

LA GRANGE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, November 12, 2018 – 6:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Control Commission was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston.

Present and constituting a quorum were Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston, Commissioner Michael Kotynek and Commissioner Mark Kuchler.

Absent: None

Also present: Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Police Chief Kurt Bluder and Village Attorney Mark Burkland.

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Amendment to Chapter 111 Section 111.15 (H) of the La Grange Liquor Code to add an additional authorized establishment and corresponding conditions – Waterlemon.

Liquor Commissioner Livingston welcomed owners Nina and Paul Makovski and expressed appreciation for their investment in the community.

Paul Makovski is a Member and Manager and has 50% ownership. Nina Makovski is a Member and Manager and has 50% ownership.

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the request to amend the liquor code. Ms. Peterson stated that the Village has received a request from Waterlemon to amend the Liquor Code to add an additional authorized establishment and corresponding conditions to the Class H BYO Licenses. The proposed change would create a new authorized establishment known as a “Children’s Indoor Recreation Facility”, or similar designation and allow for Bring-Your-Own beer and wine to be consumed within the licensed premise only on Saturdays and Sundays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; during Private Events only when the children’s play area and eating are rented and under adult supervision; when an adult

owner or representative of the business 21 years old or older and trained in alcohol awareness is present; within the eating area of the business and not in the play area or retail area; and during the time when the retail portion of the business is open to the public. It will also authorize a Children's Indoor Recreation Facility to serve beer and wine under the same terms as provided in Subsection 111. 15(E).

Petitioners Paul and Nina Makovski stated that their business model is an indoor children's play place with a retail component and small café. While they are confident that their business model would succeed without a liquor license, they believe that the BYO option would be beneficial. They plan to allow rentals in blocks of two hours only.

Commissioner Kotynek asked if there would be any additional fees associated when issuing the license. Ms. Makovski responded that there would be no additional fees assessed for BYO, however they plan to include a BYO option with some party packages. It was confirmed, however that no compensation would be derived or assumed by including the beer and wine BYO option.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired as to the size of the play area. Ms. Makovski responded that the play area is 800 square feet and explained that it is meant to be for children ages 0-5. There will be a separate section for "crawlers", and include a small playhouse, kitchen, trains and campfire area. The goal is to make it feel like they have brought the outdoors inside. As there is currently nothing like this model in Chicago, they anticipate filling a gap in the market.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired as to the revenue breakdown between the retail and play space. Mr. Makovski responded that there is a projected 50/50 split between the retail and rental components of the business.

Commissioners Kuchler and Kotynek stated that while they love the unique concept of combining a boutique retail space with a play area, adding the BYO component does cause some concern, due to the child focused business model.

Ms. Makovski responded that in most cases parents will consume responsibly and added that they limited the rental hours to avoid encouraging over consumption. To take further mitigating steps, they will ensure that employees present during parties, are 21 years old and trained in alcohol awareness.

Trustee Kotynek inquired as to how the various aspects of Waterlemon tied into their insurance. Mr. Makovski responded that they have had conversations with their insurance company regarding the alcohol and play area. They have a responsibility to train employees to manage alcohol consumption by stopping open containers from leaving as well as recognizing if someone is coming in already under the influence. Ms. Makovski added that as this is a large investment, they are focused on not doing anything to jeopardize operations and will ensure that there is always a minimum of two 21 and older staff people present.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek to recommend that Section 111.15 (H) of the Liquor Code be amended to add an additional authorized establishment and corresponding conditions. At the Commission's request, staff and the Village Attorney will review the amendments carefully and may make other recommendations. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request Class H / Liquor License Applicant Waterlemon Kids LLC d/b/a Waterlemon 25 S. La Grange Road

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the application. Ms. Peterson stated that the Village has received an application for a Class H liquor license from Waterlemon Kids LLC d/b/a Waterlemon located at 25 S. La Grange Road. There currently is not a class H license authorizing BYO for this type of business, however the applicants are requesting an amendment to the liquor code, as previously discussed.

Liquor Commissioner Livingston inquired as to the projected opening date for the store. Mr. Makovski responded that they will be open on December 1 for the Holiday Walk, but will not be operating in a full capacity until the second week of December.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Kotynek and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommend: (a) that the La Grange Liquor Code be amended as recommended (b) that the Village Board of Trustees create one new Class H Liquor License, and (c) that the Liquor Commissioner issues that license to Waterlemon Kids LLC d/b/a Waterlemon at 25 S. La Grange Road with additional conditions. The conditions are as follows (1) the applicant must come before the Liquor Commission again in one year prior to April 2020 to review the status of the license. Motion carried.

4. Other Business

Manager Peterson provided an update on other activity concerning Village businesses.

5. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Kotynek 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 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Andrianna Peterson
Village Manager

Date Approved: