

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

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

Committee Members:

Whitney Chellis, Chair	Ted Levitt	Gilbert Renaut
Brian Cahalan	Valerie Miller	Chuck Weikel
Chris Fox	Sean O’Neill	Denise Worthen
John Giannetti	Vic Pascoe	
Jerry Hardesty	Vince Quinlan	

Committee Resource Members:

Charles Grayston, Vice Chair

City Staff:

Sally Nash

Parties of Interest:

Alderman Kirby
12 members of the public
1 reporter from *The Capital*

General Notes:

The **Chair** opened the meeting at 6:08 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to begin to formulate recommendations regarding fees for alcoholic beverage licenses. She also mentioned a meeting that the Mayor, the police department and the ABCB had had in the previous week regarding the idea of a full-time liquor inspector.

Agenda Item II: Formulating Recommendation: FEES-Committee Discussion

The **Chair** began by discussing how she had gone back through meeting agendas to determine what we knew and didn’t know about fees. She had calculated the amount of fees two different package goods stores of different sizes had paid per square footage. The committee discussed the pros and cons of calculating the license fees based on the square footage of the establishment. Fees could also be based on other factors, such as the number of seats or sales.

The manner in which the City’s Finance Director determines the license fees was then discussed. Many committee members expressed concern that without more data from this department, it would be very difficult to proceed with recommendations. There was then a discussion of what “fee for service” means exactly and when this applies as a formula for calculating City fees.

Some committee members stressed the importance of looking to other jurisdictions to see how they calculated fees.

The **Chair** discussed the idea that there could be a base fee charged to all establishments, and then additional fees depending on the type of business. For example, an establishment owner could pay an additional amount if there was going to be dancing or live entertainment. She also proposed an idea where the current fees would be repealed until the increase can be justified and explained by the Finance Department.

The committee then discussed how important it would be for the ABCB to hold a public hearing and notify license holders before a fee increase (or other major change) went into effect. The ABCB would need to receive advance notice of the fee increases from City Council and the Finance Department.

The audience was then invited to comment. One member wanted to know more about “service” and what exactly that meant for him as a business owner. Another audience member stated that there should be a “clear and public definition” of what service is.

Each brainstorming session will generate a list of draft recommendation which will be given to the committee members.

Closing:

The **Chair** went over the upcoming meeting schedule. 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 April 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the same room. The committee will begin formulating recommendations on the ABCB and licensing.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:32

Action Items:

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

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

Generate draft fee recommendation list from brainstorming session (WSC)

Next Meeting:

The next meeting for the committee will be held on **April 13, 2010 at 6:00pm** at the Truxtun Park Recreation Center, Meeting Room 3.

Future Draft Agenda(s):

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