Woburn License Commission

Regular Meeting

Committee Room

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Members present: Chairman Thomas Skeffington, Commissioner William McGrath, and Commissioner David Gilgun

Also present: Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy, liaison to the License Commission

Chairman Skeffington convened the meeting of the License Commission at 5:30 p.m.

1. **NAI Entertainment, dba Showcase Cinemas de Lux, 25 Middlesex Canal Park Drive, application for change of manager**: Representing the applicant were Jeffrey Murphy and Shaun Judge, area manager, both of Showcase Cinemas de Lux, 25 Middlesex Canal Park Drive, Woburn, MA. Mr. Judge said Mr. Murphy has worked for NAI Entertainment for a number of years. He said Mr. Murphy left and came back in 2013. He said Mr. Murphy was the manager of the Woburn cinema from the summer of 2022 to the fall of 2023. He said Mr. Murphy is returning to his Woburn roots. He said Mr. Murphy is Tips certified. He said Mr. Murphy has a good relationship with the Woburn Police Dept. Commissioner Gilgun said Mr. Murphy does a good job. He said he has been to Showcase Cinemas and the operation is always well-run. Commissioner McGrath asked if the cinemas will remain open. He said there are rumors the property will be sold. He said people ask him. Mr. Judge said the cinemas are operating and fully expect to continue to operate. Capt. Murphy said the NAI's relationship with the city has always been good. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the request for change of manager; approved, 3-0.

2. **Greek Orthodox Community of Woburn, Inc., 70 Montvale Ave., application for a special 1-day liquor license for a Pan-Macedonian Association dinner from 6-11 p.m. on Saturday, December 28, 2024:** Representing the applicant was Peter Lambropoulos, 70 Montvale Ave., Woburn, MA. Mr. Lambropoulos said the Greek Church is celebrating the Christmas season with events before and after the holiday. Capt. Murphy said the Greek Church runs a great operation and it a great community. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the request for a special 1-day liquor license and waive the $100 application fee; approved, 3-0.

3. **Teamoji, 346 Washington Street, application for Common Victualer's license:** Representing the applicant were King Do and ThuHoung Nguyen, 346 Washington St., Woburn, MA. Chairman Skeffington said the application looks good. Commissioner

McGrath asked if the address is 342 or 342 Washington Street. Ms. Nguyen said the address is 346 Washington Street. (Scrivener's note: The address is also known as 342 West Cummings Park.) Motion made by Commissioner McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the Common Victualer's license; approved, 3-0.

4. **Approval of 2025 liquor, innkeeper, amusement and entertainment licenses:** Chairman Skeffington said some of the applications have not been submitted or are incomplete and will not be approved tonight. He said due to recent findings and other things, he wants to review the license status for Taste of Brazil and the Dog House Bar & Grill. He said Hugo Moraes and his father have pleaded guilty to various offenses related to their arrest on human smuggling charges. He said it is of his opinion, if you are a convicted felon, you are not allowed to hold a liquor license. Commissioner Gilgun said the rules for licensure are outlined in MGL Chapter 138. Capt. Murphy said he has a copy of the ABCC regulations. Chairman Skeffington said with that being said, the commission can approve the renewal applications that are complete. He said he thinks the commission should have representatives from the Dog House and Taste of Brazil to the next meeting to take their licenses. Commissioner Gilgun said he wouldn't even bother with that. He asked why the members of the commission should be the bad guys. Chairman Skeffington said he would confer with the city's attorney about holding a hearing. He said he would accept a motion to not grant renewal of the liquor and entertainment licenses to the Dog House and Taste of Brazil. Motion made by Commissioner McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the 2025 liquor, entertainment, innkeepers and amusement licenses with the exception of Dog House and Taste of Brazil; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington said the commission should send a cease-and-desist order to Dog House and Taste of Brazil. Commissioner McGrath said the cease-and-desist orders should be effective on January 1. Motion made by Commissioner McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to invite to the commission's meeting in January any license holder who submitted an incomplete application or did not submit any application by the date of the December meeting; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington said the commission is in receipt of a complaint about alcohol service at Aviva at 3 Rehabilitation Way. The complaint alleges Aviva is conducting a Happy Hour and serving alcohol seven days a week. Capt. Murphy said Aviva does not have a liquor license. He said they are running a private business. Commissioner Gilgun said the other issue is underage employees are serving the drinks. He said state law mandates any employee who handles alcohol must be over age 21, but there is an exception under Section 34C that if you work for company they'll drop the age to 18. He said anyone under age 18 cannot touch a drink. Capt. Murphy said he will take a visit there. Commissioner McGrath asked if Aviva is aware of the complaint that was made to the ABCC. Capt. Murphy said he does not know. Commissioner McGrath said his guess is Aviva will immediately comply. Capt. Murphy said he thinks he can rectify this situation. Chairman Skeffington said Colonial Liquors in West Woburn opted to pay a fine of $454.74 to the ABCC in lieu of a 1-day license suspension. He said there will be no interruptions of sales at the store. Commissioner Gilgun said the fine in lieu of suspension option is relatively new. He said in the past the ABCC deferred to the local licensing authority. Capt. Murphy said the ABCC is trying to do more disciplinary action in-house. Chairman Skeffington said Commissioner Gilgun send a couple of articles in

the Boston Glone about Happy Hour to the clerk for distribution. Commissioner McGrath said the other Colonial Liquors store on Mishawum Road also paid a fine in lieu of suspension. Chairman Skeffington said both liquor stores deferred their suspension. Commissioner Gilgun said the clerk received a telephone call from a neighbor of St. Charles Church complaining about noise during a recent event. He asked how many times the commission has addressed this sort of thing. Clerk said the caller complained about the noise after the event breaking down the equipment lasted into the early morning hours. Commissioner Gilgun said it has gotten to the point where Fr. Pinto invites the neighbors to participate in the vent. He said St. Charles holds this event once a year. He said he did not get the name of person who complained. He said he does not know what to know who they are. Chairman Skeffington said he would be willing to bet no one was breaking down equipment early in the morning.

5. **Approval of meeting minutes from November 14, 2024**: Motion made by Commissioner Gilgun and seconded by Commissioner McGrath to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 14, 2024; approved, 3-0.
6. **Motion made by Commissioner Gilgun and seconded by Commission McGrath to adjourn**; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD _____

Gordon Vincent

Clerk of Committees