

**MINUTES  
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

March 6, 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 7:09 p.m. by Commission Chair Carole Ellis.

A. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lester Hirsch.

B. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Ellis, Hirsch, Smith

Commissioners Absent: Forbes

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: Smith, Second: Hirsch)  
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

**Action:** To approve the minutes of February 20, 1990, as prepared by staff.

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

**II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS: None**

**III. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Bill Meeker requested that item A regarding the Dance/Entertainment Business License 89-023 for the St. James's Club be pulled from the Consent Calendar. The City Attorney's office is reviewing the Findings of Fact. A report on the issue should be prepared in time for the next Commission meeting.

**Action:** To withhold action on item A on the Consent Calendar.  
(Motion: Smith, Second: Hirsch)  
Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT:

- 1) Commissioner Ellis discussed the monthly Commission Chairpersons meetings. Each Commission should discuss topics of interest, and each Chairperson will take an item back to the Chairpersons' meeting for discussion. The first topic is "Parks and Crime." The Business License Commission is concerned with security outside the night clubs, Bingo in Plummer Park, safety in the parks, and ensuring traditional use of the parks. Commissioner Hirsch would like to know the function and number of City staff at the parks and their limitations. Commissioner Hirsch is also concerned with the health of park users, noting a previous problem when the swimming pool was closed due to the chlorine level of the water.
- 2) Commissioner Smith again asked that there be a liaison between the Planning Commission and the Business License Commission.
- 3) Commissioner Ellis brought up the West Hollywood Strategic Plan for discussion. Commissioner Hirsch mentioned that the original goals may not have been as strictly enforced as they could have been. Commissioner Hirsch was appointed as the representative from the Business License Commission to the Executive Planning Committee; Commissioner Smith will be the alternate.
- 4) Commissioner Ellis mentioned that Palette has live entertainment. Bill Meeker reminded the Commissioners that there is a neighborhood meeting regarding Palette on March 14, 1990.
- 5) The Commissioners decided that they do not need a sheriff's representative present at the Business License Commission meeting in April when Bar-One is discussed. Commissioner Hirsch mentioned that "Incident Cards" do not always give the complete picture of problems encountered by bars and night clubs.
- 6) The Commissioners asked that a sheriff's

representative be present at the Business License Commission retreat.

- 7) Commissioner Hirsch asked if there was no automatic annual review of business licenses unless there was a complaint from the neighbors. Tom Hamlett responded that a review would take place if there was a change in the focus of the business. The question was asked if going from a single band to multiple bands constituted "substantial change."
- 8) Commissioner Smith addressed the problem with the night clubs on Sunset Boulevard and noted that the Roxy's license comes up for renewal on March 30, 1990. She asked staff to review the Roxy file for letters of complaint. Bill Meeker indicated that staff is waiting for a report from the City Attorney's office regarding the license renewals for the night clubs on Sunset Boulevard; staff should have this report by the end of the week.
- 9) Commissioner Smith also noted that parking is one of the major problems on the Sunset Strip that has not been addressed.
- 10) The Commissioners discussed some of the preliminary findings of the Sunset Strip Task Force.
- 11) Bill Meeker indicated that the City Attorney's office will be suggesting two additional conditions to The Los Angeles Shanti Foundation's request to hold Bingo games in Plummer Park.

V. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

- 1) Commissioner Smith would like the Business License Commissioners to have a Study Session with the City Council regarding the Business License Ordinance.
- 2) Commissioner Hirsch indicated that a broader perspective needed to be used in reviewing Business Licenses for clubs and bars since a lot of discussion and energy was expended on troublesome businesses.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

- 1) Bill Meeker advised the Commissioners that the Public Works Department had authorized the placement of the "Rodeo" sign in the park area at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights.

- 2) Bill Meeker indicated that he would like to schedule the Business License Commission retreat sometime in April or May 1990, after the vacancy is filled on the Commission.
- 3) Tom Hamlett noted that compliance had been achieved by the Cellular Telephone Store since only 25% of its window space is now covered.
- 4) Commissioner Smith asked about an ordinance covering klieg lights. She noted that in a recent incident involving klieg lights outside of the Whiskey, the lights were removed due to non-compliance with the Noise Ordinance.
- 5) Tom Hamlett advised the Commission that he is in the process of obtaining a list of blackballed bands from the clubs on the Sunset Strip. He indicated that the clubs had been cooperative in providing this information. It was agreed that an open discussion of the Handbill Ordinance would be continued to a later Commission meeting.
- 6) Bill Meeker noted that Casanova's Bookstore is now keeping their window blinds open.
- 7) Tom Hamlett presented a rough draft of the report that the Sunset Strip Task Force will take to the City Council. He indicated that it will be up to the Task Force to tear apart the report and make final recommendations to the Council. Commissioner Smith reintroduced the idea of hiring one or two homeless people to do recycling at the clubs; this program could possibly pay for itself. Commissioner Hirsch asked if the clubs have signs posted indicating prohibited parking in specific areas. Commissioner Smith asked how many permit parking violations are being issued in District 5, what is the revenue generated, and what to which fund are these revenues sent. Tom Hamlett indicated that the possibility of assessment districts for the Sunset Strip area is being considered. Commissioner Hirsch asked if the ABC could stop alcohol sales at Sunset Strip liquor stores at midnight. Tom Hamlett said that he will introduce the idea at the Task Force meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 1990.
- 8) Commissioner Smith would like to know the purview of the ABC.

VIII ITEMS FROM CITIZENS: None

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

**Action:** To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on March 20, 1990, to be held in the Werle Building at 7:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



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COMMISSION CHAIR



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION