

**MINUTES  
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

February 20, 1990

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting 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 7:08 p.m. by Commission Chair Carole Ellis.

A. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Hamlett.

B. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Ellis, Forbes, Hirsch  
Smith

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Bill Meeker, Associate  
Planner; Tom Hamlett, Code  
Enforcement Officer;  
Craig Rhea, Staff  
Assistant II.

C. Approval of Agenda

**Action:** To approve agenda as prepared by staff.

(Motion: Hirsch, Second: Smith)  
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

**Action:** To approve the minutes of February 6,  
1990, as prepared by staff.

(Motion: Smith, Second: Hirsch)  
Motion carried unanimously.

**II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS: None**

**III. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Bill Meeker advised that item B regarding the Bingo License for the Los Angeles Shanti Foundation should be pulled from the Consent Calendar. Legal issues have arisen which may affect the issuance of the License. The City Attorney's office will prepare a report on the issue in time for the next Commission meeting.

**Action:** To approve items A and C on the Consent Calendar:

- A. Adoption of Resolution Number BL 90-03, "Approving the Entertainment with Dance and Dance Licenses for Westside Restaurant Ventures, dba Imperial Gardens, 8225 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90046."
  
- C. Adoption of Resolution Number BL 90-02, "Approving the Renewal of the annual Dance Business License 89-025 on Application of Pacific Fare, Inc., dba J. Sloan's Bar and Grill at 8623 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, CA 90069."

(Motion: Smith, Second: Forbes)  
Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. BLC 89-023  
St. James's Club California, Inc.  
8358 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood

Application for Entertainment/Dance Business License.

Staff report presented by Tom Hamlett.

Applicant Testimony

Mark Lehman, Applicant Representative, W.H.  
Alan Blest, West Hollywood

**Action:** To approve the Dance/Entertainment Business License 89-023 on application of St. James's Club California, Inc. to hold dances and entertainment at the St. James's Club at 8358 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, with the following conditions:

- 1) That the dances be open only to members of the St. James's Club and their guests, as regulated by the Club's license through the Alcohol and Beverage Control Board.

- 2) That the total number of people in attendance for the event not exceed the posted room occupancy load as set by the City's Building and Safety Department and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for the particular kind of event taking place at that time.
- 3) That only one such dance be held at a time. That only one dance per day shall be held.
- 4) That the hours of operation for such dances be limited between the hours of 12:00 noon and 1:00 a.m.
- 5) That only dances and entertainment held in the third floor terrace dining room and fourth floor members' dining room and library shall be permitted to have music with amplification.
- 6) That all other areas of the hotel where dance and/or entertainment is held be limited to music without amplification.
- 7) That the dances comply with the West Hollywood Municipal Code Section 4300 (Noise Ordinance) and that soundproofing be provided as needed.
- 8) That the application comply with all provisions of Section 6300 of the West Hollywood Municipal Code, Chapter 7.30 and 7.36 (Business License Ordinance - Dance/Entertainment).
- 9) That all dances and entertainment shall be held indoors. This license specifically prohibits outdoor dances without first obtaining a Temporary Use Permit from the City.
- 10) This license is granted assuming the continued operation of the St. James's Club as a private club. If the use is changed from that of a private club, this license shall be null and void.

(Motion: Smith, Second: Hirsch)

Ellis: Abstain  
 Forbes: Yes  
 Hirsch: Yes  
 Smith: Yes

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT:

- 1) Commissioner Ellis highlighted some of the items that were covered in her recent meeting with Mayor Abbe Land and Mark Winogrand, including: the Commission's request that a sheriff's representative be present at the Business License Commission meetings; the Commission's request that they be provided complete reports from all agencies that will affect their decisions; the lack of continuity in staff; the Commission's desire for a team meeting/retreat. In response to this last issue, Bill Meeker advised the Commissioners that he is working on scheduling a retreat in the near future; it was decided that a dinner meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the night of a Commission meeting would be the best time. Commissioner Ellis noted that she will be unable to attend the Commission meeting of March 20, 1990.
- 2) Commissioner Ellis requested an organizational chart of staff positions and the relationships between City Council and other Commissions.
- 3) Commissioner Ellis expressed concern about a large sign advertising a Gay Rodeo which has been placed in the public area at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights. Tom Hamlett indicated that he would check on this with Public Works.

V. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

- 1) Commissioner Smith was concerned about handbills appearing on cars and requested a list of the bands blacklisted from the clubs on the Sunset Strip.
- 2) Commissioner Smith noted that a night club was recently closed in Los Angeles due to complaints about noise and vandalism.
- 3) Commissioner Smith noted that it was important for the Business License Commission to have a liaison with the Planning Commission.
- 4) Commissioner Smith inquired if staff had sent a letter to Paul Brotzman regarding televising Business License Commission meetings. She indicated that she would like City Councilmembers to be copied on this letter.

- 5) Commissioner Smith mentioned that the windows of the cellular telephone store on the corner of Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards were "totally obliterated".
- 6) Commissioner Smith noted a problem with the windows of Casanova's Bookstore on Santa Monica Boulevard, one block west of the Pussycat Theater: the window blinds were kept completely closed, which is not to code.
- 7) Commissioner Hirsch would like an open discussion regarding the handbill ordinance. He would also like a list of bands blackballed from the clubs on the Sunset Strip.
- 8) All of the Commissioners expressed interest in the status of Palette. Bill Meeker provided a summary of the neighborhood meeting held at Palette on February 14, 1990. Commissioner Forbes indicated that Palette places handbills on cars every weekend. Commissioner Smith noted that Palette is operating without a current Entertainment and Dance License, since the Business License Commission has never renewed it. The Commissioners indicated that they would like to be kept informed of all neighborhood meetings concerning Palette.
- 9) Commissioner Forbes mentioned that he will be unable to attend the next Commission meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

- 1) Bill Meeker indicated that Anne Browning is in contact with Paul Brotzman regarding alternatives to publishing Public Notices in the Post.
- 2) Bill Meeker related that Mark Winogron had indicated that the report from the Sunset Task Force should be out in the beginning of March. However, it was noted that there was still another meeting of the Task Force scheduled for March 7, 1990.
- 3) Per the request of the Commissioners, staff will send the preliminary list of conditions being considered by the Sunset Task Force to the Business License Commissioners. Commissioner Smith recommended that the Commissioners keep in mind the conditions that J. Sloan's imposed on themselves since a lot of these conditions are similar to the ones being discussed by the Sunset Strip Task Force. Commissioner Smith also asked staff to check the minutes of the Commission meetings of

approximately two to three months ago to verify when the licenses of the five clubs on the Strip are to start being heard for renewal.

VIII ITEMS FROM CITIZENS: None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Action:** To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on March 6, 1990, to be held in the Werle Building at 7:00 p.m.

(Motion: Hirsch, Second: Forbes)  
Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



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COMMISSION CHAIR



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION