



Alcohol Review Board Minutes  
Thursday March 16, 2017

Present: Chair – John Lazenby  
Members at Large – Demetrius Galfas, Margot Ashley  
Records – Kaleigh Frederick  
Legal Representation – Angela Couch

Guest: Molly Frasier, GUIDE

Mr. Lazenby called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and declared a quorum present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Meeting minutes from January 19, 2016 were unanimously approved as written: motion was made by Mr. Galfas and seconded by Ms. Ashley.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Review new alcohol application for Don Jose Mexican Restaurant at 4030 Lawrenceville Highway Suite 6. The owner, Carlos Arellano, background check has come back clear. The application must also be heard before the City Council in April, for final approval.

Julian Fernandez (agent), Carlos Arellano (owner) and Anastasio Abila (manager) appeared to represent Don Jose Mexican Restaurant. Mr. Arellano reported that he owns another restaurant on Hwy 29 in unincorporated Lawrenceville at Oakland Road, as well as a bar in Harrison. Both restaurants have the same menu. He has been managing his father-in-law's six restaurants for 10-15 years. Mr. Arellano bought the Oakland Road restaurant from his father-in-law and is now opening this restaurant. He and Mr. Abila will share the management responsibilities of both stores along with their spouses (who are sisters). The restaurant will have two to three employees, all of whom have received TIPS training and have worked previously at the Oakland Road restaurant. The business will have two cash registers, set up with the "Square System" to track inventory. In a restaurant in Dawsonville where Mr. Arellano managed, a three-beer limit was the policy. There will be a similar policy in this establishment. The men were not aware of a need for security, but noted that the shopping center has a security patrol; they will coordinate their efforts with this patrol. Mr. Lazenby emphasized that this Board takes violations seriously, with zero tolerance for infractions. He also informed the three men that there will be both city and state inspections/compliance checks. He stated that the City and the Board want this business to succeed without issues. Ms. Frederick informed the three men that she will provide a copy of the alcohol ordinance when she issues the license, and Ms. Couch encouraged them to read it carefully. Because Mr. Arellano owns two stores, he will need to hold two alcohol licenses, one from Lilburn and one from Gwinnett County with only the Lilburn license displayed in the store under review. Mr. Galfas made a motion that the Board recommend to the City Council that this application should be approved at their next meeting. Ms. Ashley seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

The City Clerk has provided a description of the roles of the Alcohol Review Board for the appointees to the board. Mr. Lazenby led a discussion, expressing appreciation for the detail and clarification provided by the description.



Small town. Big difference.

[2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph] *The board is responsible to advise the Mayor and Council, City Manager and Downtown Development Authority:* Because Ms. Taylor is a member of both boards, she serves as the communication link with the DDA. Norman Nash and Doug Stacks are the chair and City liaison, respectively, for this committee.

*Hear appeals concerning the denial, suspension, or revocation of licenses, permits and occupation tax certificates granted to pawnbrokers, precious metal dealers, massage parlors and commercial soft tissue or manipulation establishments and agents:* There has not been a need for this role because local businesses adhere closely to the responsibilities that are clearly set out in the ordinance.

Attendance section should be revised to reflect the ordinance change allowing the Mayor to appointment a replacement member in certain circumstances.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Lazenby called for public comment. There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Galfas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ashley, to adjourn at 7:00 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Lazenby, Chair Alcohol Review Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margot Ashley