

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, June 23, 2014 – 6:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston.

Present and constituting a quorum: Liquor Commissioner Tom 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 Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler to approve the minutes of April 14, 2014, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request – Rosemary Basil II, LLC d/b/a LaBuona Vita

Commissioner Livingston introduced those present and asked Assistant Village Manager Peterson to summarize the application. Applicants present include James Barron, President, Terry Rempert, Secretary and Robert Schneider, bartender.

Commissioner Kuchler asked the applicants about their experience and involvement in the restaurant business. Mr. Rempert responded that he has previous experience in the industry and that they have been looking for an established and successful restaurant to purchase.

Commissioner Kuchler asked if there were any physical changes planned for the restaurant. Mr. Rempert noted that the interior layout would remain the same however aesthetic upgrades such as painting and decorating are planned. Commissioner Kuchler inquired whether or not the menu would change. Mr. Rempert responded that most items will be the same initially with a few changes and specials. Additions will include lighter lunch offerings and a bar menu.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired about the transition. Mr. Rempert explained that Mr. Marconi will be retiring and the restaurant would be closed for a short time in the beginning of July in order to complete the decorating.

Commissioner Kuchler asked if any other communities were considered when looking for a restaurant to purchase. Mr. Rempert responded that they did look in Oswego and Chicago but ultimately determined that La Grange had the right mix of restaurants and popularity.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired if parking and/or the recently adopted food and beverage tax were of a concern. Mr. Rempert stated that they have been observing parking trends and he does not believe that either matter will deter customers. Commissioner Kuchler referenced the possibility of valet parking and Mr. Rempert was in favor of the concept especially on weekends.

Commissioner Livingston noted his appreciation for the investment in La Grange and the Village's interest in open communication and strong relationships with local businesses.

Mr. Rempert advised the Commission that although he recognizes that the next Village Board Meeting is on July 14; their scheduled opening is July 9. Mr. Rempert asked it was possible to receive a provisional license. Attorney Burkland indicated that while some provisional licenses had been granted on rare occasions, the circumstances of those requests were different. Commissioner Livingston advised that staff and legal would review the request should timing become an issue. Mr. Rempert was asked to continue to communicate with the Village as their preferred opening date gets closer.

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 one G-1 General Caterer License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue the licenses to LaBuona Vita at 15 Calendar Avenue.

4. Other Business

Discussion ensued regarding a request from Trader Joe's to sell spirits (hard liquor) at their La Grange location. As the current liquor code does not address this type of liquor license, Ms. Peterson noted that a new license classification, or amendment to an existing license would be required. After thoughtful discussion, Commissioners directed staff to evaluate a range of options and present them to the Commission at a future date for their consideration.

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 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by:
Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager

Date Approved: October 27, 2014