Queen Anne’s County Liquor Board
Minutes of Meeting

March 5, 2019

9:00 a.m.

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County met on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. at 110 Vincit St., Centreville, MD. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John T. McQueeney. Those present were: John T. McQueeney, Chairman; Gene M. Ransom, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Maurice D. Dashiell; Joyce E. Jones, Esq.; and Thomas E. Beery, Members; Jeffrey Thompson, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board; William J. Council, Liquor Inspector; and Vivian Swinson, Zoning Administrator.

The Minutes from the February 5, 2019 Liquor Board meeting were approved as written.

The following Special/Temporary licenses were reviewed and approved:

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center – Date of event – March 15
Get Pumped for Pets – Date of event – March 31
Kent Island Vol. Fire Dept. – Date of event – April 6
Chesterwye Center – Date of event – April 26
Crushin’ Orange For ILS – Date of event – May 4
Charm City Run Events and Shore Rivers – Date of event – May 5
Shore Rivers – Date of event – September 15

Mr. Tracy Schulz appeared before the Board concerning the liquor license for Fisherman’s Inn. Mr. Thompson said technically the license expired on the death of Tracy’s father, Oscar (Sonny) Schulz, the license holder. It then has to be held by the personal representatives of the estate for a period no longer than 18 months from the date of death which was 11/19/18. Mr. Thompson said the Board could consider new legislation whereby when people are inheriting something, that they shouldn’t be disinherited because of the fact that they have a financial interest in another liquor license. When the 2019 renewal license is issued, it will be initially in the name of the three personal representatives.

Mr. Rohry Flood from Cult Classic Brewing appeared before the Board to discuss possible expansion of premises to the side parking lot to extend the drinking area. He highlighted in yellow on a drawing the proposed expansion. Mr. Thompson said the parking lot supports parking for the entire shopping center. Mr. Flood said he has discussed this with the landlord of the shopping center. Mr. Thompson said he should also consult the Planning & Zoning Dept. about parking requirements for the center. Mr. Flood said they would probably do special events from time to time, possibly once a month, or hold an outdoor event during spring, summer and fall. Currently the parking lot he is contemplating is used for staff parking but not
used by his staff yet. Mr. McQueeneey said he would not have a problem with a special event coming in to use the space for a weekend but he does not see how people could be controlled from walking around drinking outside if they expanded the premises. Mr. Flood said they have a concept for a fence over six feet tall that would also have flower pots on both sides, that would run across the front and the sides. In addition they would like to develop the outdoor area with gaming and paint a movie screen on the side of the building for outdoor movies. Mr. Thompson said when they enclose that area, it's probably going to increase the number of parking spaces required for the center. And then the Sanitary Dist. is going to get involved for sewer allocation for the seating. This could become very expensive. Mr. McQueeneey said they may be much better off to apply for temporary approval for an event. Ms. Vivian Swinson said there could also be fire code issues.

Mr. Robert Gordon appeared before the Board to discuss a St. Patrick’s Day event at Pour House Pub on March 15, 16 & 17. It will be held in a tent at the same location as the previously approved Santa Con event. Mr. Council said at the Santa Con event, there was nothing controlling people from taking alcohol off the premises until he arrived and then a rope was put up. Mr. Gordon will make sure it is controlled at this event. Ms. Maxwell will write a letter for Mr. Gordon authorizing this event. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve the 3-day event for Pour House Pub. All members voted in favor.

The Board continued a hearing for a new Class “B” beer license for Roger J. L’Heureux, for the benefit of SRR Holdings, LLC, trading as Smoke, Rattle and Roll, located at 422 Pennsylvania Ave., Centreville, MD 21617. Mr. L’Heureux appeared before the Board. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. Mr. L’Heureux said last month there was a paperwork issue which has been resolved. And about his financial interest in another business that holds a liquor license in the County. He said he is not a member of the partnership that owns Smoke, Rattle & Roll in Stevensville, it is owned by JPG Foods which he has no financial interest. So this enables him to apply for the new location in Centreville. Mr. Ransom reviewed the standards of §4-210 of the Alcohol Code. Mr. L’Heureux said the Town Council of Centreville said the Town wants more restaurant options. There are other restaurants in the vicinity but none of them sell BBQ. Regarding parking, he sat down with the Town Council and additional parking was earmarked for his business. Mr. Thompson said the Lease needs to be amended to be in the name of SRR Holdings, LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve the license, conditioned upon a revised lease being received by the Board’s Clerk. All members voted in favor. The license cost will be half price from date of issuance until the 2019 renewal date of May 1st.

The Board reviewed an application for advertising the transfer of a Class “D” beer, wine & liquor license from Robert Wilson to Robert W. Gordon, for the benefit of Dock Bar, LLC, trading as Red Eyes Dock Bar 2.0, located at 428 Kent Narrows Way North, Grasonville, MD 21638. Mr. Joey McQueeneey, Esq. and Mr. Robert Gordon appeared before the Board. Chairman John McQueeneey recused himself as he is the father of Joey McQueeneey. This application was before the Board in February for a transfer and the issue was that the applicant at that time had interest in multiple licenses. Mr. McQueeneey said Mr. Gordon has no interest in any other
licenses in Queen Anne’s Co. so he is qualified to hold this license being reviewed today. Mr. Gordon has a Class “B” alcohol license in Talbot Co. but Mr. Thompson said that does not affect this application. A motion was made by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Beery, to approve this application for advertising. A public hearing will be heard on this application on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Mr. Warren Wright, Drug Free Coalition, appeared before the Board. He is revising the attachment that is included with the temporary licenses and will supply copies when completed. They are again doing QA Goes Purple this year which will highlight the Middle School. He is finished with the alcohol logic model, they are doing one for opioids also. This year the Drug Free Coalition is doing alcohol, nicotine, marijuana and opioids. He requested money for saturation patrols to be done by the Sheriff’s Dept. The last time they caught more people with marijuana than alcohol. He requested $6,000, down from $12,000, because last year they didn’t use all the money. Mr. Beery said a 2017 survey of grades 6-12, 64% of respondents said they got alcohol at a party. 51.8% said they got it from someone over 21. 23% said they got it at home without their parents’ permission. Mr. Wright said in 2018 the following states said “no” to medical marijuana and “no” to legalization. New Jersey, N. Dakota, Illinois, Vermont, Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts. He said Maryland may pass a measure for marijuana use as an opioid treatment, despite a clear lack of evidence supporting this. Mr. Ransom said this has not passed.

Mr. Council did 60 business checks 9 compliance checks for the month of February. No violations were found. 37 compliance checks have been done since July with one violation. Regarding one day licenses, Mr. Council said he attended an event where people were bringing alcohol in which is a violation. Mr. Council was asked why no enforcement is done when fire companies have fund raising events. He has discussed with some of the fire companies about putting signs up or having someone making sure that no one brings alcohol in. Mr. Thompson said the Board could make extra rules for one day licenses. Mr. Council said he thinks the applications should include how they plan security and how will they stop people from bringing alcohol in. Mr. Beery attended an event where people came in with bottles of liquor and put them on the table in front of them, at the same event where they were selling liquor.

Concerning pending and future legislation, Mr. Thompson said in the future the Board may want to address items like one day licenses and death of a license holder.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Maxwell, Clerk

John T. McQueeney, Chairman