

**Citizens Committee to Review Alcoholic Beverage Laws (CCRABL)
Meeting Minutes**

**Truxtun Recreation Center
Meeting Room 3
March 23, 2010
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

Committee Members:

Whitney Chellis, Chair	Joe Lyon	Vince Quinlan
Brian Cahalan	Valerie Miller	Gilbert Renaut
John Giannetti	Sean O'Neil	Denise Worthen
Jerry Hardesty	Vic Pascoe	

Committee Resource Members:

Charles Grayston, Vice Chair
Lt. Mark Seidel (APD)
Cpl. Pete Medley (APD)

City Staff:

Sally Nash
Jacqui Rouse

Parties of Interest:

3 members of the public

General Notes:

The **Chair** opened the meeting at 6:05 pm. The meeting's purpose was to discuss staffing and enforcement procedures of the Annapolis Police Department

Agenda Item II: Discussion of APD Enforcement

Lt. Mark Seidel of the APD began the discussion by providing documentation on crime rates and the distribution of crimes in the city. He explained that in 2009 the crime rate was very low, and that crime rates cycle up and down over the course of several years. He showed a map of liquor law violations city-wide. The majority of these violations were open container violations. Driving under the Influence (DUI) is not a liquor law violation; rather, a traffic violation.

Cpl. Medley then discussed sting operations. There are two types of sting operations. The first kind is usually carried out in the early evening. An underage cadet goes into an establishment that sells alcohol and attempts to purchase an alcoholic beverage. If the cadet is served, the establishment and the server are issued citations.

The other type of sting operation is a new kind of operation that the APD has recently implemented. In these stings, which typically take place later in the evening, undercover officers who are part of the Flex team go into a bar and look for potential underage drinkers. They ask

for IDs and if there is a false ID, an arrest is made. If a complaint comes to the APD regarding a specific establishment, additional stings can be set up, and often are after one complaint is received. Two Flex team stings have taken place as of March 23, 2010 and 69 IDs were checked, but there were no underage offenders.

The ABCB and City Clerk office are notified the next day when an establishment fails a sting. **Lt. Seidel** explained that bar owners can call the police if they suspect an underage drinker is at their establishment, however, they cannot hold the suspect and it is unusual for the police to be able to arrive in time to make an arrest. This would not typically be an operational priority.

There was a discussion regarding when minors need to leave establishments that serve alcohol. In Annapolis there is no set time at which minors will need to leave a restaurant, even if they are no longer serving food. However, many of the 2:00 a.m.-license holders have an informal system for having minors leave their establishment at a certain time.

The **Chair** posed a question regarding whether it would help the police officers on duty if there were a regular alcohol compliance inspector on the streets. This person would not necessarily be a police officer, but would address the non-criminal alcoholic beverage license violations that would not be operational priorities for the police department. **Lt. Seidel** stated that the costs and benefits of such a position would have to be carefully evaluated.

The idea that the city host a TIPS Alcohol Compliance session for all alcoholic beverage establishment employees was proposed by committee member **Brian Cahalan**. If the city hosted a free training session, it would be much easier for establishment owners to have a higher percentage of their staff with the TIPS certification. A recommendation could be that all servers and bartenders are required to have TIPS training.

The committee then discussed a report prepared by Annapolis resident **Joe Budge**. The report, titled "Bar Crimes in Annapolis," had been presented to the City Council the previous night. It uses arrest numbers from the APD website. **Lt. Seidel** indicated that the report was accurate, with one clarification. He explained that all arrests must be assigned an address. However, that does not necessarily mean that the arrest happened at that particular establishment or had anything to do with that establishment. It is possible the incident (which could be a fight, a robbery, or any crime) happened in front of an establishment, for example.

The police do not conduct stings based on any regular schedule—it depends on officer availability. The problem of underage drinking is a very complex one, **Lt. Seidel** explained, with many different factors.

Cpl. Medley discussed how APD tries to coordinate with the ABCB. The police can issue citation, but it is the ABCB that fines establishments and can suspend licenses. Off-duty police officers are not permitted by law to serve as security at alcoholic beverage establishments. This is a matter of liability.

Lt. Seidel then discussed the staffing that is provided to downtown. There are different patrol sectors in the city, and there are also city-wide cars that are directed to where they are needed at any particular time. The Flex team (8 officers in one team) generally has two officers available city-wide for crime suppression. They are usually assigned to downtown on weekend nights. There are two foot-patrol officers also typically assigned to downtown and one patrol officer. Therefore, there is generally a range of between 5 to 12 officers who would be downtown on Friday and Saturday nights, although this varies depending on the operational priorities city-wide at the time.

Closing:

The **Chair** went over the upcoming meeting schedule and discussed the interim report that is due on April 1, 2010. The Chair read the “Chairman’s Comments” section of the report to the committee, and several suggestions were made that will be included or changed in the report.

The committee’s public hearing will be held on April 29, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. The next meeting of the committee will be March 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the same room. The committee will discuss zoning and will hear from Planning and Zoning Director Jon Arason.

The **Committee** requested more information on the following items:

A summary of how APD staffing generally works on Friday and Saturday nights (**APD**)

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:50

Action Items:

Look up the timeline for the new fee schedule that will go into effect in July (**P&Z**)

Pursue an audit of personnel costs associated with alcoholic beverage licensing fees (**Finance**)

Make Ward One Sector Study available digitally (**P&Z**)

Information on zoning regulations in Wards 2-8 (**P&Z**)

Draft interim Report **DUE APRIL 1** (All)- More details regarding the interim report and what will be required are forthcoming from the City Clerk's office (**P&Z**).

Next Meeting:

The next meeting for the committee will be held on **March 30, 2010 at 6:00pm** at the Truxtun Park Recreation Center, Meeting Room 3.

Future Draft Agenda(s):

March 30: Informational Zoning Overview with Jon Arason Planning Director

April 6: Formulating Recommendation: FEES-Committee Discussion

April 13: Formulating Recommendation: Licensing/ABCB-Committee Discussion

April 20: Formulating Recommendation: Enforcement-Committee Discussion

April 27: No committee meeting

Schedule of Public Hearings:

April 12 7:30 PM City Council- **Interim Report**

April 29 7:00 PM- **CCRABL PUBLIC HEARING** City Council Chambers (R-73-09)

July 26 7:30 PM-CCRABL City Council –**Final Report**

END