

**MINUTES
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

May 15, 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 7:10 p.m. by Commission Chair Carole Ellis.

A. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Meeker.

B. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Ellis, Hirsch, Smith

Commissioners Absent: Forbes

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Action: To approve agenda as prepared by staff.

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

D. Approval of Minutes

Action: To approve the minutes of April 17, 1990, as prepared by staff.

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

II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS:

Jeanne Dobrin of West Hollywood inquired about the Commission's request for a joint meeting with the City Council to address areas of importance not covered by the Business License Ordinance. She also brought up issues concerning Circus of Books' request in Item IV.A.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. BLC 90-004
Sunset Restaurant Corporation
dba Bar One
9229 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood

Staff report presented by Corey Roskin.

Applicant Testimony:

Marc Benecke, Los Angeles
Andrew Wainrib, Malibu

Testimony For:

Todd Elliott, West Hollywood

Testimony Against:

Larry Gonzales, for Charles Luckman, Los Angeles
Sheldon Kort, West Hollywood
Sander Stone, West Hollywood
Seymour Fabrick, West Hollywood
Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood

Other Testimony:

Richard Maggio, West Hollywood
Sibyl Zaden, West Hollywood
Todd Elliott, West Hollywood
Sander Stone, West Hollywood
Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood

The Commission directed staff to obtain more information regarding this application, including:

- Occupancy loads of the Cavendish & the Joss.
- Has there been an intensification of use?
- Verify number of seats and capacity of the bar.
- How long were previous uses there.
- Characterization of present use as "similar" to previous use is not accurate.
- Check into whether an Entertainment License is necessary and what would be required.
- Verify the rights of private security guards.
- Obtain the Rap sheet from the Sheriff's Department.
- If Entertainment License is necessary, must stage be raised eighteen (18) inches?

Action: To continue the public hearing for BLC 90-004 (Bar One) to the Business License Commission meeting of June 19, 1990.

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

- B. BLC 90-005
Coincidental Interests II, Inc.
dba Rose Tattoo Restaurant and Cabaret
665 N. Robertson Boulevard, West Hollywood

Action: To continue the public hearing for BLC 90-005 (Rose Tattoo) to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on June 5, 1990.

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider request of Circus of Books, 8230 Santa Monica Boulevard, to delete the condition from their Business License requiring that they provide a security guard.

Applicant Testimony:

Karen Mason, West Hollywood
James Mason, West Hollywood

Testimony For: None

Testimony Against:

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood
Todd Elliott, West Hollywood

Action: Defer action on the request of Circus of Books until their six month review is heard at the Commission meeting of June 19, 1990, with the condition that all people who testified at previous meetings regarding Circus of Books be notified by mail.

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

- B. Consider recommending to the City Council that the Business License Commission be permitted to conduct public hearings prior to the renewal of all Dance and/or Entertainment Licenses.

Testimony For:

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood

Testimony Against: None

Action: Recommendation to the City Council that the Business License Commission should be permitted to conduct public hearings prior to the renewal of all Dance and/or Entertainment Licenses and that language permitting such hearings be included in the Business License Ordinance.

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

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT:

- 1) Commissioner Ellis asked staff to find out if any special permits are required for private parties held in public restaurants/clubs with restricted hours of operation.
- 2) Commissioner Ellis asked staff to find out the purview of private security guards.
- 3) Commissioner Ellis reminded staff to offer the Commission the option of having a representative of the Sheriff's Department present at Commission meetings with public hearings. She would like a sheriff's representative present for the meeting of June 19, 1990, regarding the Circus of Books.
- 4) Commissioner Ellis would like an update on the situation with Peanuts in regard to their ABC violation. Staff will check to see when the Commission will be reviewing Peanuts' license.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- 1) Commissioner Smith noted that she has attended two meetings to date regarding Strategic Planning.
- 2) Commissioner Smith inquired if the City could do anything to have the Whisky A Go Go painted back to its previous gray color from the red it was painted during the recent filming on Sunset Boulevard. Also, she noted that the two advertisements on the Clark Street side of the building should be removed.
- 3) Commissioner Smith brought up some of her concerns about Palette. It has recently advertised dance activity, the food service was advertised as "deli" style (does that constitute "restaurant" food?), the stage protrudes into the center of the room, and she has observed bands there. She also mentioned that Erica Gilmore is no longer associated with Palette.

- 4) Commissioner Hirsch noted that he had spoken to Code Enforcement Officer Tom Hamlett and was told that the "advertisement" on the Clark Street side of the Whisky A Go Go was a part of the "design" of the building, but if the advertisement/design were changed it would become an "advertisement" and could be stopped. Commissioner Hirsch also mentioned that a billboard of "Madonna" was put up on the San Vicente side of "Aahs." He feels that this type of signage increases the "sleaze" factor along the Strip and therefore he encouraged the City to look into it very carefully.
- 5) Commissioner Smith pointed out that a pay telephone had been installed in front of the Whisky A Go Go. She would like staff to find out the requirements for placement of pay telephones.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

- 1) Bill Meeker asked the Commissioners for direction regarding the cancellation of Commission meetings. The consensus of the Commission was that a meeting should be held if there is anything on the agenda, regardless of whether the items will be continued. If there is nothing on the agenda, it would be acceptable to postpone the meeting. Commissioner Ellis asked staff to determine the policy of other Commissions regarding this matter.

VIII ITEMS FROM CITIZENS:

Jeanne Dobrin of West Hollywood stated that she feels it is inappropriate for citizens to leave after testifying only on the issues that are of interest to them. Regarding Code Enforcement Officer Tom Hamlett, she said that she pursues issues with him until she gets what she wants. She feels that the Commission should continue to pursue Palette because she says they have a restaurant license and should not be considered a night club. She also mentioned that the staff should have a liaison with the ABC and contact them regularly on pertinent issues. On a minor note, she pointed out that "Robertson" was misspelled on the Business License Commission cable listing.

The Commissioners supported the idea that staff should maintain regular contact with the ABC.

Commissioner Smith mentioned that she would like a study session between the Business License Commission and the City Council. She would like staff to send a memo to the Council addressing this issue.

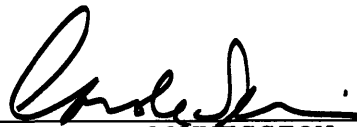
Staff was also directed to check item 16 in the City resolution establishing new Boards and Commissions, regarding the content of reports.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Action: To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on June 5, 1990, to be held in the Werle Building at 7:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.



COMMISSION CHAIR



STAFF LIAISON TO THE COMMISSION