

**ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024 @ 1:00 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650**

MINUTES

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg
Member George Anas
Member Richard Shin
Member Barbara Hill
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator
Chris Beaver, Attorney
Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary
Kevin Hall, Inspector
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

Not Present:

Vice-Chair Richard Watts

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Anas moved to approve the agenda. Chairman Willenborg explained the changes to the agenda; Violations will be first, then Premise changes and Applications would be heard last. Member Shin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Shin moved to approve the minutes for June 13, 2024, and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Violations**

The Front Porch – Employee - Myresha Dionna Woodland was an employee of a license holder and sold or provided alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one years in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Myresha Dionna Woodland appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Ms. Woodland admitted the violation did occur. Member Anas made a motion for a \$150.00 fine and was seconded by Member Shin. Vote 3:1 Willenborg against. Motion carried.

- **Premise Changes**

MIR Beer – Donna L. Moore - Requesting temporary extension of premise and extra serving counter for Spartan Race on September 14 and 15, 2024, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Donna L. Moore appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Ms. Moore explained that the Spartan Race will be as it has been in the past; nothing has changed. Member Shin moved to approve the 60-day extension and extra serving counter pending the Health Department, Fire Marshal and Comptrollers approvals and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Ledo Pizza – Timothy M. Farrell - Requesting permanent extension of premises into 625 sq. ft. adjacent unit

Timothy M. Farrell appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Farrell explained that his new landlord has provided him with 625 sq. ft of additional space for use as an office and storage to his original premise. Member Shin moved to approve the 90-day permanent extension pending LUGM and Comptrollers approvals and was seconded by Member Anas. Motion carried.

- **Applications**

Sip Café - Application for Jonathan Boss to purchase a Class D-BWL license and t/a Sip Café (Sip Café, LLC), 22845 Washington St., Unit C, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Jonathan Boss appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Boss assured the Board that all his servers and bartenders would be Alcohol Awareness trained. Member Anas made a motion for a 90-day conditional approval pending Use and Occupancy from Leonardtown and a Traders license and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

First Colony Wine and Spirit - Application for Prakashkumar R. Patel and Milton F. Copsey to purchase a Class A-1-BWL license and t/a First Colony Wine and Spirit (First Colony Spirit, LLC), 45133 First Colony Way, Unit 40, California, MD 20619.

Prakashkumar R. Patel and Milton F. Copsey appeared before the Board and were sworn in. John Quinn was the attorney for the business. A translator was provided for Mr. Patel. Attorney Quinn stated that the build out of the business is contingent on the approval of the Boards decision. There were 11 people who signed up to speak in opposition to the approval of this application and 4 people who signed up who would support the application to be approved. Mr. David Dent from the SMCLBA spoke on behalf of 5 local businesses and as a local resident. The following people appeared before the Board and were sworn in:

- Eric Ford- against
- Dave Dent- against
- Robert Kirby- against
- Bruce Jackson- against

- Cassandra Cary- against
- Agnes Nelson- against
- Joe Jackson- for
- Glenn Laggner- against
- John Colin- against
- Luke Andrews- against
- Santos Chase- against
- Andre Chase- against
- Edward Middleton- for
- William Kerp- for
- Jeff Baumbach- for

Mr. Dent presented a map showing the saturation of liquor establishments within a very close proximity to where this new business is proposed to be built. Most of the businesses and constituents were in opposition for the same reason; they felt that the area was oversaturated with liquor stores and establishments in that area. The few constituents that were in favor of this new store felt that it would be convenient to have the store in the shopping center with Target and Giant as well as support free market. After all the testimony of the businesspeople and constituents, Chairman Willenborg asked the Board if they wanted to table their decision until the next meeting. Member Shin gave his opinion, of how he felt about the testimony. As a former business owner who was affected by competition, Member Shin understood the viewpoints of the business owners however competition is part of the system. Member Anas stated he wanted to protect the existing businesses. None of the businesses or constituents seemed to worry about the peace and safety of another liquor establishment being opened. Member Hill made a motion to table the vote until the next meeting. No one seconded the vote. Motion failed. Member Shin moved to approve the 90-day conditional approval pending the Traders license, Use and Occupancy, Health Department and Fire Marshal and was seconded by Member Hill. Vote was 3:1 Member Anas against. Motion carried.

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Hildebrand explained to the Board that she and Attorney Beaver have been making minor changes to the Rules and Regulations and she will be e-mailing these changes to the Board soon.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

For the month of June, Deputy Myers reported:

- 12 Alcohol Compliance checks – 1 violation
- 6 DUI's- Sheriff
- 2 Stationary surveillance
- 6 State Park surveillance - no violations
- RAST, In- service training- Sheriff's Dept.

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the month of June, Inspector Hall reported:

- 10 inspections / 3 follow- ups

- Set up appointments to meet with establishment owners in person
- Taught RAST
- MALA Conference call

ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

David Dent explained to the Board that when the quota system was put into place years ago the SMCLBA thought it would be a good way to manage the number of liquor store licenses in each election district in St. Mary's County. Chairman Willenborg feels that this system may not be working the best for District 8 any longer.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Hill made a motion to adjourn at 3:00 pm and was seconded by Member Shin.
Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chair