



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
Regular Meeting
March 5, 2019
165 Broadway, East Somerville

Present: Douglas Kress, Director
Brian Green, MD (Chair)
Paula Machado, Board Member
Robert Ciccio, Board Member
Kathy Teixeira, Recording Secretary

Absent: None.

Staff Members in Attendance: Bonny Carroll, Tobacco Director; Ade Solarin, ISD Deputy Director

Guests: Representatives/Owners from Manosaiwa Kebab and Masala Square Restaurants and Students from Umass observing the meeting.

Meeting Called to Order: On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 5:14pm. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

Previous Minutes: On a motion made by Dr. Green, the January 17, 2019 minutes, were approved and accepted. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio. All in Favor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Tobacco Regulations: Ms. Carroll spoke briefly, on how she is educating the retailers about the change in selling tobacco products that were voted on and will become effective April 1, 2019.

Fenway Health Presentation Update: Mr. Ciccio made a motion to approve Fenway Health for the syringe exchange services programs being available in Somerville. It was seconded by Dr. Green. All in Favor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Tobacco Updates: The retailers filed a lawsuit against the Board of Health. The city's law office is responding on the boards' behalf.

Director Updates:

Recreational Marijuana Update: applications/process is open and ready for anyone who would like to open up a recreational store. A municipal review committee has been established and Doug Kress, Health & Human Services Director will be a committee member. There will be two (2) stores who will have public meetings coming up. One will be on Wednesday, March 6th located in Union Square, the meeting will be held at the Police Station at 6:30pm. Revolutionary Clinic's public hearing will be at Mt. Vernon on Wednesday, March 14th at 7pm. Mr. Kress was appointed to the CCC consumption task force.

Planning Dept. is working with the group I93 air quality study. They wanted to know if the Board of Health would be interested in regulations for new construction which would involve residential, child care, health care, or elderly that would

make it a requirement for certain types of ventilation system be installed, in addition to their regular system in order to reduce indoor air pollutants. Dr. Green mentioned that lower income people with children whom live near or close to highways would be targeted; and if developers had to add better ventilation to reduce air pollutants this would increase value of homes and eventually rents would go up as well.

Masala Square Hearing: The owners came in front of the board to reopen under their new concept called Masala Square. They were formerly the India Palace. A brief overview was presented by the owners and Mr. Solarin said their pre-operational inspection was conducted and they passed.

Dr. Green made a motion to approve the license for Masala Square located at 23 Union Square, with the owners to submit the consultant's contract and that monthly inspection reports to be submitted to ISD for the first twelve (12) months of operation to ensure compliance with all health codes. It was seconded by Ms. Machado. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Manosalwa Kebab: The owners went to ISD, the day of their hearing to pay for their license, so they did not need to show up for the hearing.

Non-payment of Licenses Updates: Ade gave a brief overview: renewals' letters will go out in April. Renewal notice reminder will go out in May. By July 15th, if not paid, will start ticketing every 2 weeks and by first week of August establishments still without a paid license, will be told they will have to go in front of the board for a hearing. One concern brought up was, if an establishment is leases their property and their landlord is not in compliance with paying their taxes, water bills, the restaurants cannot have their license issued until the landlord has rectified his finances. This is something that the restaurants have no control over. Two questions brought up during the overview was (1) how long do we want to let an establishment be operational without a license and (2) is there a need to bring them to the board of health to shut them down or can that be a standing order that if not paid by a certain date they are shut down. Ade also said establishments where landlords are not in compliance with city, they are issued a license but they cannot give them the license physically until the landlord is in compliance with the city and his finances. The violation fee for non-payment is \$100, which will be issued every 2 weeks until license is paid. Mr. Kress said he would draft a procedure with Mr. Solarin's assistance. Letters of delinquents were talked about being sent out by July 15th, and if licenses are paid, the letter will note if you already paid, please ignore this letter. Mr. Solarin will come back to a future meeting to update the board on policies, sanitary food code, trainings. Mr. Solarin will inform Mr. Kress if he will be ready with his presentation by the next meeting which will be March 21, 2019.

Next Meeting: Upcoming meetings Thursday, March 21, 2019; and Thursday, April 18, 2019 (tentative) March 21, locations to be determined

Adjournment: On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 6.17pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

List of Documents: Sign-In Sheet, Agenda, January 17, 2019 Minutes, DPH Memo (2/5/19), BOH Action Sheets (2)

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Teixeira (Recording Secretary)
March 21, 2019