



ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

ABC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2012

The scheduled meeting of the ABC Board for the City of Walker was held at the City Hall on February 14, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. Present were Chairman, Fred Raiford, Board members, William Aydell, Dewey Lofton, Eddie Melson, Myra Streeter and Bernie Torres. Absent was Board Member Ken Hano.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Raiford.

Mrs. Myra **Streeter** made a motion to approve the **minutes** from January 23, 2012, seconded by Mr. William **Aydell**.

Yeas: Aydell, Lofton, Melson, Streeter, Torres
Nays: None
Absent: Hano

Approval of Class B Beer and Class R license for Lafleur's, Jr. Restaurant.

Tiffany Verberne appeared on behalf of Lafleur's, Jr. Restaurant. No one on behalf of Lafleur's, Jr. appeared at the last scheduled meeting on January 23, 2012 when license renewals were originally discussed and as a result, a Cease and Desist Order was served upon them on January 23, 2012. Walker ABC Secretary, Lisa Frey confirmed that Lafleur's, Jr.'s application was complete and all fees paid.

Mr. **Aydell** made a motion to approve the renewal of a beer license for **Lafleur's Jr. Restaurant**, seconded by Mr. **Melson**.

Yeas: Aydell, Lofton, Melson, Streeter
Nays: Torres
Absent: Hano

Rule to Show Cause Hearing for Best Stop #6

Sukbinder Singh appeared representing Best Stop #6. Best Stop #6 was issued a Citation by the Louisiana State Alcohol Board for two counts of selling alcohol to minors for incidents that occurred on October 1 and October 7, 2011.

Best Stop #6 pled guilty to the charges and paid a fine to the State ATC. Manager Gurminpreet Singh pled guilty to one count of selling to a minor and paid a fine. Best Stop #6 nor Manager, Gurminpreet Singh disclosed these citations on their renewal application nor did Best Stop or Manager, Gurmanpreet Singh disclose it to the board at the meeting on January 23, 2012. The State ATC reported the Citations to Chairman, Fred Raiford on January 24, 2012. Chairman, Fred Raiford issued a Cease and Desist Order to Best Stop #6 on January 25, 2012. Best Stop #6 requested a Rule to Show Cause Hearing on January 26, 2012.

Mr. Sukbinder Singh admitted that his store was cited and pled guilty to the charges by state ATC. Mr. Sukbinder Singh admitted that manager, Gurmanpreet Singh failed to disclose the charges on Best Stop #6 application. Mr. Sukbinder Singh reported that Gurmanpreet Singh was no longer employed. Mr. Sukbinder Singh admitted that the employee should have checked the ID of anyone over 30.

Mr. Lofton stated that he (Mr. Sukbinder Singh) as the business owner is responsible even though the employee lied on the application. Mr. Lofton stated that he has heard the store is known in the community by teenagers that they can purchase alcohol at this store and believes that this has happened on several occasions.

City Attorney, Robert Graves mentioned that the report for selling alcohol to minors from State ATC, stated two separate occasions and with two different employees selling alcohol to minors from Best Stop #6. Mr. Graves stated that it is disturbing the State ATC report noted that the citation by State ATC stated that this is a known place that young people can go to buy alcohol and it is so close to Walker High School.

Mr. Raiford expressed that even though the employees violated the law, the business is responsible as well and there is a lot of misleading information about this issue which is a serious problem that took place and disturbing that the license was renewed in January to Best Stop and the ABC board was not made aware of these violations. Mr. Raiford is concerned about the way this business is operating and that it is known students under age can go there to buy alcohol and tobacco.

Mrs. Streeter asks what steps have been put into place to prevent employees from selling to minors again. She stresses how important it is to obey the alcohol laws and doesn't want this to happen again. Mr. Sukbinder Singh stated that there are two employees able to sell alcohol at the store at this time.

Mr. Sukbinder Singh confirmed that Best Stop #6 signed forms stating that they have read the alcohol ordinance and are aware they selling to minors are not permitted. Mr. Graves noted that Mr. Sukbinder Singh stated that in the responsible vendor classes employees are taught to check IDs if someone appears to be under 30 and it appears they were aware of that by a statement he made but they still failed to follow proper procedures/laws.

Ms. Torres expresses her disappointment in Best Stop's actions and stresses the importance of following the laws. Mr. Raiford suggests a 6 month suspension of alcohol licenses and \$1,000.00 fine. Mr. Sukbinder Singh says that this will shut his business down. Mr.

Lofton points out that the Ordinance requires a mandatory suspension of license under these circumstances and feels the suspension along with fine would be appropriate.

Mrs. Streeter made a motion to suspend **Best Stop No. 6's** alcohol/beer license for six (6) months and assess a fine of \$1,000.00, seconded by Mr. **Aydell**. All alcohol must be removed from the premises.

Yeas: Aydell, Lofton, Melson, Streeter, Torres
Nays: None
Absent: Hano

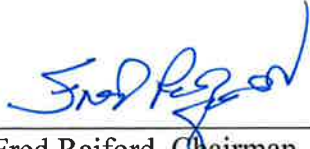
Mr. Raiford calls upon Chief Hunter Grimes or Laura Jenkins to give reason why the board members were not notified by the police department of the underage sales by Best Stop. Chief Grimes states that it was an oversight on their part; he assumed that once ATC was notified they would notify the City of Walker ABC Board after their investigation. From this point forward Chief Grimes agrees to change this and address these situations and perhaps have their own investigative part.

Ms. Torres brings up the issue that the ordinance states that the Walker Police Department needs to notify the board and the Mayor of any such incidences involving underage alcohol sales. Mr. Raiford stresses that the Police Department needs to communicate with the Walker ABC Board of any issues like this and that it is not necessary for the Walker Police Department to do their own investigations. Mrs. Streeter gives Chief Grimes a copy of the Alcohol Ordinance.

There being no further discussions or questions, Mrs. **Streeter** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lofton.

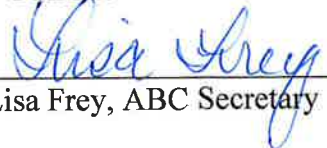
Yeas: Aydell, Lofton, Melson, Streeter, Torres
Nays: None
Absent: Hano

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Fred Raiford, Chairman, ABC Board

ATTEST:



Lisa Frey, ABC Secretary