

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

53 South La Grange Road
First Floor Conference Room
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, October 27, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston.

Present and constituting a quorum were Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston, Commissioner Mark Langan and Commissioner Mark Kuchler

Absent: None

Also present: Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin and Jane Michaels, Doings Newspaper

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Langan to approve the minutes of June 23, 2014, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request – Raheel & Reyna Corp. d/b/a 7-Eleven.

Commissioner Livingston introduced the applicants and Commission members. Individuals representing the applicants included Mr. Marcello Reyes, 7-11 Field Consultant; Ambalal Patel and Vishnu Patel, Store Managers; and Sue Swanson, licensing consultant. Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson introduced the application from 7-Eleven and noted that although 7-11 has held a liquor license for many years, Raheel & Reyna Corp. is a new franchisee.

Commissioner Langan noted the central location of the 7-11 store and its popularity in the community.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired about Mr. Ambalal Patel's previous experience and the amount of time he plans to spend at the La Grange store. Mr. Patel indicated he has been a 7-11 franchisee owner for ten years in Chicago and Northbrook. He stated that he strictly follows the 7-11 fundamentals for customer care and takes the sales of liquor rules and regulations very seriously. He expects to spend the majority of his time at the La Grange store.

Commissioner Kuchler asked Mr. Patel why he chose La Grange to expand his franchises. Mr. Patel noted that he had looked at several opportunities but chose the La Grange location because of the community's reputation; high traffic levels and his interest in increasing sales.

Commissioner Livingston expressed his appreciation of 7-Eleven's continued investment in the Village.

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Langan that the Liquor Commission recommend (a) that the Village Board of Trustees create one new Class B Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to the new franchise owner of 7-Eleven at 6 East 47th Street.

Commissioner Livingston stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on November 10, 2014. Ms. Swanson noted that the corporate ownership is looking to turn the store over to the new franchise owner on November 18.

4. Liquor License Request – Run Around Sue, Inc. d/b/a Adele's Front Room

Commissioner Livingston introduced those present and asked Assistant Village Manager Peterson to summarize the application. Applicants present include Brian Carroll, President; Anna Parker, Store Manager; and Edward Hrebic, Financial Advisor.

Commissioner Livingston noted his appreciation to Mr. Carroll for investing in La Grange.

Commissioner Langan inquired why Mr. Carroll chose La Grange and asked for more information regarding his restaurant concept. Mr. Carroll indicated that he is familiar with La Grange and felt it was a good fit to open a new restaurant. He is a local resident and has a business in a local community. The business concept is a tribute to his grandmother who played the piano at family gatherings in an atmosphere which included food and camaraderie.

Commissioner Kuchler asked the applicant how the proposed "speakeasy" concept will be different from his existing location. Mr. Carroll noted that his current location is an Irish pub theme serving traditional pub food. Adele's menu will be eclectic with a focus on small plates.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired how the 60% food sales requirement would be met, particularly because there are no immediate plans to offer lunch. Mr. Carroll indicated that his initial goal is to "do it right" focusing on providing well prepared food. The plan is to eventually open for lunch.

Commissioner Livingston inquired about an opening date. Mr. Carroll is hoping to open as soon as possible. He has a pending application before the DRC for façade work. He indicated that he feels strongly that he wants to get the aesthetics right, but food quality must be the priority. He still has the build-out of the space to complete, which will be family friendly.

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommend (a) that the Village Board of Trustees create one new Class A-2 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue the license to Adele's Front Room at 13 S. La Grange Road.

5. Other Business

Discussion ensued regarding a request from Trader Joe's to amend the code to allow for the sale of spirits as well as a proposed new brewery classification. As the current liquor code does not address these types of liquor licenses, Ms. Peterson noted amendment to the liquor code would be required. Commissioners provided direction to staff to perform research on both matters. Due to time constraints it was determined to continue discussion on these and other proposed liquor code amendments to November 10, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.

6. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the meeting of the Liquor Commission be adjourned. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by:
Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager

Date Approved: November 10, 2014