

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

**Truxtun Recreation Center
Meeting Room 3
June 1, 2010
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

Committee Members:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Whitney Chellis, Chair | Lynne Jones | Vince Quinlan |
| Brian Cahalan | Joe Lyon | Gilbert Renaut |
| Chris Fox | Valerie Miller | Denise Worthen |
| John Giannetti | Sean O'Neill | |
| Jerry Hardesty | Vic Pascoe | |

Committee Resource Members:

Charles Grayston, Vice Chair

City Staff:

Sally Nash

Parties of Interest:

3 members of the public

General Notes:

The **Chair** opened the meeting at 6:08 pm. The agenda for the meeting was to discuss how the Committee could differently define the categories known as “Restaurant” and “Tavern.” The agenda also included a discussion of fees and methodology for determining fees.

Also check the FY info... I think the new increases are for FY11 and last years fees were FY10. I could be wrong..

John Giannetti presented some ideas that he, **Brian Cahalan**, **Jerry Hardesty**, and **Joe Lyon** had formulated during the week. They had discussed the concept that every establishment begins as a “restaurant,” as they are currently designated. The basic restaurant alcohol license would allow the establishment to serve alcohol until 12:00 am and be subject to the 50/50 food/alcohol ratio requirement. If the establishment owner wanted to go to the next level, there would be a higher fee for additional “endorsements” or “stamps,” meaning additions, or amendments, to the current license. The restaurant could apply for a “2:00 am endorsement,” which would allow them to stay open until 2:00 am, but still be subject to the 50/50 ratio. Or, for a higher fee, they could apply for a “Tavern Endorsement.” This would allow them to not be subject to the 50/50 rule.

There could also be endorsements for amplified entertainment and off-premises sales—an “Entertainment Endorsement” and an “Off-Premises Sales Endorsement.” Each endorsement

series would have specific standards that would apply and the step-up to the next level would require Planning and Zoning approval and ABCB approval.

John Giannetti additionally proposed the idea, which he said he believed had committee consensus, of recommending that the City go back to the fee level of Fiscal Year 2009 Fees until the City can adequately explain the 54% increase that happened in the 2010 fiscal year. The proposal outlined above, with the endorsements, would be revenue-neutral—it would bring the same amount of money into the City as the FY2009 fees.

The Committee then discussed these proposed ideas and, generally, how best to define the category of “restaurant.” The 50/50 Rule could apply, or restaurants could be limited by hours of operation.

The Committee also discussed whether the “Endorsement System” could work for a transitional period and/or a new permanent system. Possible ideas for how existing establishments could transition to the “Endorsement System” or to a different type of system were also discussed.

Lynne Jones summarized the Committee’s areas of agreement:

1. That there should be better, more practical categories for different types of establishments, and
2. The fees should be based on the category.

The Committee agreed that at the next meeting, everyone would vote on two sets of items. The first set includes the recommendations that previously had not received a majority vote in favor of or against. There are 10 of this type of recommendation. The second set of items includes the following two questions:

1. Should the category known as “Restaurants” be defined by hours of operation OR by the 50/50 Food/Alcohol Ratio?
2. Should there be a cap (limit) on the number of alcoholic beverage licenses that the City of Annapolis can issue?

Committee members who are unable to attend the next meeting could vote on these 12 items via email. Otherwise, the Committee will take a vote at the meeting on June 8, 2010.

The public was then invited to speak. One member of the public voiced concern that the retail market as a group did not have a strong presence on the Committee. He reminded the Committee of the importance of considering this point-of-view.

Another member of the public suggested that the Committee look carefully at how a transition to a new licensing system might work.

Closing:

The next meeting of the Committee will be June 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in **Meeting Room 3**. The Committee will vote and discuss the 12 items mentioned above.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting for the Committee will be held on **June 8, 2010 at 6:00pm** at the Truxtun Park Recreation Center, Meeting Room 3.

Future Draft Agenda(s):

June 15 Continuation of discussion on “endorsements,” categories of licenses, and transition for existing establishments

June 22 Discussion of the report drafting process

Public Hearing:

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

END