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March 19, 2013 Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Joseph Thompson, Chair; Joseph Bombace, Co-Chair; Joanne Russo-Rubino.

EXCUSED: Joseph McManus.

STAFF: Chris Kirka, Community Associate.

GUEST(S): Alexander Arsenis, Rainbow Diner; Chester Marshall, Cham's Jerk Center; Pablo Tejada, Van Nest Café; Ramon Torres, Nueva Imperial Restaurant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Joseph Thompson. There was a quorum.

I. Liquor License Applicants:

- a. Renewal Wine and Beer Only: Rainbow Diner, 2195 White Plains Road.

Applicant represented by Alexander Arsenis. There have been no problems with this diner, which has been in business for many years. A motion was made by Joe Bombace, seconded by Joanne Rubino – That the committee recommends the full board has no objection to the renewal of this license. As the Rainbow Diner is part of the White Plains Road BID, Joe Thompson recused himself from voting.
UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

- b. New, Wine and Beer only: Nueva Imperial Restaurant, 2456 Williamsbridge Road.

Chris Kirka provided translation services for the owner, Ramon Torres who spoke only Spanish. Although most of other requirements have been met, the owner has not submitted a completed application. The owner has agreed to submit the application as soon as possible. In addition, the copy of the Certificate of Occupancy was unclear. The owner has agreed to submit a clearer copy. However, this request will have to be tabled until the owner meets all requirements.

- c. Renewal (Lapsed) Wine and Beer Only: Van Nest Café, 600 Van Nest Avenue.
Translation services were provided by Chris Kirka due to the owner, Pablo Tejada, being Spanish dominant. There have been numerous problems with this business, as reported by the 49th Precinct, and there have been numerous complaints from residents to the Board Office, the Morris Park Community Association, and the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance. Some of the complaints include an arrest for operating with an expired license and two issued C-summons, one for serving to a minor and one for serving to an intoxicated person. A motion was made by Joe Bombace and seconded – That the committee recommends the full board objects to the renewal of this license. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**
The owner was invited to the full board meeting on Thursday to make his case for renewal.
- d. New Wine and Beer Only: Cham’s Jerk Center, 1322 E Gun Hill Road.
The owner Chester Marshall submitted all required information EXCEPT documentation regarding his agreement to change his door from one swinging in to one swinging out, as required. The owner has agreed to submit this documentation the next business day, 3/21/13.
A motion was made by Joanne Rubino, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That the committee has no objection to the granting of this license pending the submission of additional documentation to the Board. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**
- e. Renewal Wine and Beer Only: Zoo Terrace Buffet, 2300 Southern Boulevard.
Due to the prominence of the Bronx Zoo and the lack of problems with this organization over many years, the requirement for attendance of the owner was waived. However the questionnaire has not been submitted.
A motion was made by Joe Bombace, Seconded by Joanne Russo-Rubino – That the committee have no objection to the renewal of this license, pending the submission of the questionnaire. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**
- f. New Liquor, Wine and Beer: Agron Restaurant Corp., d/b/a Zymi, 726 Astor Avenue.
The owner did not attend the meeting, but Joe Thompson reached out to the owner, who has agreed to submit the questionnaire and other required documentation on the next business day, 3/20/13. The request will be brought before the full Board on 3/21/13.
- g. New Wine and beer Only: Pashtriku Tavern, 741 Astor Avenue.

The owner of this establishment did not attend the meeting. Therefore, this request will be tabled until April.

- II. Sacket Avenue Parking Situation: The following auto body businesses on Sackett and Bronxdale Avenues were invited to the Committee meeting:
- a. XXL Auto Body/Line X
 - b. John's Car Care
 - c. RN and AC Bodyshop
 - d. The New King
 - e. H & H Auto

None of these businesses attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the numerous complaints made to the 49th Precinct and the Board Office regarding persistent illegal parking and storage of vehicles, despite repeated enforcement. It is recommended that a letter addressed to the businesses be drafted stating the problem, urging cooperation, or further action will be taken to ensure that residents maintain their quality of life.

Old Business:

Certain liquor license questionnaires were outstanding but have been submitted or will be submitted:

1. The Pelham Bay Diner and the Picollo Café questionnaires have been received by the Committee and were submitted to Board staff.
2. The Smoke House BBQ "Lounge" has been changed to "Restaurant." The questionnaire has been received by the Committee and were submitted to Board staff.
3. Maestro's has agreed to fax the questionnaire to the Board office.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Minutes taken by Joanne Russo-Rubino.