

Pacific Beach Planning Group
Alcohol License Review Committee
Minutes – April 5, 2010, 6:00 pm,
Pacific Beach Womans Club (1721 Hornblend Ave.)

Commenced: 6:04 pm

Members Present:

PBPG: Scott Chipman (Chair), Marcie Beckett, Diane Faulds, Jim Krokee, Barbara Williams

PBTC: Nici Boyle, Joe Wilding, Bill Bradshaw (Alternate)

Discover PB: None

Guests:

Eve Anderson, Jerry Hall, Steve Zoleski, Kathy Lippitt, Leigh Gibson

Agenda: Approved without objection.

Minutes: Motion (Beckett/Wilding): Approve March minutes with a correction to show that the motion on name change passed unanimously. **Passed 7-0-0**

Non Agenda Public Comment:

Jerry Hall – ABC enforcement from 2002 to 2007 has resulted in only 15 citations and \$16,000 in fines. Considering the number of alcohol licenses that PB has, that translates into only one citation per 38 years of alcohol license operations. If an establishment gets 3 ABC violations in 3 years, it can lose its license, but we have so little enforcement this is unlikely to happen. Many establishments have amplified music, but only a few have the required entertainment permit. According to the POLD survey, 33% of DUIs come from one PB establishment.

Marcie Beckett – Handed out SDUT article “Late Hours Ban Good for Region” and Beach & Bay article on new Beachwood bar to replace Hooters. Evidence shows that simply closing bars earlier results in big drops in DUI and crime. In 2008, the PBTC supported Hooters request to expand its alcohol license to serve on the ground floor, and now Beachwood has bought the license and will be a three story bar. Once a license is granted, the community has no control over changes in conditions and business models. ABC policy allows restaurants to function as bars after 9:00 pm.

Review and Discussion: What we have learned regarding structural deficiencies in alcohol license policy. Summary outline of ALRC findings and possible solutions. How to present this information to the community:

The ensuing discussion by board members and audience included these comments:

- An ABC judge granted Zanzibar a new alcohol license with conditions despite protests from SDPD, local ABC, and residents
- PBTC board gave support letter to Great Plaza Buffet for a new alcohol license
- Once a new license is granted, conditions can be changed with no public notice or input; we need a process where you can allow a new license with conditions that will stay in place
- How do we get enforcement against the bad operators - I have a 5 year-old and alcohol crime in my census tract (79.01) is 1900% of city average
- Enforcement is weak because it is complaint driven
- There has not been sufficient pressure from the community to change things; the community should observe offenders and file complaints
- Many residents have given up
- Bars are drawing large crowds from outside community who are unlikely to complain

- Gaslamp is an entertainment district and has a CUP which gives them more control
- We need to have a community forum to educate residents and businesses about ALRC findings and possible solutions; include the Ventura CUP model
- Enforcement is the key, how do we get more enforcement, there is a lot of over-serving which is giving us high DUIs
- Can we limit parking to reduce DUI?
- Sunset Beach changed closing time to 1:00 am and saw a dramatic decrease in DUI
- This board is biased
- Police and ABC need to be educated too, they think PB has always been this way
- Businesses are not serving the community as called for in the Community Plan
- Brazil closed bars earlier and crime went way down
- We need to have a well-publicized public forum
- Get media involved; promote solutions
- Many people unaware of crime problems in PB
- We need an ALRC written report and a community-wide presentation

Motion (Wilding/Faulds) Request PBPG support for a written report and community-wide forum regarding ALRC findings with a tentative forum date of early June. **Passed 7-0-0**

Adjourned: 7:38 pm

Submitted by Marcie Beckett