



KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
MAYOR

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
LICENSING BOARD
93 WASHINGTON STREET 2nd FLOOR
SALEM, MA 01970
TEL. 978-619-5631
FAX 978-744-1279

GARY M. BARRETT, CHAIRMAN
GARY F. SANTO, JR.
DEBORAH A. GREEL

MELISSA PAGLIARO,
CLERK OF THE BOARD

LICENSING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Salem Licensing Board was held on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via ZOOM, an online video conference call system. Present on call were: acting chair Deb Greel, member Gary Santos, Jr., Clerk of the Board, Melissa Pagliaro, Special Investigator to the Board, Sgt. Manninen and City Solicitor Elizabeth Rennard. Absent was Gary Barrett.

1. Application for a sub licensee Fortuneteller's License at HEX, 246 Essex Street. Applicant: Angelique Griffin.

Ms. Pagliaro presented the application and said that all of the paperwork was in order for Ms. Griffin to read at the store and that the manager of the store must have forgotten about the meeting but has been patiently waiting for October to pass. Ms. Rennard recommended approval. Mr. Santos motioned to approve. Ms. Greel seconded. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 2-0.

2. Application for a Transfer of an Annual All Alcohol License at 400 Highland Ave. Applicant: Julio on Highland, Inc. d/b/a April's II (formerly East Sakura Restaurant).

Attorney Jack Foley presented the application for brothers and owners Julio and Roger Garcia. He said this is a license that was held by another restaurant, East Sakura, in the same plaza. He said that the brothers have a place in Lynn names April's since 2005 without any issues. Ms. Greel asked when they are opening. Ms. Rennard said that they have been open the last couple of years with a Common Victualler's license. Ms. Pagliaro said that the application is in order and ready to go to the ABCC once approved. Mr. Santos motioned to approve the transfer. Ms. Greel seconded. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 2-0.

3. Application for a Transfer of an Annual All Alcohol License and an Entertainment License at 118 Washington St. Applicant: Aloha Ginger Restaurant Group, Inc. d/b/a Ginger (formerly Bistro 118).

Ms. Rennard said the applicant won the bid for the auction that was held for this license through the DOR. Attorney Chris Coleman presented the application. He said the premises was 3,700 sq ft of space on the first floor of 118 Washington St. He said it will be a Cajun seafood and chicken themed restaurant with a bit of Asian menu. He said for now their hours will be Monday through Saturday from 11:30am – 11 pm and Sunday from 11:30am-10pm. He said Gene Negril is the proposed manager and has been the manager at Gourmet Fusion in Swampscott since 2016. He said he will be on the premise 40 plus hours a week. Ms. Pagliaro said there is not application for Entertainment at this time even though it was listed on the Agenda and said they would come back once open. Attorney Coleman said they would do entertainment once they open in about 6 months after renovations are complete. Mr. Santos motioned to approve. Ms. Greel seconded. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 2-0.

4. Request for a continuance on the Transfer of an Annual All Alcohol License at 94 Lafayette St. Applicant: MP Restaurant and Bar Corp. for license currently held by SKF Hospitality Group, Inc. d/b/a Stella's Restaurant & Wine Bar. Continued from previous meeting on October 13, 2020.

Ms. Rennard asked the Board for another continuance as the applicant is still out of the country and should be back for next month's meeting on December 14th. Mr. Santos motioned to approve. Ms. Greel seconded. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 2-0.

5. Vote of the Board to renew 2021 licenses in the following categories: Liquor, Entertainment, Automatic Amusement, Class I, II and III Dealers Licenses and Inns. Approval for Lodging House Licenses will be discussed at the meeting to be held on December 14, 2020.

Ms. Rennard said the Board does this in a group annually. She said that Lodging houses are being held out of the approval until the next meeting due to a complaint on 10 Howard St. She said that Ms. Pagliaro will be sending them notice to appear at the next meeting for a discussion and then the Board can vote on the Lodging House renewals. Mr. Santos motioned to approve all class of licenses for 2021 except for Lodging houses at this time. Ms. Greel seconded. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 2-0.

6. New Business/Old Business:

Ms. Rennard said that there was a second complaint from Ms. Famico on the Open Meeting Laws which we treated as a continuation of the first complaint on the same matter, late filing of minutes. Ms. Famico pointed out recently that she added two more dates to the late minutes so believed it was a new complaint. Ms. Rennard said the minutes from both complaints have all been posted. Nevertheless, the matter will be placed on the agenda for a discussion on the December 14, 2020 meeting.

7. Adjournment: Mr. Santos motioned to adjourn. Ms. Greel seconded. Vote was confirmed by a roll Call vote, 2-0.