

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, April 23, 2018 – 6:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

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

Absent: None.

Also present: Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Community Development Director Charity Jones, Police Chief Kurt Bluder, Village Attorney Mark Burkland and Executive Assistant Maureen Rush.

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kotynek and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler to approve the minutes of October 9, 2017, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Hearing – Cheesie’s La Grange LLC d/b/a Cheesie’s

On October 30, 2017, the Village Board approved the creation of an additional Class A-2 liquor license for Cheesie’s La Grange, LLC at 46 S. La Grange Road, subject to certain conditions. Among these conditions, the license holder must reapply for a new license each year including, at the Village’s discretion, a hearing and new background checks on each owner and manager. Cheesie’s liquor license expires on April 30, 2018 and the owner, Michael Siambanes, has requested that the license be re-issued effective May 1, 2018.

Liquor Commissioner Livingston expressed appreciation to Cheesie’s for their investment in La Grange and asked owner Mike Siambanes to report on the status of their business. Mr. Siambanes reported that business was good and that he was looking forward to a busy summer. He stated that their busiest times are between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. and then 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Liquor sales are primarily conducted on weekends starting at about 7:30 p.m.

Police Chief Bluder reported that Cheesie's has only been selling alcohol for about four months but during that time no violations have been reported. Background checks are in the process of being finalized.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek to reissue a liquor license to Cheesies effective May 1, 2018 contingent on successful completion of the background check process and with the continuation of the conditions in the current rider for at least one additional year. Motion carried.

4. Liquor License Request Class A-2 / La Grange Nueva Era, Inc. d/b/a Altiro

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Village Manager Peterson to provide an overview of the liquor license application.

The Village has received an application for a Class A-2 liquor license for La Grange Nueva Era, Inc. d/b/a Altiro at 1 S. La Grange Road. Rahul Bhatia is the President and sole owner. Kerry Ozima will be the liquor manager and will be training Connor Joshua Allen to transition into the role of liquor manager.

There are four other Altiro locations in Geneva, Roscoe Village, West Chicago and Oak Park. The La Grange restaurant would be similar to Oak Park which opened in September, 2017. The menu consists of latin fusion (Mexican, Spanish and South American) dishes complimented by specialty cocktails featuring fresh fruit. Altiro seeks to open their La Grange location at the end of May or beginning of June, 2018.

Commissioner Kuchler asked why they chose La Grange for their next restaurant. Mr. Bhatia replied that they were attracted to La Grange because of the family-oriented atmosphere, strong foot traffic and positive vibe. He stated that the La Grange location is similar to Oak Park in that it is in an active downtown environment.

Commissioner Kotynek asked about their restaurant's alcohol to food ratio and if they have had liquor violations in any of their other restaurants. Mr. Bhatia replied that it is 70/30 or 80/20 depending on the location and that they have not had any violations. The bar area planned for the La Grange location is very small with only six seats. They understand and have no concerns with meeting the 70/30 requirement for the A-2 liquor license.

Commissioner Kuchler asked whether they are planning outdoor seating. Mr. Bhatia replied that they will be offering outdoor seating.

Commissioner Kotynek asked about the hours of operation. Mr. Bhatia stated that they are still evaluating hours and will make sure that their hours match the liquor licensing requirements and their state license. Generally they plan to cater to families open Monday to Thursday until 9 or 10 p.m. and then on Friday and Saturday until 10 or 11 p.m.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek that the Liquor Commission recommends: (a) that the Village Board of Trustees creates one new Class A-2 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issues that license to La Grange Nueva Era, Inc. d/b/a Altrio at 1 S. La Grange Road. Motion carried.

President Livingston thanked the applicants for their investment and stated that the recommendation for approval would be made to the Village Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on May 14, 2018.

5. Other Business

None.

6. 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 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Andrianna Peterson  
Village Manager

Date Approved: