



**NLOC Meeting**  
**Tuesday September 19, 2017 at 3:30 PM**  
**Portland Downtown – 549 Congress Street**

**Present:** Lt. Kevin Cashman (PPD), Jessica Hanscombe & Sandy Driscoll (Business Licensing), Jon Dow (Waterfront Concerts), Dan Talmatch (North Point), Doug Fuss (Bull Feeney's), Josh Miranda (Blyth & Burrows), Bob Waitkevitch (Fore Play), Tim Sweeton (State Theater/Port City Music Hall), Bob Ruminski (Mathew's), Tanner Herget (Bonfire), Mike Lizotte (Drink Exchange), Tony Austin (State Liquor Enforcement)

**Board members:** Sarah Martin, Alen Saric

**Staff:** Casey Gilbert, Taffy Eaton

**Minute 1. Introductions:** Sarah Martin opened the meeting and asked for introductions

**Minute 2. Review and approval of Minutes:** Doug Fuss made a motion to approve the August 15, 2017 meeting minutes. Alen Saric seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**Minute 3. Review Night Life Issues/Calls for Service/License for October renewals:** Lt. Kevin Cashman reviewed the calls for service in the packet

- The State Theatre license does not cover Thompson's Point
- A question was asked about how "in the area" calls affect license renewals. Kevin replied that they do not count, only the "on the premises" incidents count. Kevin reminded this group that this meeting is intended to get ahead of issues prior to license renewals. Problem locations become obvious as the year progresses.
- Kevin brought up the recent homicide on Temple Street and asked anyone present who has cameras on their buildings to please send video to Sgt. Dean Goodale who is in charge of the investigation

**Minute 4. Review of new and pending liquor licenses for September 2017:** Jessica Hanscombe reviewed the September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> applications. Siano's application was pulled, the others were approved

**Minute 5. Committee Goal setting:**

- **Goal #1:** Increase meeting attendance: Sarah mentioned that she is working on a project with Adam MacDonald to create an information piece about Safe Bars and other pertinent information. They will be provided to new liquor license holders by Jessica Hanscombe & staff. They will also be available upon request by existing license holders. Additionally, Adam will be updating the information card that details the mission of NLOC and meeting times. Sarah encouraged those present to distribute the cards to anyone they know opening a new bar or restaurant, or anyone who is currently operating a licensed establishment in downtown.
- **Goal #2:** Offer a server training class or other educational opportunities/speakers. Sarah commented on Safe Bars and 21 Reasons – Safe Bars is server education on how to spot and protect customers from predators and 21 Reasons is about laws and safety. A volunteer would have to be found to teach a class.
  - Tony said the State still offers classes. We could also try liquor distributors.
  - Frank Lyons used to instruct security staff
  - The beginning of May is a good time to have a class, prior to the season
- Sarah encouraged those present to think about additional goals

**Minute 6. Other business:**

- What is the status of the TIP credit return at the State Level? Casey reached out to Greg Dugal at the Maine Restaurant Association for the status of the TIP credit. Greg supplied the following information:

“The statute will not be up until November 1 when it officially goes into effect. But at the State level, the tip credit is reinstated so instead of increasing by a dollar per year until it is phased out it will remain at 50% of the prevailing minimum wage so at \$10 on 1/1/18 it will be \$5 and on 1/1/19 at \$11 it will be \$5.50. Of course the city of Portland minimum wage ordinance refers to the tip credit language at the State level so Portland would be currently at \$5.34. Portland minimum wage will be adjusted by CPI beginning next year so it will be 50% of that number and the same will be true of the State wage (CPI adjustment) beginning on 1/1/21”.

- Casey spoke about the availability of professional development money for speakers. Meetings could be held here or at the Custom House for a larger crowd. The committee should decide what sort of guest speaker they would like.
- Bob suggested having the Portland Police Department involved. There have been some incidents of legitimate ID's being used by another person. Kevin commented that it's a touchy issue and causes backlash to PPD officers.
- The North Point sidewalk meeting: Casey Gilbert, Amy Geren, Chris Branch and Marc Spiller (Public Works) met with Dan to measure the sidewalk and look over the situation. The main goal is to make the sidewalk ADA compliant. The added benefit of an ADA compliant sidewalk, which would increase the width of the sidewalk, would be that North Point could have outdoor dining that would be compliant with the local ordinance. Ideally, the new sidewalk would maintain a 4' clearance in addition to the outside dining area, and the roadway would remain open to two-way traffic. It is possible that the four parking spaces on the west side of the street may have to be eliminated. Dan is hopeful that the project will move forward successfully.
  - Next steps:
    - A budget is needed - Dan has agreed to be a financial partner with the City
    - Sidewalk design will be worked on
    - Public Works has the work potentially scheduled for Fall 2018
    - Casey will come back to the committee as the project progresses to keep everyone updated
- Wharf Street: Sarah commented that there are 2 major issues -
  - Drainage – Marc Spiller lowered the problem drain but it will need further work
  - Vehicle traffic and parking - Casey said that Wednesday's monthly meeting with Chris Branch, the Public Works director, will include discussion of the Capital Improvement Projects for FY19, of which Wharf Street could be one.
  - If Wharf Street is approved for a CIP project allocation in FY19, then there will be a whole planning and design process involved. At that point, the City would solicit public input on the design.
  - Tommy Higgins has been instructed to clean up the cigarette butts from the cobblestones on Wharf Street
- There was mention of the barricades and seating at The North Point being beyond Dan's property. Dan was not aware of the issue.
- Jessica Hanscombe mentioned that the Public Works department places the pin and Business Licensing does the spray painting for outdoor dining areas. The pin and paint indicate the boundaries for outside dining on the public right-of-way.
- Bob Waitkevitch was approached by another bar owner about the sound monitor in front of his business. Bob was not aware of the installation. Casey relayed that Andy Downs is the point of contact for the project, but a press release was sent out and Portland Press Herald also covered the project in a recent article.
- The sound monitor near Amigo's is on the ground and damaged. Casey and Amy Geren reported it through See Click Fix.
- Kevin informed the group that the City is trying to collect a year's worth of readings. They got a late start due to equipment issues. Once the data is recorded, the Health & Human Services Committee, which is chaired by Councilor Ray and Councilor Batson, will revisit the 92-decibel vs ambient sound issue, as well as the sound ordinance city-wide. Sound monitors have been placed throughout the City. For more information, see the attached press release and Portland Press Herald article.

Sarah adjourned the meeting at 4:20pm

**Next meeting: October 17<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Taffy Eaton, Recorder