



*****DRAFT*****

**NLOC Meeting
Tuesday February 21, 2017 at 3:30 PM
Portland Downtown – 549 Congress Street**

Present: Lt. Kevin Cashman (PPD), Jessica Hanscombe (Business Licensing), Jon Dow (Waterfront Concerts), Doug Fuss (Bull Feeney's), Tony Austin (State Liquor Enforcement), Bob Waitkevitch (Fore Play Sports Bar), Tim Sweeton (State Theatre & Port City Music Hall), Jonathan Gale (Bonfire)

Board members: Sarah Martin, Robyn Violette

Staff: Casey Gilbert

1. **Introductions:** Sarah Martin opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.
2. **Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the January 17, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.
3. **Review Night Life Issues/Calls for Service/License for March renewals (sent with the agenda):**
Lt. Cashman reviewed the calls for service in the packet
 - There was a question as to what a "bias incident" is: The bias Incident was an alleged hate crime, but it did not have to do with Bull Feeney's. The person called from outside Bull Feeney's.
4. **Review of new and pending liquor licenses for February 2017:** Jessica Hanscombe

The Pig Exchange, LLC d/b/a The Thirsty Pig. Application for a Class A Lounge License at 37 Exchange Street.

Application filed on 1/11/2017. Applicant holds a current Class III and Class IV License which includes a license for Entertainment with no dance and Outdoor Dining. They are upgrading to include spirituous for purposes of catering.

363 LLC d/b/a Cheevitdee. Application for a Class XI Restaurant/Lounge License at 363 Fore Street. Application was filed on 1/18/2017. New City and State applications. This location was formerly a Dunkin Donuts.

Mami Food Truck LLC d/b/a Mami Restaurant. Application for a Class IV (Malt) License at 339 Fore Street.

Application was submitted on 1/27/2016. New City and State Applications. This location was formerly Mainely Wraps.

Pom 2007, LLC d/b/a Pom's Thai Taste Restaurant and Noodle House. Application for a Class I FSE at 571 Congress Street. Application was filed on 1/27/2017. Applicant holds a current Class III and Class IV License. They are upgrading to include spirituous.

Sun Y. Chung d/b/a Yobo. Application for a Class III & IV (Malt & Vinous) License at 23 Forest Avenue. Application was filed on 1/30/2017. New City and State applications. This location was formerly Bibos Mad Apple Café.

Lazzari LLC d/b/a Lazzari. Application for a Class XI Restaurant/Lounge License with Outdoor Dining on Public Property at 618 Congress Street. Application was filed on 1/30/2017. Applicant applied previously and was approved on 4/28/2014 for a Class XI Restaurant/Lounge License. The State of Maine Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement requires new applications and approvals after one year, if the applicant did not open.

5. **Committee Discussion:**

A. New committee goals for the second half of the year:

- Outreach to new members; develop a welcome packet for new liquor license holders when approved by Council and extend a personal welcome.
- Doug commented that the Night Life Task Force/sub-committee developed a brochure entitled “21 Reasons” that used to be provided to new license holders. Doug would like to see Jessica Hanscombe hand out the 21 Reasons brochure to new license holders in addition to having it provided in the welcome packet provided by NLOC to new businesses.
- There was additional discussion around how to recruit new members and the challenges that it has presented over the years. This committee has tried several ways to get people involved. Doug mentioned that it would be nice to have more restaurants involved. Doug also posed the question – should we expand the mission of NLOC to include restaurants, perhaps marketing could be a goal, etc?

B. Review and discussion of NLOC vision and mission:

- Could marketing be added to the mission of NLOC? An increased Public Relations effort to dispel myths around safety? Get more heavily involved in discussions around current Portland Downtown advocacy issues?
- Doug brought up the importance of self-policing as the main function of NLOC. He pointed to a history of NLOC having an “independent voice” and feels that NLOC should be able to speak up independently of Portland Downtown board at City Hall with regard to issues with licensees. Sarah Martin indicated that individual business owners can speak on their own behalf against license holders who are operating in a reckless manner. Doug added that there is more power in a group. Robyn and Sarah both encouraged committee members to bring recommendations and concerns to the Board. Board members want to be informed of issues that are of importance to the Nightlife Community. Doug feels that there is a disconnect and feels that NLOC has operated as an independent organization. Bob stepped in to say that it felt very “big brother” when NLOC was told that a Portland Downtown board member has to be present/chair the committee. Robyn would like to figure out if NLOC needs to break off or remain as part of Portland Downtown. If NLOC remains part of Portland Downtown, committee members must operate the same way all the other committees do.

Doug states that there seem to be two main purposes of NLOC – one is advocacy and the other is self-policing. Doug feels that the self-policing aspect needs to be independent of Portland Downtown. He added that, in the past, the chairperson in charge of NLOC was simply acting in an “informational” role and that taking action did not require approval by the Portland Downtown Board. Bob suggests that NLOC break off from Portland Downtown and create a committee that focuses on self-policing. Doug added that they will take the police and business licensing with them.

C. NLOC Safety Plan: discussion postponed

6. **Other business:**

- A question was asked about how many licenses there are in the City: 271 off premise, 103 on premise, 15 breweries
- Bob asked whether there is any Tips training available. Tony indicated that bar/restaurant owners should inform their insurance companies that all of their employees have received the Tips Training certification, which should reduce your rate.

7. **Next meeting:** March 21st 3:30pm