

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, July 13, 2015 – 6:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was called to order at 6:46 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: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn, Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, and Village Attorney Mark Burkland

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler to approve the minutes of March 9, 2015, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request – Steak & Vine, LLC.

Commissioner Livingston asked Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the application for Steak and Vine including business owner Mr. Nick Gangas, Managing Partner and his father Mr. George Gangas.

Commissioner Livingston asked the applicant to provide information regarding his background. Nick Gangas noted that he grew up in the restaurant business and his family once owned two former restaurants in La Grange. Mr. Gangas has worked in several restaurants throughout his career. His partner, Michael Wilson, went to school to become a chef and has worked at several prestigious restaurants and currently owns a restaurant in Key West. As a result of their experience, they are interested in opening an accessible and casual steak house with high quality, creative entrees.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired about hours of operation. Mr. Gangas responded that Steak and Vine would open at 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Kuchler inquired about serving lunch and Mr. Gangas responded that he does not intend to open for lunch. Commissioner Kuchler noted the

license requires food sales to be at least sixty percent. Mr. Gangas said the requirement will not be a concern as he is opening a restaurant and expects customers will be enjoying alcohol as a compliment to food. They will not be selling certain liquors nor will they have shot glasses.

Commissioner Livingston inquired as to the expected opening date. Mr. Gangas noted that building plans are being submitted this week and his hope is to open in late fall or the first of the year.

Commissioner Kuchler asked about outdoor seating and Mr. Gangas responded that he may have a few tables but the space does not provide for larger outdoor seating.

Mr. George Gangas asked whether or not there are regulations for smoking outdoors. Attorney Burkland noted that the Village code does regulate smoking at outdoor cafes and that outdoor cafes require a permit.

Commissioner Langan asked about involvement in the community. As a La Grange resident, Mr. Gangas noted his plan to work with the La Grange Business Association and local charities.

Commissioner Kuchler asked whether or not other communities were considered for the restaurant and competition from other restaurants. Mr. Gangas responded that he has an emotional connection to La Grange and believes La Grange supports restaurants like no other community does. He also indicated that Steak and Vine will be a different atmosphere and have a different menu than other steakhouses in the area.

Commissioner Kuchler asked Mr. Gangas to comment on downtown parking. Mr. Gangas responded that he is aware that the Village is considering a valet parking service and he would fully support this type of parking for his patrons, and possibly even cost sharing with businesses. Commissioner Livingston noted that the Village plans to provide free valet during the summer as an interim measure and will be evaluating the program through workshops later this year.

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 that license to Steak and Vine, LLC as the owner of Steak and Vine at 37 S. La Grange Road. Motion carried.

Commissioner Livingston expressed his appreciation of Steak and Vine's investment in the Village. Attorney Burkland stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on August 24, 2015.

4. 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 7:16 p.m.

Submitted by:
Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager

Date Approved: September 28, 2015