LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, September 28, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Thomas Livingston.

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

Absent: None

Also present: Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, and Village Attorney Mark Burkland

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Langan to approve the minutes of July 13, 2015, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request Class H / The Dinner Club, LLC.

Commissioner Livingston asked Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the applicants, and to provide an overview of the liquor license application. The applicants have provided the Village with information required for liquor licensing consideration.

The Dinner Club has operated at their current location for ten years. Joyce and Fred Clarkson, two of The Dinner Club business owners, are applying for a Class H Liquor License to allow customers to bring in beer and wine while preparing meals. The Dinner Club will be relocating by February, 2016 to an out-of-town location as Anderson Book Store will be expanding their operations.

Commissioners complimented The Dinner Club on their unique and successful business model, and expressed regret that they will be relocating.

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 H Liquor

License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to The Dinner Club, LLC as the owner of The Dinner Club at 26 S. La Grange Road. Motion carried.

4. Liquor License Request Class F-2 / La Grange Art League

Commissioner Livingston asked Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the applicant, and to provide an overview of the liquor license application. The applicant has provided the Village with information required for liquor licensing consideration.

The La Grange Art League has operated at their current location since 1984. Karen Magin, Chairman of the Corporate Directors of the La Grange Art League, explained that their not-for-profit volunteer organization hosts approximately six bring-your-own beer and wine events per year for special events or art openings. While the La Grange Art League has applied for and received the Class E single event liquor license in the past, that license is restricted to four events per year.

Commissioner Langan inquired how alcohol is typically served. Ms. Magin responded that at their artist receptions, anniversary party and holiday show, light refreshments which may include punch, beer or wine are made available to guests. Alcohol is provided by a server and is not self-serve.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired about the membership. Ms. Magin responded they have over 200 members and five employees that operate the gallery. Art classes are also provided as well as scholarships.

Commissioner Livingston noted his appreciation for all they do for the community.

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 F-2 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to the La Grange Art League at 122 Calendar Avenue. Motion carried.

5. Liquor License Request Class A-1 / Sushi Ukai, Inc. d/b/a Sushi House

Commissioner Livingston asked Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the applicant, and to provide an overview of the liquor license application. The applicant has provided the Village with information required for liquor licensing consideration

The Sushi House has operated in the Village since 2002 and Sushi Ukai, Inc. d/b/a Sushi House plans to acquire the business from the current owner. Sushi Ukai, Inc. President Hong Wu Dong attended the meeting with the assistance of an interpreter.

Commissioner Langan confirmed that Hong Wu Dong, the President of Sushi Ukai, Inc., is currently the Manager of Sushi House and handles the day-to-day operations.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired asked about the number of Sushi House locations in the area. The interpreter responded that there were six.

Commissioner Kuchler asked about Hong Wu Dong's investment in La Grange. The interpreter responded that Hong Wu Dong likes La Grange as it reminds him of his hometown – small, peaceful and with kind people.

Commissioner Langan reiterated that no one under 21 years of age can be served alcohol, which was communicated to the applicant by the interpreter.

Village Attorney Burkland asked the interpreter to ask Hong Wu Dong if he had anything additional that he would like to present to the Commission.

Hearing none, Commissioner Livingston thanked the applicant for his investment in La Grange.

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-1 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to Sushi Ukai, Inc. as the new owner of Sushi House at 120 B West Calendar Avenue. Motion carried.

Commissioner Livingston stated that the recommendation for approval for all applicants would be made to the Village Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on October 12, 2015.

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 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by:
Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager

Date Approved: October 12, 2015