

LICENSING BOARD MEETING**-AGENDA-****Monday, March 26, 2018****Room 314 – 7:00 p.m.**

REQUIRED: Steven A. Beauregard, Chairman
 Marcelino "Sonny" G. Almeida, Commissioner
 Edmund F. Craig, Jr., Commissioner
 Atty. Kreg Espinola, Asst. City Solicitor
 Capt. Adelino Sousa, Police Department Liaison to the Lic. Bd.
 Nick Nanopoulos, Director

City Clerk

A/O 03/20/18 (Pending Storm)**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2017****MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2017****MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2018****MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018****APPROVALS RECEIVED FROM THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION:****Change of d/b/a - Trans. # 00010-GP-0778 – Plot # 947—2**

Sapatinha Café, Inc., 289 Acushnet Avenue, who is requesting the approval of a change of d/b/a from Euphoria Lounge to Smoke N Fishermen Restaurant and Bar.

Approved By ABCC – 02/27/18**1. Petition - Trans. # 00079-RS-0778 – Plot # 121 - 37A**

Johnson Golf Management, Inc. d/b/a Whaling City Golf Course, Kelly Laramée, President, who is petitioning to transfer a Common Victualler (Restaurant) All Alcoholic Beverages License to W/S Golf Management, LLC. Upon approval, Susan S. Carlson and Bruce W. Carlson will both be Co-Members, Co-Managers, and Co-Interest Holders (50 %) in the LLC. Susan W. Carlson is the Proposed Manager of the Liquor License. The previously approved description will remain the same as follows: The existing Golf Course Clubhouse consists of an area, approx. 5,600 sq. ft., that includes a Bar and Dining Area, Pro Shop, Locker Room, Kitchen and Storage Area, which is located on the first floor of a one-story building with stock on the first floor; and there is also an enclosed outside deck, approx. 900 sq. ft. (36 X 25), that is contiguous to the bar and dining area, which is accessible directly from the course and through the clubhouse. The clubhouse has two restrooms, as well as three (3) entrances/exits and three (3) emergency exits. The premise is situated on the north side of Hathaway Road between Elmwood Drive and Shawmut Avenue, and is numbered 581 Hathaway Road.

Final approval will require a 'Change of Tenant' from the Building Department, a new 'Food Permit' from the Health Department, and a copy of 'Proof of Liquor Liability'.

******Final approval will require City Council and Park Board approval, as well as a signed contract with the City of New Bedford, prior to submission to the ABCC for Final Approval ******

2. Petition - Trans. # 00084-RS-0778 – Plot # 46--32

Columbus Group, LLC d/b/a Columbus Restaurant, Xiaohui Yang, Manager of the LLC, who is petitioning to transfer a Common Victualler (Restaurant) All Alcoholic Beverages License to NB Hotel, LLC d/b/a New Bedford Harbor Hotel, who is also requesting the following approvals: a Change of License Type from a Restaurant license to a Hotel license, a Change of Location from 218 Union Street to 218-222 Union Street; as well as the approval of a Management Agreement with NB Hotel MT, LLC. Upon approval, Xiaohui Yang aka Shiawee Yang will be a Co-Member, Co-Manager, and Co-Interest Holder (36%) in the LLC, and New Bedford Urban Renaissance II, LP will also be a Co-Member, Co-Manager, and Co-Interest Holder (64%) in the LLC; and Dewan Kashem is the Proposed Manager of the Liquor License. Upon completion of the ongoing renovations, the proposed 'Boutique Hotel' will consist of an area approximately 5,000 sq. ft., on the first floor of a five - story building, which will include a Dining and Bar area, Kitchen area, and Hotel Lobby and Registration Desk area, and two Restrooms; there will also be an additional area approximately 2,741 sq. ft., also on the first floor of a five - story building, which is contiguous to the dining area on the east side of the first floor area and will be used as a meeting and function area, and will have a portable bar and two Restrooms. Alcohol will also be served in the sixty-eight (68) rooms located on floors 2-5; there will also be an area for the storage of alcohol in the basement.

The 'hotel' side of the licensed premises will have one (1) entrance/exit in the front of the building onto Union Street, and an emergency exit located in the rear of the building on the south side of the building, as well as two (2) entrances/exits into a common area, in which the hotel elevator is located, which will have two additional emergency exits; The function side will also have one (1) entrance/exit in the front of the building onto Union Street, and an emergency exit located in the rear of the building on the south side of the building, as well as two (2) means of egress by way of the common area and from the hotel side of the premises. The premises is situated on the south side of Union Street, on the corner of Union and Pleasant Streets, and **numbered 218-222 Union Street.**

Final approval will require a 'Certificate of Inspection' from the Building Department, a new 'Food Permit' from the Health Department, a copy of 'Proof of Liquor Liability', and , a copy of a **current 304 Certificate.**

Tabled At 11/20/17 Meeting

3. Hearing: Casa Chessa Corp. d/b/a Portobello

Ms. Xiaohui Yang, Property Owner

555 Pleasant Street

Closed 06/30/17 – Licensee Decision

Prior Renewal Hearings: (2)

Your presence is respectfully requested at a hearing to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2018. The hearing is also being held at the request of the members of this Board to discuss your plans for your liquor license for the year 2018 prior to this Board considering approval of your 2019 renewal application.

If warranted, the Board may cancel the license of any license holder who "ceases to conduct the licensed business" that is, *any license holder who closes the business or stops doing business.* Licensees should be conducting the licensed business on all days authorized by the license. Any licensee that does not comply with its obligation to conduct the licensed business and holds a so-called "pocket License" is subject to possible action by the Board.

Notice is given in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 77, which states that the licensing authorities may, after hearing or reasonable opportunity therefore, cancel any license issued under this chapter if the licensee ceases to conduct the licensed business.

You **must submit** to the Board that evening, a letter stating your intentions regarding the license that has been issued to you detailing either an opening date, plans to transfer, or change of location, as it applies to your situation.

Please Be Advised that failure to appear before this Board as requested will result in "Automatic Revocation" of your Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages License.

11/29/17 Written Decision

As a result of the open hearing held on November 20, 2017 to determine the status of the annual liquor license issued TO Casa Chessa Corp. for the year 2017, the Board voted unanimously to table the matter until this Board's February 26, 2018 meeting; the Board's decision was to give you ample time to transfer the license to an entity of your choosing.

Tabled At 11/20/17 Meeting

4. Hearing: CUVE Wine, LLC d/b/a Crush New Bedford

Mr. Kristen Vasilev, Majority Owner

801 Purchase Street

"Closed/Licensee Decision" – 09/05/17

Prior Renewal Hearings: (1)

Your presence is respectfully requested at a hearing to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2018. The hearing is also being held at the request of the members of this Board to discuss your plans for your liquor license for the year 2018 prior to this Board considering approval of your 2019 renewal application.

If warranted, the Board may cancel the license of any license holder who "ceases to conduct the licensed business" that is, *any license holder who closes the business or stops doing business.* Licensees should be conducting the licensed business on all days authorized by the license. Any licensee that does not comply with its obligation to conduct the licensed business and holds a so-called "pocket License" is subject to possible action by the Board.

Notice is given in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 77, which states that the licensing authorities may, after hearing or reasonable opportunity therefore, cancel any license issued under this chapter if the licensee ceases to conduct the licensed business.

You must submit to the Board that evening, a letter stating your intentions regarding the license that has been issued to you detailing either an opening date, plans to transfer, or change of location, as it applies to your situation.

Please Be Advised that failure to appear before this Board as requested will result in "Automatic Revocation" of your Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages License.

Rec'd 03/06/18 – A written request from the licensee that this matter be **tabled until the Board's June 25, 2018 meeting**, due to a financial delay on the part of the NBEDC; adding that renovations have begun with an anticipated opening date in late May.

5. Hearing: The White Rose, LLC d/b/a Sam's Roast Beef
Atty. Christopher R. Whittingham, Manager
37 Union Street

Re: Closed/Renovations – Approved 10/16/17

Prior Hearings: (0)

Your presence is respectfully requested at a hearing to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2018. The hearing is also being held at the request of the members of this Board to discuss your plans for your liquor license for the year 2018 prior to this Board considering approval of your 2019 renewal application.

If warranted, the Board may cancel the license of any license holder who "ceases to conduct the licensed business" that is, *any license holder who closes the business or stops doing business*. Licensees should be conducting the licensed business on all days authorized by the license. Any licensee that does not comply with its obligation to conduct the licensed business and holds a so-called "pocket License" is subject to possible action by the Board.

Notice is given in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 77, which states that the licensing authorities may, after hearing or reasonable opportunity therefore, cancel any license issued under this chapter if the licensee ceases to conduct the licensed business.

You must submit to the Board that evening, a letter stating your intentions regarding the license that has been issued to you detailing either an opening date, plans to transfer, or change of location, as it applies to your situation.

Please Be Advised that failure to appear before this Board as requested will result in "Automatic Revocation" of your Common Victualler (Restaurant) Wine & Malt Only Beverages License.

6. Hearing: The Edge Hospitality, LLC d/b/a The Edge Restaurant and Bar/& Tiki Bar
Ms. Margaret Kulpinski, Owner
1480 –S East Rodney French Boulevard

"Closed/Licensee's Decision" - 09/05/17

Prior Meetings (1)

Your presence is respectfully requested at a hearing to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2018. The hearing is also being held at the request of the members of this Board to discuss your plans for your liquor license for the year 2018 prior to this Board considering approval of your 2019 renewal application.

If warranted, the Board may cancel the license of any license holder who "ceases to conduct the licensed business" that is, *any license holder who closes the business or stops doing business*. Licensees should be conducting the licensed business on all days authorized by the license. Any licensee that does not comply with its obligation to conduct the licensed business and holds a so-called "pocket License" is subject to possible action by the Board.

Notice is given in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 77, which states that the licensing authorities may, after hearing or reasonable opportunity therefore, cancel any license issued under this chapter if the licensee ceases to conduct the licensed business.

You must submit to the Board that evening, a letter stating your intentions regarding the license that has been issued to you detailing either an opening date, plans to transfer, or change of location, as it applies to your situation.

11/30/17 Written Decision

As a result of the open hearing held on November 20, 2017 to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2017, the Board voted unanimously to table the matter until this Board's March 26, 2018 meeting. The Board also voted unanimously to renew your Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages license for 2018.

The Board's decision was based on the information that you provided to the Board on behalf of your wife, in which you stated that you had both the building and license for sale; adding, that if it was not sold by the springtime, that you planned on opening the premises as a function facility.

As you were informed at the meeting, any 'change of use' would require the Board's approval, which would require you to appear before the Board and present us with a formal plan for the Board to approve, prior to opening.

If an application for transfer is submitted by March 1, 2018, you will not be required to appear as notified.

Please Be Advised that failure to appear before this Board as requested will result in "Automatic Revocation" of your Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages License.

7. Hearing: Ramon D. Silva Enterprises, LLC d/b/a "Union City"

Mr. Ramon D. Silva, Manger/Owner

248-250 Union Street

Closed 11/16/15 – Licensee Decision

Prior Renewal Hearings: (5)

Your presence is respectfully requested at a hearing to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2018. The hearing is also being held at the request of the members of this Board to discuss your plans for your liquor license for the year 2018 prior to this Board considering approval of your 2019 renewal application.

If warranted, the Board may cancel the license of any license holder who "ceases to conduct the licensed business" that is, *any license holder who closes the business or stops doing business*. Licensees should be conducting the licensed business on all days authorized by the license. Any licensee that does not comply with its obligation to conduct the licensed business and holds a so-called "pocket License" is subject to possible action by the Board.

Notice is given in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 77, which states that the licensing authorities may, after hearing or reasonable opportunity therefore, cancel any license issued under this chapter if the licensee ceases to conduct the licensed business.

11/30/17 Written Decision

Present: Mr. Ramon D. Silva, Owner

As a result of the open hearing held on November 20, 2017 to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2017, the Board voted unanimously to table the matter until this Board's March 26, 2018 meeting. The Board also voted unanimously to renew your Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages license for 2018 with the following stipulations: To notify and put the current Licensee, who is the holder of an inactive license on notice that he has until March 1, 2018 to initiate one (1) of the following two (2) options prior to this date:

- 1.) Submit paperwork for a Change of Location and a date certain for the opening of premises;
- 2.) Submit paperwork for the Sale and Transfer of the license to a new owner.

If you fail to initiate one of the two options stated above prior to this date, you will be required to appear before this Board once again, at which time the Board may consider revoking your license for non-use.

The Board's decision was based on the information that you provided to the Board, in which you stated that you may either find a suitable location for a bar or restaurant, or sell the license outright.

If an application for either a transfer of license or a change of location is submitted by March 1, 2018, you will not be required to appear as notified.

If you fail to submit an application as requested, you will be required to appear before this Board once again, at which time the Board will consider revoking your license for non-use.

Please Be Advised that failure to appear before this Board as requested will result in the "Automatic Revocation" of your Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages License.

8. Hearing: Giraldo's Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Adriana's Mexican Restaurant

Ms. Martha E. Gonzalez, Manager

1262 Acushnet Avenue

Closed 01/01/18 - Estimated – Licensee Decision

Your presence is respectfully requested at a hearing to determine the status of your annual liquor license for the year 2018. It has come to the attention of the Board that you have closed your establishment for more than seven (7) days, which requires you to surrender your license until you either re-open or transfer your license.

If warranted, the Board may cancel the license of any license holder who "ceases to conduct the licensed business" that is, *any license holder who closes the business or stops doing business*. Licensees should be conducting the licensed business on all days authorized by the license. Any licensee that does not comply with its obligation to conduct the licensed business and holds a so-called "pocket License" is subject to possible action by the Board.

Notice is given in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 77, which states that the licensing authorities may, after hearing or reasonable opportunity therefore, cancel any license issued under this chapter if the licensee ceases to conduct the licensed business.

You **must submit** to the Board that evening, a letter stating your intentions regarding the license that has been issued to you detailing either an opening date, plans to transfer, or change of location, as it applies to your situation.

Violation: Licensing Board Regulation No.20

Any licensee intending to close his place of business for any period of time exceeding Seven (7) days must notify the Licensing Board in writing before closing and shall give reason and length of time. **On the first day of closing the licensee shall deliver his license to the Licensing Board.**

Therefore, **you are required to surrender your license to the Board that evening** until such a time you have initiated one of the following three options:

- 1.) To be open and operating at the approved location as stated on your license;
- 2.) Receive approval for a change of location and a date certain for the opening at the new location;
- 3.) Receive approval for the sale and transfer of the license to a new owner.

Please Be Advised that failure to appear before this Board as requested will result in "Automatic Revocation" of your Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages License.

9. APPLICATION, (No Representation Required)

Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., Helena DaSilva Hughes, Executive Director, who is requesting approval of an application for a Special One-Day Wine & Malt Only Beverages License for a '47th Anniversary Fundraiser' to be held at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill; and to be held on Friday, March 30, 2018, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

10. APPLICATION (No Representation Required)

Zeiterion Theatre, Inc., Justin LaCroix, Manager, who is requesting approval of an application for a Special One-Day All Alcoholic Beverages License for a "Viva Portugal Fundraiser"; to be held in the street under a tent, located at 684-686 Purchase Street; and to be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. (Last Call 9:30 p.m.) (Final approval will require Liquor Liability with the City named as additionally insured and a copy of the Police Detail Contract) ****NO CHANGES, AS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED****

11. APPLICATION, (No Representation Required)

Club SS Sacramento Scholarship Committee, Edward Camara, Jr., Representative, who is requesting approval of an application for a Special One Day Wine & Malt Only Beverages License for a 'Wine Tasting Fundraiser' to be held at the Madeira Field - Main Pavilion; and to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

****NO CHANGES, AS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED****

Rec'd 03/06/18 – A written request from the licensee to table tonight's hearing until the Board's next meeting on April 23, 2018; the request was made due to the licensee being in Florida on a previously planned family vacation.

12. Hearing: Cassandra, Inc. d/b/a Redwood Saloon

Mr. Robert A. Faria, Jr., Manager
1566 Cove Road

Your presence is requested at a hearing to determine whether you have violated certain provisions of M. G. L., Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Regulations, and Licensing Board Rules and Regulations, as reported by the City of New Bedford Police Department. Based on our findings, the Licensing Board may take action to modify, suspend, revoke, or cancel your license. If warranted, a roll back of hours may also be considered.

The potential violations are as follows:

Violation: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, sections 12, 33-

In no event may sales be made between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Violation: Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Regulation 204 CMR 2.05: (2)-

States no licensee shall permit any illegality to occur on the licensed premises. The licensee is responsible, whether present or not, for ensuring that no disorder, disturbance, or illegality takes place in or on a licensed premises.

Violation: Licensing Board Regulation No. 19-

Within 15 minutes after closing, all glasses, bottles or containers used for drinking purposes shall be cleaned of the tables & bar, no alcoholic beverages shall be consumed at the expiration of 15 minutes after closing (2:15 a.m.). All Customers must leave the premises no later than 30 minutes after closing (2:30 a.m.).

Summary of Incident Report #1

Police Department Incident Report states that an Officer while on routine patrol observed a number of parked motor vehicles in the lot on which the business sits, well after the closing time stipulated by the Licensing Authority. Upon exiting his cruiser and walking a distance of approximately 20 or so feet, the Officer immediately noted loud music emanating from the interior of the business.

When the officer attempted to enter the establishment, he found the door to be locked.

The Officer then returned to his cruiser to file a report with regard to the activity he observed. A few moments later he observed a male exit the establishment who was known to him from prior dealings; when asked by the Officer if he was an employee of the establishment, the male stated that he was not; and the Officer noted the odor of alcoholic beverage upon the male's breath but he couldn't put a time of his last drink.

The Officer once again attempted to gain access to the establishment through the door the male had just exited but once again he found it to be locked. The Officer then returned to his cruiser and ran the plates that were still in the parking lot, which included that of Robert Faria of Fairhaven, who he believed to be the manager of the establishment.

After speaking to one other male who exited the establishment who stated that he was there to help his friend who owned the business, the Officer made no further attempt to enter the establishment and could not say whether any other infractions existed with regard to this incident. The Officer cleared the scene at 3:27 a.m. at which time there were still patrons within the establishment.

Date and time of alleged violations: Sunday, February 4, 2018 @ approximately 3:27 a.m.

Police Report # 18-1451-OF

Summary of Incident Report #2

Police Department Incident Report states that Officers while on routine patrol observed 4 motor vehicles parked in the parking lot of the Redwood Saloon. And as he pulled up into the parking lot and exited his vehicle, he could hear that the Jukebox was still on.

As one of the Officers tried to raise the individuals in the bar by banging on the window, the Officer informed the other Officer that he could hear glass bottles and glasses being moved inside the bar.

Upon banging on the front door, the Officers were let in by the bartender and observed approximately 7 people standing around the bar but there was no liquor at the bar at the time they entered.

The Reporting Officer noted in his report that a few weeks prior the bar had been written up for the same situation by a different Officer.

Date and time of alleged violations: Friday, February 16, 2018 @ approximately 2:33 a.m.

Police Report #s 18-1953 - OF

Please be advised, failure to appear at this meeting will result in immediate suspension of your liquor license until this matter is resolved.

13. Hearing: Cassandra, Inc. d/b/a Redwood Saloon

Mr. Robert A. Faria, Jr., Manager

1566 Cove Road

Your presence is requested at a 'Public Hearing' to determine whether a roll back (decrease) of hours is warranted as a result of violations of certain provisions of M.G.L., ABCC Regulations, and Licensing Board Rules and Regulations, as a result of incidents reported by the New Bedford Police Department. This roll back (decrease) of hours could affect the hours in which you will be allowed to be open.

The local licensing authority, may after proper notice, hold a hearing to determine whether a roll back of hours is warranted, on the basis of frequency of arrests, disturbances, and incidents requiring police involvement inside or outside the licensed premises; this decision is one that is not appealable to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission or to the superior court. (As noted in Chapter 138, sec. 12 -)

• **CORRESPONDENCE**

From: Janel M. Cosgrove, Tax Examiner

Dated -002/09/18 Received -02/09/18

Re: Route Six Properties, Inc. d/b/a Club Déjà vu

281 Appleton Street.

Notice of Seizure: Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 62C, section 56 of the M.G.L. and by virtue of a levy placed in my hands for execution of the Commissioner of Revenue, I have seized the above described property for non-payment of delinquent Massachusetts taxes, in the amount of \$75,648.66.

Served By Kristin Davies

CERTIFICATE OF RE-APPOINTMENT

City Clerk's Office, February 23, 2018

This is to certify that in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the charter and ordinances of the City of New Bedford that *Marcelino "Sonny: G. Almeida, 79 Hunter Street, New Bedford, MA 02740*, was reappointed by the Mayor as a member of the *Licensing Board* for a term to expire **JUNE 2022**, and was confirmed by the City Council at a meeting held on **February 23, 2018**.

Attest: Dennis Farias, City Clerk, March 6, 2018

• **COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:**

---NONE---

• **REVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORTS/ COMPLAINTS**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POLICE REPORT#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>VIOLATION</u>
1. Jalice Café	#18 – 678 – AR	03/11/18	Disturbance/Owner Assaulted/Patron Stabbed During Altercation (Approximate Time of Violation 9:20 p.m.)

• **Upcoming Summer Events & Festivals (For Review Only)**

- 12th Annual Cinco De Mayo Celebration – May 5th
- Viva Portugal – May 5th ~~License Applied For – "No Changes"~~
- 12th Annual Taste of the Southcoast – May 20th
- Irmandade Do Divino Espirito Santo Do Pico – June 22nd, 23rd, & 24th
- Day of Portugal – June 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th
(April Meeting?)
- 24th Annual United Way Clambake – June 8th
- New Bedford Jazz Fest – June 9th
(April Meeting?)
- Cape Verdean Day Parade – July 7th
(May Meeting?)
- New Bedford Folk Festival – July 7th & 8th
(March Meeting)
- New Bedford Food Truck Festival – July 21st
(May Meeting?)
- Summer Concert Series – July thru Aug.
(May Meeting?)
- Feast of the Blessed Sacrament (Madeira Feast) – Aug. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th
(June Meeting?)

- 13th Annual N. B. Seaport Chowder Festival – Sept. 24th

- **NEXT TWO MEETING DATES:** April 23rd & May 21st both on Mondays, in Room 314
- **MEETING ADJOURNED:**

"In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any accommodations are needed, please contact the Office of the Licensing Board at **508-979-1457**. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least **48 hours** prior to the scheduled meeting."

The matters listed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may, in fact, be discussed. Other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 30A, Section 20(f) requires any person making a video or audio recording of the meeting to notify the Chair at the start of the meeting.