

MEETING OF THE CANNABIS COMMISSION

1947 Center Street
Basement, Multipurpose Room

Thursday, January 10, 2019
2:00 PM

APPROVED ACTION MINUTES

I. Call to Order – 2:10 pm

A. Roll Call and Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Commissioners present: Jones, Cooper, Rice, Cable, Brewster, Pappas (arrived at 2:12 pm)

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Secretary Elizabeth Greene, Mark Sproat and Natalie Koski-Karell.

Ex Parte Communications: None.

B. Changes to Order of Agenda

None.

Public Comment: None.

II. Approval of November 8, 2018 Minutes

The Commission voted to approve the November 8, 2018 minutes 6-0-0-0 (Ayes: Jones, Rice, Brewster, Cooper, Cable, Pappas. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.)

IV. Planning Staff Report

Commissioner Carlisle was terminated due to unexcused absences. There are 6 Commissioners and 3 vacancies, so the quota for today's meeting is 4. Persons interested in applying for a position on the Commission should fill out an application with the City Clerk. Staff mentioned the late items and reviewed upcoming meetings that will have cannabis-related items.

V. Chairperson's Report:

No report.

VI. Subcommittee Report

No subcommittee meeting was held.

VII. Discussion and Action Items

A. Presentation by Civic Arts Commission Chair.

Dr. Kim Anno spoke on behalf of the Civic Arts Commission (CAC). The CAC wants

to be part of a coalition to advocate for cannabis regulations which allow cannabis businesses in Berkeley. The CAC is concerned about potential displacement of artists by cannabis businesses, particularly in South and West Berkeley, and would like to see some of the revenue stream from cannabis applied to fund arts education. She suggested establishing a subcommittee to focus on these issues.

Public Comment: None.

Discussion focused on incorporating cannabis into the existing art scene, working with WEBAIC on this issue, and whether there were any examples in Berkeley of artists being displaced by cannabis businesses.

B. Review upcoming cannabis items at Council and other commissions and vote on any commission actions in response to these items

Public Comment: None.

Motion/second to appoint Commissioner Brewster to represent the Commission at the January 29th Council meeting (Jones/Cable). The motion carried 6-0-0-0. (Ayes: Jones, Cooper, Rice, Cable, Brewster, Pappas. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.)

C. Ideas for next meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Motion/second to have the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary discuss items for the next meeting and consider the late items from Commissioner Pappas included in this packet (Jones/Brewster). The motion carried 6-0-0-0. (Ayes: Jones, Cooper, Rice, Cable, Brewster, Pappas. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.)

D. Consideration and possible recommendation to City Council of new location for cannabis Retailer (The Apothecarium) at 2312 Telegraph Avenue.

Representatives from the Apothecarium gave a presentation regarding the benefits of its business. The Commission asked questions regarding parking for the site, whether the business would sell medicinal and adult-use cannabis, the timeline for opening this location if it is approved, and why this location was selected.

Public Comment: Eighteen comments. Several comments raised concern over the concentration of cannabis Retailers on Telegraph, the impact on neighboring cannabis Retailers, potential difficulties accessing the location, UC Berkeley's concern about additional cannabis Retailers near the campus, and how other neighborhoods in Berkeley could benefit from a dispersal of these storefronts. Other comments were made in support of the Apothecarium, based on the atmosphere of their other locations, their offerings and services, and participation in cannabis research.

The Commission expressed support for a sixth dispensary in Berkeley, and discussed how this location could impact the potential of the two existing Retailers on Telegraph to succeed, the need for Retailers in other parts of Berkeley, the difficulty to find an appropriate cannabis Retail location in Berkeley, and the Council's possible preference for larger buffers around middle schools and high schools.

Motion/second to recommend approval of the location at 2312 Telegraph (Cooper/Brewster). The motion did not pass 2-2-2-0. (Ayes: Cooper, Brewster. Noes: Jones, Rice. Abstain: Cable, Pappas. Absent: None.)

Motion/second to make no recommendation to the City Council regarding the location at 2312 Telegraph (Rice/Jones). The motion carried 4-1-1-0. (Ayes: Rice, Jones, Cable, Pappas. Noes: Cooper. Abstain: Brewster. Absent: None.)

X. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

12 late items were distributed at the meeting.

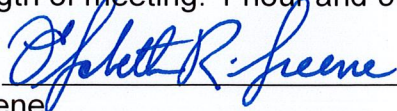
Commissioners in attendance: 6 of 6

Members of the public in attendance: Approximately 40

Public comments: 18

Length of meeting: 1 hour and 50 minutes.

APPROVED:



Elizabeth Greene

Medical Cannabis Commission Secretary