

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, October 21, 2013 – 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: Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston and Commissioner Mark Kuchler

Absent: Commissioner Mark Langan

Also present: Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Livingston to approve the minutes of August 26, 2013, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request – Zin Man LLC d/b/a Vino e Birra

Commissioner Livingston welcomed applicants John and Maria Hutzler and asked them to explain their proposed business concept. Mr. Hutzler stated that they plan to build on the existing wine boutique business known as Vino e Birra at 18 W. Burlington Avenue. Wine has been Mr. Hutzler's hobby for 30 years and he believes that the current business has strong growth potential.

Commissioner Kuchler asked the applicants to explain how the sales of wine by the glass fit into their proposed business model, reminding the applicants that the license only allows for a retail establishment and not a wine bar. Mr. Hutzler explained that they expect to sell very little wine by the glass and only as allowed by the Village's liquor regulations. They do not intend to operate a wine bar. They will allow tastings as allowed by Village regulations only to allow customers to taste wines at different prices. Sales of wine by the glass will be targeted toward groups of two or more customers, to reduce waste.

Commissioner Kuchler asked why the applicants chose La Grange for their business. Mr. Hutzler stated that they were interested in the business originally because it was available at an attractive

price. They researched the community and think it to be an ideal location for a wine retail business given its demographics and small number of wine retailers. Mr. Hutzler noted that because his store is small, he will be able to taste everything in the store and provide customized recommendations regarding the wines and wine pairings.

Commissioner Kuchler asked about hours of operation. Mr. Hutzler indicated that they plan to keep the existing hours of about 42 hours a week. Mr. and Mrs. Hutzler will operate the business as a team.

Commissioner Kuchler noted that previous owners of the business have had challenges. He stated that the Village wants the business to be successful but that it must comply with the Village's liquor regulations. Mr. Hutzler stated that this small wine shop can be successful without increasing sales of wine by the glass when the focus is on personalized customer education. This is the approach he will take different from the previous owners.

Mr. Hutzler stated that if his application is approved, then they expect a smooth transition of ownership soon after receiving their State license.

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Livingston that the Liquor Commission recommend (a) that the Village Board of Trustees create one new Class C-2 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to the new owners of Vino e Birra at 18 West Burlington Avenue.

Commissioner Livingston stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on October 28, 2013.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Livingston 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: April 14, 2014