

MINUTES OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

June 21, 2023

PLACE: ABC Board Room - 1515 W 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

MEMBERS PRESENT: ALEX BLASS, CHAIRMAN; JAMIE ANDERSON; PAMELA DEPREIST; STEVEN SMITH; ANDREW BERNER (SIT-IN)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

On the 21st of June 2023, the ABC Board did convene at Little Rock for its regular monthly meeting. Chairman Blass, and Board members DePreist, Anderson, Smith, and Berner were all present.

The meeting started at 9:00 AM, with Chairman Blass calling the meeting to order.

The Board members accepted the Director's Decisions, violation resume, warning letters, and inactive status letters for the June Board. Board member Steven Smith made a motion to approve, Board member Pamala DePreist seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Next, Chairman Blass discussed setting the dates for the upcoming July Board meeting. Board members and Judy Chwalinski confirmed the dates for the July meeting:

- July 19, 2023

Next on the agenda was the approval of new permits.

- Kimball Davis, Winner's Circle Convenience Stores, 22596 Hwy 67, Malvern Retail Liquor – New: Board member Anderson made a motion to approve, Board member DePreist seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
- Katie Tatum, 270 Beer Run & Spirits, 7313 US Hwy 270, Malvern Retail Liquor – New: Concerns of traffic and security were discussed and considered. Board member DePreist

made a motion to approve, Board member Berner seconded, and the motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.

- Heidi Doran, Crossties Liquor, 2756 Pine Bluff Street, Malvern Retail Liquor – New: Concerns of proximity to a church were considered. Board Member Anderson made a motion to approve, Board member DePreist seconded, and the motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.
- Cynthia Knoerr, Twisted Spur Liquor, 187 Twisted Spur Road, Malvern Retail Liquor – New: Concerns of proximity to a church, traffic, and safety of neighbors were considered. Board member Smith made a motion to approve, Board member DePreist seconded, and the motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.
- Daniel Dinkins, Sr., Dink’s Liquor, 8600 Hwy 71 South, Grannis Retail Liquor – New: Concerns of proximity to a church were considered. Board member DePreist made a motion to approve, Board member Anderson seconded, and the motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.
- Richard Campbell, POCO’s Beer, Wine and Spirits, 900 Hwy 71 North, Mena Retail Liquor – New: Board member DePreist made a motion to approve, Board member Anderson seconded, and the motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.

Chairman Blass called the meeting to recess.

Chairman Blass then called the meeting back to order.

Next on the agenda was the final approval of new permit.


- Pamela Bowen, Blue Dane Winery, 214 Riverview Road, Morrilton Small Farm Wine – Manufacturing, Small Farm Wine – Wholesale, Retail Beer On Premises & Restaurant Wine – New; Refused April 20, 2023 Conway County Sheriff objects, Mayor of Oppelo objects, petitions bearing 49 signatures from area residents in opposition:
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich presented an evidence packet, and Chairman Blass accepted it for review by the Board members.
 - ABC Agent Kelly testified about his investigation of the referenced outlet.
 - The applicant’s attorney, Mrs. Buttler presented two evidence packets, and Chairman Blass accepted them for review by the Board members.
 - Mrs. Bowen testified.
 - Those in opposition were given the opportunity to testify.
 - Josh Young
 - Veneta Martin
 - Mr. Atkinson – presented evidence, and Chairman Blass accepted it for review by the Board members.
 - Carroll Chism, Police Chief of Oppelo, AR
 - Jeremy Kissire, Chief Deputy of Conway County, AR Sheriff’s Department
 - Those in support were given the opportunity to testify.

- Steve Bowen
- Concerns of proximity to churches and schools, traffic, safety of neighbors, and available law enforcement presence were considered.
- Board member Smith made a motion to overturn the decision to deny the permit, Chairman Blass seconded, and the motion did not pass with a 2-3 vote; The permit application was denied, and the applicant can reapply within one year.
- Board member DePreist made a motion to uphold the Director's decision, Board member Anderson seconded, and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The Board meeting was then adjourned.



Alex Blass, Chairman



Christy Bjornson, Director