

**ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 @ 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, March 14, 2024, 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.

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg
Vice-Chair Richard Watts
Member George Anas
Member Richard Shin
Member Barbara Hill
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator
Chris Beaver, Attorney
Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary
Kevin Hall, Inspector

Not Present:

Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Anas moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – February 8, 2024

Member Hill moved to approve the minutes for February 8, 2024, and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Extension of Conditional Approval**

The Slice House – Maegyne Held - Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval for interior expansion.

Maegyne Held appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mrs. Held explained that they are just waiting for the final approvals. Member Shin moved to approve the 90-day extension and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Social Coffeehouse and Speakeasy – Sean Coogan - Requesting 30-day extension of conditional approval for location transfer.

Sean Coogan appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Coogan stated that he is just waiting for the final Fire Marshal approval. Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the 30-day extension and was seconded by Member Anas. Motion carried.

Atrium Spirit - Laxmiben Patel and Timothy Herbert - Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval.

Laxmiben Patel, accompanied by her translator, and Timothy Herbert appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Their attorney, John Quinn, was there to assist in the explanation of the extension. Mr. Quinn stated that they are waiting for their final approvals. Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the 90-day extension and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Applications**

Bay Mart and Deli - Application of Sanjaykumar B. Patel and Joseph Michael Ridgell to transfer Ridgell's Bay Mart Class A-1 BWL license from Joseph M. Ridgell and Karen D. Ridgell and t/a Bay Mart and Deli (RV and A, LLC), 16591 Three Notch Rd., Ridge, MD 20680.

Sanjaykumar Patel and Joseph Ridgell appeared before the Board and were sworn in. John Quinn was the attorney for the business. A translator was provided for Mr. Patel. Mr. Quinn stated that Mr. Ridgell would be staying on the license after the purchase agreement was final but would not be working in the day-to-day operation of the business. Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the 90-day approval pending the Fire Marshal, Traders /Business license and Use and Occupancy permit and was seconded by Member Anas. Motion carried.

St. Mary's Spirits - Application of Bhavnaben Patel and Young Ha Kim to transfer St. Mary's Fine Wine and Spirits (Young Ha, Inc.) Class A-1 BWL license from Young Ha Kim and t/a St. Mary's Spirits (St. Mary's Spirits, LLC), 20141 Point Lookout Rd. #13, Great Mills, MD 20634

Bhavnaben Patel and Young Ha Kim appeared before the Board and were sworn in. John Quinn was the attorney for the business. A translator was provided for both Ms. Patel and Mr. Kim. Mr. Quinn stated that Mr. Kim would be staying on the license after the purchase agreement was final and will be helping the purchaser temporarily. Member Shin moved to approve the 90-day approval pending the Fire Marshal and final lease agreement and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Sign of the Whale Spirit - Application of Don L. Speck and Deesha P. Patel to transfer Sign of the Whale Liquors (Dahiba, LLC) Class A-1 BWL license from Don L. Speck and t/a Sign of the Whale Spirit (Sign of the Whale Spirit, LLC), 21899 Three Notch Rd. #7, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Don Speck and Deesha Patel appeared before the Board and were sworn in. John Quinn was the attorney for the business. Mr. Quinn stated that this transfer was on the advice of the accountant; to form a new LLC because the business has been re-built since it burnt down prior to COVID, also to add a new member to the LLC and to start fresh with new bookkeeping. Member Shin moved to approve the 90-day approval pending the Fire Marshal, Traders/Business license, Use and Occupancy permit and final lease agreement and was seconded by Vice-Chair Watts. Motion carried.

- **Officer/Member Changes:**

American Legion Post 255 - Removing Michael H. Watson and Warren G. Burke; adding Amanda M. Tennyson and John G. Wood

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve the officer change and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

North End Gallery - Removing Judy Larsen; adding Barbara Rushworth

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve the officer change and was seconded by Member Anas. Motion carried.

Plaza Tolteca - Removing Mayra B. Herrera

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve the officer change and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

- **2024 Renewals Approval**

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve the 2024 Renewals and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

BOARD ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mrs. Hildebrand explained that the 2024 license renewal period had ended and all licensees got their renewals in on time. Mrs. Hildebrand stated that the most difficult part of the renewal process was getting the proper notarizations. Mrs. Hildebrand mentioned that she will be referring to the Traders license now as the Maryland Business license as

that is the actual name of the license and to avoid confusion for restaurants that no longer need a Traders license but do need a Business license.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Dep. Myers was in training.

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the Month of February, Inspector Kevin Hall reported:

- 10 inspections, 2 follow-ups
- Over 60 renewal reminder texts and calls
- RAST training

ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

- Legislative Update

Dave Dent and Joe Kurley were present at the meeting to represent the SMCLBA. Mr. Dent reviewed the bills that would be affecting the alcohol retailers and the position the SMCLBA is taking on each bill.

BOARD MEMBERS TIME

- Discussion: increasing violation fines

The Board discussed raising fines for violations. Mrs. Hildebrand provided the Board with fine and penalty information from other Counties, as requested. Mr. Dent and Mr. Kurley were invited to stay to express their added input in the discussion. Mrs. Hildebrand was asked to put together language for the purpose of possibly raising fines for next year's legislation.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to adjourn at 2:53 pm. and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chairman