

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, November 8, 2010 – 6:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was convened at 6:47 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Elizabeth Asperger. Present and constituting a quorum were:

Present: Liquor Commissioner Elizabeth Asperger, Commissioner Mark Kuchler and Commissioner Mark Langan

Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson  
Village Attorney Mark Burkland

2. Approval of the Minutes from the Liquor Commission meeting on October 11, 2010.

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler to approve the minutes of October 11, 2010, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request / Liquor License Applicant

Knead Marketplace, Inc. d/b/a Back Alley Burger

Commissioner Asperger indicated that Chris Spagnola and Mary Libsch, owners of Knead Marketplace, Inc., are adding Kevin Allodi as Vice President and changing the restaurant concept and name to Back Alley Burger. They currently hold a Class H “Bring Your Own” Liquor License for their location at 13 South La Grange Road but are reapplying under their new corporate structure and name.

Commissioner Kuchler asked the applicants to describe the new restaurant concept. Chris Spagnola discussed the menu change which will include burgers, hot dogs, hand cut fries and malts. The interior of the space will be remodeled to accommodate additional seating, and will have a casual, family atmosphere. As a result, it was noted that a full liquor license was not necessary.

Mr. Spagnola indicated that if the license is approved, Back Alley Burger intends to open at the beginning of December.

Commissioner Asperger noted that liquor control is taken very seriously and the sale of liquor in La Grange is a privilege.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommend: (a) that the Village Board of Trustees create a new Class H Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to Back Alley Burger located at 13 South La Grange Road.

Commissioner Asperger stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting on November 22, 2010.

#### Bin 19 LLC

Commissioner Asperger indicated that Cherise and James Miller, owners of a new business to be located at 19 S. La Grange Road, are applying for a Class C-2 Wine Boutique Liquor License. The Class C-2 license authorizes a wine boutique to sell wine and beer in its original packaging for consumption off the licensed premises. This license also allows the holder to sell and serve wine by the glass for consumption within the licensed premises, and to offer customers the limited tastings of bottled wines and beers subject to certain conditions as provided in the liquor code.

Commissioner Asperger asked the applicants to describe their business concept. Cherise Miller explained that they plan to sell wines from around the world, with a focus on smaller wineries. Tastings would be offered as would instructional seminars to educate consumers on wines. Microbrews would also be offered for sale in traditional packaging (“kegs” will not be sold) and will likely vary in type depending on the season. Bread, cheese and other related accouterments will also be sold to compliment wine both individually and as a part of gift baskets.

Commissioner Langan inquired how tastings would be controlled. Cherise responded that there would not be a charge for tastings but they would maintain a wristband system to control the amount of liquor consumed within the limits of the ordinance. As the number of customers drinking an alcoholic beverage on the licensed premises may not exceed 16 chairs, the log will be used to manage customer’s consumption.

Commissioner Kucher asked about the methodology used to select La Grange as the location to open their new business. Cherise and James reside in the area and believe there is a demand for a retail store that focuses on fine wines in La Grange. Also noted was that La Grange is a well-known community with positive name recognition and the specific business location near the train station was desirable.

Commissioner Langan asked about how the applicant's experience in the retail side of wine sales will translate to wine education / tastings. Cherise Miller indicated that they plan to supplement their knowledge by asking wine distributors to assist to hosting tasting events, in order to give customers the opportunity to ask questions directly.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired about the consumption of microbrews on the premises and Attorney Burkland noted that beer is not authorized for sale by the glass under the license, only limited tastings as provided for in the ordinance.

Commissioner Langan noted that this would be the first license issued under the new C-2 classification. Commissioner Asperger added that liquor control is taken very seriously and the sale of liquor in La Grange is a privilege. There is no prescribed number of available liquor licenses but rather licenses are considered on an individual basis. Commissioner Asperger reminded the applicants that La Grange is a family-friendly community and that the Commission strives to recommend liquor license applications that compliment this attribute.

After much discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommend: (a) that the Village Board of Trustees create a new Class C-2 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to Bin 19 LLC located at 19 South La Grange Road.

Commissioner Asperger stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting on November 22, 2010.

4. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

5. 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 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Andrianna Peterson  
Assistant Village Manager

Date Approved:01/25/11