MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UTAH

 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES COMMISSION

HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024.

*[A copy of the final agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the DABS Administrative Office, emailed to the Salt Lake Tribune and the Deseret News, and posted on the Utah Public Notice Website by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.]*

Chair Tara Thue called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Tara Thue, Natalie Randall, Juliette Tennert, Tom Jacobson, Jacquelyn Orton, Jennifer Tarazon, and Stephen Handy.

Staff Present: Tiffany Clason, Executive Director; Cade Meier, Deputy Director; Sean Williford, Finance Director; Doug Murakami, Alcohol Education Director; and Jeremy Sommerlath, Licensing and Compliance Deputy Director;

Also Present: Samuel McHenry, Assistant Attorney General.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Craig Warr led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Thue made the following announcements:

a. Proposed Future Meeting Schedule: *(subject to change)*

- Thursday, February 29, 2024 MASOB Building - *Multi-Agency State Office Building*

*195 North 1950 West, SLC, Room 1015*

 - Thursday, March 28, 2024 MASOB Building

b. Holiday Closures:

Liquor stores and the DABS administrative office and warehouse will be closed.

- Monday, February 19, 2024  *(Washington and Lincoln Day)*

c. Public Comments:

 - Those present, please complete the form located by the front entrance to

the room.

 - Those participating virtually, please email your name, city, topic, and affiliation (if

applicable) to hotline@utah.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

 - Comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Mr. Williford provided an update on the December 2023 financials. In December, retail revenue totaled $59.8 million. Current YTD revenues are over $297.7 million. The average daily sales in December totaled $2.6 million. The department is on track to return $59.7 million YTD to the general fund.

PARENTS EMPOWERED UPDATE:

Mr. Murakami provided an update on the Parents Empowered campaign. He noted it’s been 11 years since the first Parents Empowered month was recognized and gave an overview of the current PE month activities. He thanked Director Clason for completing seven media interviews.

Mr. Murakami also gave an overview of the very successful (over 400 people in attendance) community partnership event on New Years Eve in Wendover, Utah.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Ms. Clason noted that last year the department/commission issued 1,024 single event/ temporary beer permits vs. 873 the prior year. She gave an overview of the process and reminded those interested in obtaining permits to submit all materials in a timely manner.

Ms. Clason gave an overview of the department’s presentation to the Business, Economic Development and Labor Appropriations Subcommittees. She also updated the commission on the results of a recent employee survey. The survey indicated that DABS employees are happier, and the turnover rate was reduced from 120% to 71%.

Mr. Meier gave an update on the department’s construction projects. The new downtown SLC store is scheduled to open in May or June. He also provided an update on the new SIM (Store Inventory Management) system. It is now in two stores and will be expanded to all stores this year.

VIOLATIONS:

*\*Referral Sources –* North Salt Lake Police (NPD), Roy City Police Department (RPD), State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), West Valley Police Department (WPD)

a. Consent Calendar:

*[The following Consent Calendar items include uncontested letters of admonishment (written warnings) and settlement agreements that have been agreed to and accepted by the licensees. They are considered as a block with one vote unless one of the commissioners requests that any item be removed for individual discussion.]*

(1) Pepper’s Cantina, Saint George and Jordan Brown (employee) \*SBI (RF)

(2) Joe Vera’s Mexican Restaurant, Provo and Rebecca Hutchins \*SBI (RF)

Tilford (employee)

(3) KSK Quick Stop, Roy and Komalpreet Kaur (employee) \*RPD (OP)

(4) Fast Stop 1128, North Salt Lake and Kaitlyn Fitzpatrick \*NPD (OP)

(employee)

(5) Fat Daddy’s Pizzeria, Provo and Erin Solomon (employee) \*SBI (RB)

(6) Black Sheep Cafe, Provo and Samantha Decker (employee) \*SBI (RF)

(7) Pit Stop Bar & Grill, Tooele \*SBI (BAR)

(8) 7-Eleven Store #35627A, West Valley City and Jashan Singh \*WPD (OP)

(employee)

(9) 2 Row Brewing, Midvale \*SBI (BAR)

(10) Dubai SLC, Salt Lake City and Pepe Lopez Martinez (employee) \*SBI (BAR)

(11) India Palace, Provo and Prince Prince (employee) \*SBI (RL)

(12) Tequila Bar & Night Club, South Salt Lake City \*SBI (BAR)

Mr. McHenry gave an overview of the items on the consent calendar noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

Ms. Tennert moved to approve the settlement agreements for items #1 to #12 on the consent calendar. Ms. Tarazon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

LICENSEE RECOGNITIONS: PASSED UTAH PUBLIC SAFETY SBI COVERT (CUB) INSPECTIONS:

Ms. Clason reported that since the December meeting, 24 SBI inspections were performed and all 24 licensees passed. She congratulated those that passed and thanked them for following the alcohol safety laws.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Sommerlath gave an overview of the items on the consent agenda noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

a. Approval of the Minutes

 (1) December 21, 2023 Commission Meeting

b. Off- Premise Beer Retailer

 *License Change of Ownership:*

(1) Gas Stop Murray, Murray *(conditional) (purchase agreement*

*December 13, 2023)*

(2) Gas Stop Riverdale, Riverdale *(conditional) (purchase agreement*

*December 13, 2023)*

(3) Gas Stop Salt Lake, Salt Lake City  *(conditional) (purchase*

*agreement December 12, 2023)*

(4) Gas Stop South Ogden, South Ogden *(purchase agreement*

*December 12, 2023)*

(5) Gas Stop, Vernal *(conditional) (purchase agreement*

*December 12, 2023)*

 (6) Kett’s Neola Store and Gift Shop, Neola *(purchase agreement*

*January 2, 2024)*

(7) MK Fuel Stop 4, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (purchase agreement*

*December 8, 2024)*

 (8) RPLK EZZY MART, Roy *(purchase agreement January 4, 2024)*

 (9) Sundeep Mart Inc., Roy *(conditional) (purchase agreement*

*January 2, 2024)*

*New Applicants:*

(1)Doubletree by Hilton, Salt Lake City

(2) Citi Stop Convenience, Salt Lake City

(3) Express Food and Fuel, Vernal *(conditional)*

(4) Sharooz Brothers, West Valley City

(5) Snowbird/Center Sundries, Salt Lake City

(6) South Fork Chevron, Huntsville

(7) Walmart Fuel Station #3208, Springville *(conditional)*

(8) Family Dollar #31736, Orderville *(conditional)*

c. Special Use

 *New Applicant:*

 (1) Recursion Pharmaceuticals, Salt Lake City  *(Scientific)*

d. Package Agency

*New Applicants:*

(1) Base Camp Retail, Wasatch County *(Type 1)*

(2) 2 Row Brewing, Midvale *(Type 5)*

e. Liquor Warehouse

 *New Applicant:*

(1) Anchor 3PL, Salt Lake City

f. Restaurant - Limited Service

*Extended Closure:*

(1)Under Canvas at Zion *(requesting until the March Commission Meeting)*

*License Change of Ownership:*

(1) Tepanyaki, Layton *(purchase agreement December 31, 2022)*

(2) Tandoor Indian Cuisine, Provo *(purchase agreement May 14, 2023)*

*New Applicants:*

(1) Dangerous Pretzel Co, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*

(2) Slackwater, South Jordan *(conditional) (Violation History)*

(3) Millcreek Pizza House, Millcreek *(conditional)*

(4) So Delicious Japanese Wasabi, Roy *(conditional)*

(5) Hotel Park City, Park City *(will surrender Restaurant Beer License)*

(6) Bhutan House Restaurant, Sandy *(conditional)*

g. On-Premise Banquet

 *Extended Closure:*

(1) Ulum Moab, Moab *(requesting until the March Commission Meeting)*

*License Change of Ownership:*

 (1) Embassy Suites South Jordan Salt Lake City, South Jordan *(conditional)*

 *(purchase agreement November 1, 2023)*

 *New Applicant:*

 (1) Clear Sky Resorts, Cannonville *(conditional)*

 *New Applicants: Restaurant Venue:*

 (1) Top of Main Brew Pub Loft Park City, Park City *(violation history)*

*(surrender of bar license upon receipt of banquet restaurant venue*

*license)*

h. Restaurant Beer

 *New Applicant:*

 (1) Scooters Pizza & Grub, Vernal  *(conditional)*

Ms. Orton moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Ms. Randall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

LICENSE APPLICATIONS CONSIDERATION ITEMS:

a. Bar Establishment Applicants:

 *Extended Closure:*

(1)Old Yellowstone Garage, Salt Lake City *(kitchen fire October*

*2023, requesting closure until the April Commission Meeting )*

 *License Change of Ownership:*

(1)Club Karamba, Salt Lake City  *(purchase agreement May 21, 2023)*

 *Ready to Operate Applicants:*

(1) The La Sabre Club, American Fork  *(projected opening January 25, 2024)*

(2)Ontop Lounge & Grill, Salt Lake City *(projected opening January 25, 2024)*

*All Other Applicants:*

 (1) Felt Bar & Eatery, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (projected opening*

*February 29, 2024)*

(2) Aker Restaurant and Lounge, Salt Lake City  *(conditional) (projected*

*opening February 29, 2024)*

(3) El Moab Hotel, Moab *(conditional) (projected opening February 29, 2024)*

(4) Thieves Guild, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (projected opening April 2024)*

(5) Neptune’s Palace, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (projected opening*

*May 2024)*

(6)Repeal, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (projected opening August 2024)*

(7) Bout Time Pub & Grub, Saratoga Springs *(conditional)* *(projected opening August 2024)*

Rob Hansen gave an overview of the bar establishment applications. Ms. Tennert provided an update on the subcommittee discussions and recommendations.

Ms. Tennert moved to approve an extended closure for #1 Old Yellowstone Garage in Salt Lake City until the April commission meeting. Ms. Randall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Tennert moved to approve an ownership change for #1 Club Karamba in Salt Lake City. Ms. Orton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Tennert moved to grant bar establishment licenses to ready to operate applicants #1 The La Sabre Club in American Fork and #2 Ontop Lounge & Grill in Salt Lake City. Mr. Handy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

b. Full-Service Restaurant Applicants:

*Extended Closure:*

(1) Ulum Moab, Moab *(requesting until the March Commission Meeting)*

(2) Under Canvas, Big Water  *(requesting until March Commission Meeting)*

*License Change of Ownership:*

(1) Embassy Suites South Jordan Salt Lake City, South Jordan *(conditional)* *(purchase agreement November 1, 2023)*

*Ready to Operate Applicants:*

(1) Tacos El Guero, Heber City

(2) Taqueria 27, Eagle Mountain *(Violation History)*

*All Other Applicants:*

(1) Tsunami Restaurant & Sushi Bar, Salt Lake *(conditional)* *(projected opening February 1, 2024)*

(2) Courtyard Orem University Place, Orem *(conditional)* *(projected opening February 1, 2024)*

(3) Tia’s Restaurant, St. George *(conditional) (projected opening February 1, 2024)*

(4)Kimi’s Chop & Oyster House, Holladay *(conditional) (projected opening February 7, 2024)*

(5)Toro Steak and Cocktails, South Jordan *(conditional) (Violation History)*

*(projected opening February 9, 2024)*

(6) Roux, Salt Lake *(conditional) (projected opening February 22, 2024)*

(7) Tita’s Restaurant, Taylorsville *(conditional) (projected opening March 2, 2024)*

(8) Piko Mexican Grill, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (projected opening*

*May 15, 2024)*

(9) Clear Sky Resorts, Cannonville *(conditional) (projected opening June 1, 2024)*

(10) LongHorn Steakhouse #5687, Spanish Fork *(conditional) (projected*

*opening December 30, 2024)*

Craig Warr gave an overview of the full restaurant applications. Ms. Randall gave an overview of the subcommittee discussions and recommendations.

Ms. Randall moved to approve extended closures for #1 Ulum Moab in Moab and #2 Under Canvas in Big Water until the March commission meeting. Ms. Orton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Randall moved to approve an ownership change for #1 Embassy Suites South Jordan in South Jordan. Ms. Orton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Randall moved to grant full service restaurant licenses to ready to operate applicants #1 Tacos El Guero in Heber City and #2 Taqueria 27 in Eagle Mountain. Ms. Orton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Randall moved to grant conditional full service restaurant licenses to all other applicants #1 Tsunami Restaurant & Sushi Bar in Salt Lake City, #2 Courtyard Orem University Place in Orem, #3 Tia’s Restaurant in St. George, #4 Kimi’s Chop & Oyster House in Holladay, and #5 Toro Steak and Cocktails in South Jordan. Ms. Orton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC:

a. Mr. Sommerlath noted the commission will receive written comment on the violations policy through today, January 25, 2024. Comments may be submitted to DABScompliance@utah.gov

b. Mr. Sommerlath also reminded beer restaurant, beer recreational, tavern, and off-premise beer retailer licensees that the license renewal deadline is January 31, 2024. Late renewals will be accepted until February 10, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.