

**MINUTES  
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

October 2, 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 7:05 p.m. by Commission Chair Carole Ellis.

A. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Harriett Segal.

B. Roll Call:

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Bill Meeker, Associate  
Planner; Corey Roskin,  
Code Enforcement Officer;  
Derek Widdiss, Staff  
Assistant II;

C. Approval of Agenda

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

(Motion: Sonnenburg Second: Maggio)  
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

**Action:** To approve the minutes of September 18,  
1990, as prepared by staff.

(Motion: Elliott Second: Maggio)  
Motion carried unanimously.

**II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS:**

Rachelle Sommers-Smith, West Hollywood - spoke about having all entertainment and/or dance licenses reviewed as discussed by City Council. Mentioned her concern regarding the enforcement of the City's noise ordinance. Asked for a discussion from Business License Commissioners at future meetings. Code enforcement

hours need to be adjusted to the real time these officers are needed to cite violations; evenings and weekends.

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke regarding the Bar One appeal hearing at City Council meeting. Concerned that too much latitude is being given to businesses. Mentioned that a proper review should be given by Business License Commission involving this type of business.

Harriett Segal, West Hollywood - spoke regarding Bar One appeal hearing. Security guards can be placed outside of those businesses (per council decision on Bar One appeal resolution). Discussed the issue of conflict of interest as it related to the Business License Commissioners.

**III. CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Review and Discussion of Proposed Business Licensing Fees.**

Staff report by Corey Roskin.  
Discussion of license fees (old vs. new).  
Commissioner Forbes asked about regulations for taxis operating in West Hollywood. Mr. Roskin indicated L.A. County will continue regulation, enforcement and collection of fees for taxis.

Discussion by Commissioners regarding incorporating license fees with newly proposed license/admissions tax. Staff indicates that these are two separate issues and are not directly related, and as such, should not be consolidated.

Commissioners questioned the change of hearing requirements for Entertainment and Dance Business Licenses. Staff indicated the City Attorney's office has removed the hearing requirements for Entertainment businesses to avoid first amendment conflicts.

Commissioner Forbes discussed adding an amendment to the Business License Ordinance to establish an annual review for certain types of businesses. Staff informed Commissioners that they would check

with City Attorney's office. If there are no problems they will draft an amendment to the Business License Ordinance.

The Commission recommended adjusting the multiplier as it relates to staff time required for work on hearings/research of business licenses.

Public Comments:

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - Questions averaging of fee amounts for different business uses (types).

Rachelle Sommers-Smith, West Hollywood - Indicated to staff that there is an error in requirements that were originally agreed upon by Business License Commission last year (re: Hearings for Entertainment/Dance licenses).

B. Discussion of Liaison Appointments to other Commission/Council Meetings.

The following liaison positions were created by the Commission:

Richard Maggio - Public Safety  
Scott Forbes - Transportation  
Maxine Sonnenburg - Planning  
Todd Elliott - City Council

Public Comments:

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - Issue of importance of having liaisons attend meetings and report back to the Business License Commission.

Rachelle Sommers-Smith, West Hollywood - Spoke regarding Sal Guariello's encouraging a Commission representative to attend Council meetings with staff.

The Commission recommends that staff send an inter-departmental memo regarding issues of proper representation at Commission and Council meetings.

VI. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT - None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sonnenburg - Spoke about the Bar One appeal brought before City Council. Strongly urged staff to let all Commission members know when pertinent issues (that may relate to the BLC) are

brought before the Council.

Commissioner Forbes - Mentioned that he has already asked for notification from staff on previous occasions. Spoke about the Bar One appeal and staff report that was given to Council. Discussed the status of Peanuts and complaints against the business.

Commissioner Elliott - Mentioned concern regarding The Central (Entertainment club on Sunset Blvd.).

Staff indicated it will make an effort to inform the BLC when items of concern are brought before the Council and/or other Commissions.

#### **VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Discussed when to schedule the next Business License Commission meeting (November 7th).

Statements of Economic Interest have been sent out late by Mary Tyson (City Clerk). Maxine Sonnenburg will call City Clerk and have statements forwarded ASAP.

Mentioned upcoming Strategic Planning meeting.

#### **IX. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS:**

Rachelle Sommers-Smith, West Hollywood - Thanked Corey Roskin for helping facilitate issuance of Peddlers Licenses for a pet show. Mentioned the importance of lobbying individual Councilmembers with regard to decisions made by Commission. Brought up the issue of Bar One appeal and the discrepancy of dance floor square footage and other issues related to information staff did not obtain for the appeal hearing.

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - Spoke regarding The Roxbury. Mentioned that the staff did not have proper information when drafting report for Bar One hearing and appeal. Requests that all pertinent information be placed in the public packet for review by general public. Also indicated that the staff was negligent in their report regarding Bar One.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Ellis adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on November 7, 1990, to be held in the Werle Building at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

*Amel Sidi*

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COMMISSION CHAIR

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STAFF LIAISON TO THE COMMISSION