clarification on the layout of the business location and inquired if there were any violations or complaints. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded accordingly and added that there were no violations or complaints on file.

Commissioner Eisenberg inquired about the proposed extended hours to allow consumption of cannabis products and requested to know how the business would monitor the conditions established on the operating requirements. She also inquired about the food and delivery service. Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, provided the current State and City regulations and limitations on cannabis consumption lounges and explained that the business is responsible for enforcing all consumption business operation conditions. He also deferred to the applicant regarding the food and delivery service plans.

Commissioner Matos raised concerns regarding drivers under the influence and inquired about a designated rideshare space. Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, responded accordingly and asked that the applicant address the traffic concerns during their presentation.

LAUREN FONTEIN and AVIV HALIMI, APPLICANTS, provided a visual presentation of the business layout, business plans, safety, and odor control plan.

Vice Chair Zaden inquired about tasting events that would take place in the private room. LAUREN FONTEIN, APPLICANT, explained that the tasting room would allow a buyer to taste a product, in micro dose, prior to purchase. AVIV HALIMI, APPLICANT, provided further information regarding the tasting room usage.

Commissioner Eisenberg inquired about the usage of the outdoor area and expressed concern on the impact the outdoor usage would make. AVIV HALIMI, APPLICANT, explained that the outdoor patio area on the second floor would be used for both edible consumption and smoking.

Commissioner Matos inquired about a designated rideshare space. AVIV HALIMI, APPLICANT, explained that as part of the cannabis application, they submitted a PUP (parking use permit) to the City for review. He also explained that security and staff have been trained to identify when a rideshare is required and to direct customers to be picked up on Westbourne Drive.

Commissioner Matos asked to know if their partnered food vendor is local. AVIV HALIMI, APPLICANT, stated that they would like to partner with a local food vendor.

Commissioner Alden asked for clarification on why edible and smoke consumption were combined for the outdoor space. AVIV HALIMI, APPLICANT, explained that due to the limited outdoor square footage, they were forced to combine both edible and smoke usages. Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, explained the State requirement.

KRISTIAN MICHAEL, spoke in support of item 7A.

ERRON SILVERSTEIN, spoke in support of item 7A.

VEENA PAREKH, spoke in support of item 7A.

DON DUNCAN, spoke in support of item 7A.

LAUREN FONTEIN, APPLICANT, expressed her gratitude and shared that she is looking forward to working with the community.

ACTION: Adopt Resolution No. BLC21-0005, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCE-000001 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS THE ARTIST TREE LOCATED AT 8625 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD." (Attachment A)
Motion by Commissioner Kalonian, seconded by Commissioner Lo, and approved.

B. APPLICATION BY DOOR NUMBER SIX LLC, FOR CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS MOEDER, LOCATED AT 8228 W. SUNSET BOULEVARD.

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by Door Number Six, LLC for Cannabis Business Consumption Area (Edibles), for the business known as Moeder, located at 8228 W. Sunset Boulevard.

ACTION: Continuance of this item to May 4, 2021.

8. SPECIAL ITEMS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ENHANCING COMPLIANCE DURING COVID-19 LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS AND CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an update regarding COVID-19 Los Angeles County Public Health Orders to keep businesses, workers, and members of the public informed of relevant public health orders and local enforcement measures that will provide opportunities for workers and other members of the public to give public comment at Business License Commission meetings if there are concerns regarding businesses' compliance with public health orders.

Code Compliance Event Services Technician, Paige Portwood, provided background information as provided in the staff report dated April 6, 2021.

ACTION: Receive and file.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, informed the Commission that City Council completed their direct and at-large appointments for the Boards and Commission. Mr. Rivas extended his sentiments to Commissioner Kalonian and Vice Chair Zaden for their service on the Business License Commission. He informed the Commission that the two newly appointed Commissioners will be sworn in at the next scheduled meeting as well as the election for the Vice Chair. He also stated that a cannabis update was provided to City Council last night. He informed the Commission that he would forward the staff report to the Commission and offered to provide a study session to update the newer Commissioners. Lastly, he spoke about an agenda item that will provide an overview of the Code Compliance operations.

Chair Saltzman suggested that the study sessions should be scheduled after the new Commissioners have been sworn in. He also expressed his gratitude to the Code Compliance staff.

Vice Chair Zaden congratulated the new appointees. She provided background on her service to the City and thanked staff for their support.

Commissioner Alden thanked Vice Chair Zaden for her service and for sharing her history of working with the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Eisenberg thanked Commissioner Kalonian and Vice Chair Zaden for their service.

Commissioner Kalonian expressed his gratitude for serving on the Business License Commission and congratulated the new appointees. He also thanked the Code Compliance staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Matos thanked Vice Chair Zaden and Commissioner Kalonian for their service and stated that he looks forward to working with them in the future.

Chair Saltzman shared his gratitude to Vice Chair Zaden and Commissioner Kalonian for their service to the City.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 7:32 p.m. to its next special meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., and will be held via teleconference.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Business License Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a meeting held this 4th day of May, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Robert M. Saltzman

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ROBERT SALTZMAN, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Falyn Kingi

FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY