



BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

City Hall, 718 Main Street

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FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

Feb 08 2022 9:22 am

Daniel Sarefield, Chairman

Richard Boscardin

John Zarrella

MINUTES OF MEETING

A Special meeting of the Board of License Commissioners was held on January 28, 2022 over the Zoom meeting platform, and called to order by Commissioner Sarefield at 11:05 AM. Commissioners Boscardin and Zarrella were present. FPD Liaison Lieutenant Howe and Provisional City Clerk Amanda Alford were present.

1. Correspondence from Lieutenant Howe regarding an incident that took place at Major's Café on January 21, 2022.

Ms. Ellen Griffin was present at the meeting. Commissioner Sarefield stated that the meeting had been called so they could discuss the incident on January 21st to determine what happened. He noted that he had a chance to review the video surveillance from that evening and he was concerned about another incident taking place. He asked Ms. Griffin to identify who was working that evening. Ms. Griffin named two bartenders and two security personnel, one of which had just begun working at the bar. She stated that she believes the Hells Angels came to the bar after leaving a convention nearby. They all entered as a group and the incident started only minutes after they arrived. Apparently, one of the patrons was poking fun at the President of Hells Angels and it wasn't long after that the fight broke out. Commissioners commended the bartender for taking the proper steps in an attempt to deescalate the situation by turning on the lights and calling the police. It was noted that the phone number he called was the business line and not emergency dispatch and requested Ms. Griffin notify her employees that they should be calling 911 for assistance.

Commissioner Boscardin stated that in reviewing the video surveillance he noticed several of the patrons walked in with solo cups in hand which is violation of the license. Ms. Griffin stated that she understood this is a violation and wasn't sure if the two working the door were afraid to enforce this policy due to the nature of the situation. She noted that she did take action by firing the two security personnel working the door. Commissioner Boscardin also noted that the video depicted some patrons carrying knives and one with a large Maglite and he was concerned that the situation could have ended a lot worse if these weapons were utilized. He recommended Ms. Griffin to implement a policy to not allow weapons in the establishment. Commissioner Sarefield asked Ms. Griffin whether she has a security plan in place for her employees to follow. Ms. Griffin stated that weapons were not allowed. In most cases, they catch patrons attempting to bring alcohol into the establishment and they are told to leave. The security personnel also monitor the parking lot as well to make sure patrons aren't consuming alcohol outside either, but this is tougher to enforce. She noted that since most of the problems result from patrons leaving another establishment and coming to hers, she also has a policy to deny entry to new patrons after 12:45 p.m. In addition, once last call has been announced, if someone leaves, they are not allowed back into the establishment. After this incident, she is

implementing a new policy that patrons will not be allowed entry if they are wearing any clothing identifying a motorcycle club.

Commissioner Sarefield recommended that Ms. Griffin emphasize to her employees that outside alcohol is prohibited and asked Ms. Griffin if the staff working the shift for this evening was aware of the new policy regarding prohibited clothing. She stated that they were aware and that she was also in the process of ordering signage depicting this policy. Commissioner Boscardin recommended that she look into acquiring a panic button which would notify the police once activated. He noted that the bartender was very brave to pick up the phone and call the police as he was in such close proximity to the patrons involved in the incident. This would provide a more discreet way of notifying the police.

Lt. Howe recommended that Ms. Griffin ensure the number of patrons inside the establishment does not exceed the allowed quota. He also stressed the importance of adhering the policies that have been implemented, that is, not allowing outside alcohol inside the establishment, no weapons, no identifying clothing. He also commended her for letting the two security personnel go as they were the ones that allowed the patrons to enter with alcohol. He suggested to the Board that he perform random spot checks with the Commissioners after 11:00 p.m. to ensure she is doing what has been asked. Commissioners agreed to implement these checks.

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda K. Alford, Provisional City Clerk

Approved:



Daniel Sarefield, Chair



Richard Boscardin



John Zarrella