



BLEECKER AREA MERCHANTS' & RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
215 Thompson Street, Box #337, New York, NY 10012

Merchant Chair
Treasurer

Sam Jacob
Russell Blount

Resident Chair
Secretary

Shelly Warwick
Mark Fiedler

Email: bamranyc@bamranyc.org
Website: <http://www.bamranyc.org>

BAMRA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Community Room, 505 LaGuardia Place – 6:30 pm

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

The minutes of the March 7, 2018 general membership meeting, which were available in hard copy, were approved by unanimous vote. Resident Chair Shelly Warwick announced that email notices of future general membership meetings will have the previous meeting's minutes as an attachment.

Treasurer Russell Blount reported that BAMRA's bank balance as of April 4, 2018, was \$35,695.20

Community Officers Officer Evrim Can, together with Neighborhood Coordination Officers Brian Garcia and Annalee Simon, gave the Sixth Precinct update. "Crime is at the lowest it's ever been," apparently thanks to the NCO program. Unattended property thefts, however, remain a problem, including a recent theft of phones from the Verizon store on Blecker Street. A suspect was apprehended in connection with a recent slashing at the CVS store on Sixth Avenue.

The police will be at BAMRA's shredding event on April 21, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in front of the Morton Williams supermarket. In addition to document shredding, the event will include registration of electronic devices, including ID registration for cell phones.

The Church of Our Lady of Pompeii will hold its Spring Festival this coming Saturday, April 7.

Le Souk will host a Member Appreciation party for BAMRA on Wednesday, April 18 from 6 pm to 9 pm, which will include a membership drive as well as free food and drink (open bar!).

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has proposed changes to its rules to eliminate the need for public comment (and bypass the community boards) for certain kinds of applications. A resolution was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried for BAMRA to send a letter to the LPC opposing the change.

GVSHIP has proposed that the block of MacDougal Street between Houston and King Streets receive an honorary co-naming as "Lucy and Lenny Cecere Way," for the late

neighborhood residents who founded the Caring Community. A resolution was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried for BAMRA to send a letter to Community Board 2 Manhattan supporting the co-naming.

BAMRA's upcoming dessert crawl on May 8 was briefly mentioned.

No objections were raised concerning any of the renewal applications to the State Liquor Authority currently before Community Board 2 Manhattan.

Next was a presentation in support of the application for a new license to sell liquor on-premise by Low Overrun LLC, d/b/a Morgenstern's Finest Ice Cream, at 490-494 LaGuardia Place, the former site of Silver Spurs. The management stated their desire to offer alcoholic drinks to adults accompanying children being served ice cream, and to offer "adult-friendly" ice cream creations incorporating alcohol. They proposed to keep the 16 tables and 32 seats of Silver Spurs' existing sidewalk café, and (initially) to close at 2 am daily rather than continue the 24/7 hours of Silver Spurs. Following discussion with members, management agreed that: a) No alcoholic drinks will be listed on their menu; b) only small amounts of alcohol will be used in their ice cream; and c) and that if they transfer the liquor license it would only be another ice cream parlor with a similar method of operation. Further, alcoholic drinks will be served only by wait staff, only when ice cream is being served. Further stipulations were agreed to:

- No illuminated signage
- Closing daily by 1 am
- No open windows after 9 pm
- No live music, no DJs; no TVs
- A limiter will be used for any background music

A resolution was proposed, seconded and passed in favor this application, subject to the stipulations stated above. The vote was: 9 in favor (3 merchants, 6 residents), 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 recusal.

A second liquor license presentation was heard, in support of the application for a new license to sell liquor on-premise by Junzi NYC LLC, d/b/a Junzi Kitchen, at 190 Sullivan Street/170 Bleecker Street. Management stated that they will operate as a restaurant serving chun bings (savory pancakes) and noodles, and they will only serve liquor on Friday and Saturday nights from 10:30 pm to 1:30 am. They agreed to the following additional stipulations:

- No illuminated signage
- Closing Sunday-Thursday by 12 am and 1:30 am Fridays and Saturdays
- No open windows after 9 pm
- No live music, no DJs
- A limiter will be used for any background music

A resolution was proposed, seconded and passed in favor this application, subject to the stipulations stated above. The vote was: 8 in favor (3 merchants, 5 residents), 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 recusal.

No one was present to speak for either of the other new liquor license applicants coming before Community Board 2 Manhattan this month. Accordingly, it was noted that it is

BAMRA's policy not to support any such application until the applicants have made a presentation to the BAMRA membership.

Under the heading of new business:

Former Resident Chair Ray Cline reported that he had spoken to the Co-op board chair of 505 LaGuardia Place, who anticipated no problem in their contributing financially to the upcoming shred event.

One resident of 177 Thompson Street had made repeated 311 complaints with regard to the after-hours noise (between 2 am and 6 am) emanating from the restaurant Carbone at 181 Thompson Street, with no results, and had been advised (or, rather, threatened) by her landlord to stop doing so. (The police invariably reported that they could not locate the source of the noise. However, the source is known: it is the process of cleaning up after hours, which Carbone outsources to a third-party company.) Resident Chair Shelly Warwick advised her to contact the 6th Precinct's Community Affairs and/or Neighborhood Coordination Officers in this regard.

James Ferrari, representing the owners of 96 West Houston Street, reported an ongoing problem with noise (chiefly bass) emanating from Madame X restaurant, citing 30 noise complaints; he has hired a lawyer to bring legal action against the restaurant. The owner of the restaurant was also present, and agreed to visit the apartments involved in the complaints at times typically associated with noise complaints.

Lois Rakoff announced two upcoming events: (1) The Spring 2018 (semi-annual) Edgar Allan Poe event on April 20, from 6 to 8 pm in the Poe Room at NYU's Furman Hall, 245 Sullivan Street, Room 216 (free; food and drink, RSVP required); and (2) a benefit for the Washington Square Music Festival Sunday, May 20, at Greenwich House Music School. A motion was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried that BAMRA send a (paying) representative to the latter event.

A corporate change in the management of the Village Lantern (i.e., the owners 80-year-old mother is retiring) was discussed, involving no change in method of operation. A resolution was proposed, seconded and passed supporting this corporate change application. The vote was: 7 in favor (3 merchants, 4 residents), 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 recusal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

To-do list:

Resolutions for liquor license applications

BAMRA letter to LPC opposing rule changes

BAMRA letter to LPC supporting co-naming of MacDougal Street