

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

53 South La Grange Road  
Lower Level Conference Room  
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, August 8, 2011 – 6:35 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was convened at 6:37 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  
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin  
Village Attorney Mark Burkland

2. Approval of the Minutes from the Liquor Commission meeting on January 25, 2011.

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler to approve the minutes of January 25, 2011, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request / Liquor License Applicant

Vino E Birra, Inc.

Commissioner Asperger indicated that Rami (Ron) Khalaf, Secretary of Vino e Birra, Inc. is applying for a Class C-2 Wine Boutique license for a proposed location at 18 W. Burlington Avenue. Commissioner Asperger stated that liquor control is taken very seriously and it is a privilege to sell or serve liquor in the Village. Adding that there is no set number of liquor licenses but rather that licenses are considered on an individual basis, Commissioner Asperger explained that the Village is a family oriented community and random compliance checks are conducted to maintain responsible sales and service of liquor.

Commissioner Langan asked the applicant why he decided to locate in La Grange. Mr. Khalaf indicated he is familiar with La Grange and has a liquor store business in Glenwood which he will be relocating to a smaller location in Homewood. Mr. Khalaf stated that the

business he plans to open in La Grange will be very different from his existing location. He plans to concentrate on the sale of specialty or “craft” beers and wines and custom gift baskets at the new proposed location in La Grange. No hard liquor, mixers or related items (such as bags of ice) will be sold or served. Mr. Khalaf noted that he has an option to expand the size of the store in order to offer a variety of home brewing supplies.

Commissioner Asperger stated that the licensed premises for a Class C-2 Wine Boutique License cannot exceed 3,000 square feet and any expansion would require approval.

Commissioner Kuchler asked how the proposed business would differ from other similar stores in the area. Mr. Khalaf stated that his business will only focus on craft or microbrew beers and specialty wines. Mr. Khalaf noted that the average price for wines would be approximately \$14 and could be sold by the case. Mr. Khalaf indicated that most customers that buy craft beers buy them at room temperature, which is the case with most of the wines as well. As a result, there are no plans to include large coolers / refrigeration.

Attorney Burkland asked what items would be utilized as gift baskets. Mr. Khalaf indicated that customers may bring in items which will be assembled into gifts or they can purchase available products. Attorney Burkland asked about the types of gifts that would be potentially sold, noting that a boutique license is narrowly defined as specializing in a particular product and a substantial presence of other goods for sale at retail would likely not be comply with the license. Mr. Khalaf said that he plans to have only a very few retail items and that his focus will be on selling craft beers and wines. He described a globe that could be used as a store decoration and for sale. Attorney Burkland asked about the sale of bar signs, or posters, or similar items and Mr. Khalaf said he will not have such items for sale.

Commissioner Asperger inquired about tastings and Mr. Khalaf indicated they would be two hour tastings occurring once a week on Friday evening or Saturday afternoons and would be limited to a one and a half ounce disposal container. Mr. Khalaf was advised that code limits a wine tasting to one ounce only, and three ounces for beer. Mr. Khalaf stated that there would never be tasting of wine and beer at the same time; it would either be wine or beer but not both.

Commissioner Langan inquired about how tastings would be provided. Mr. Khalaf responded that tastings would be handled by the distributors, which hire professionals to conduct the tastings as they are very knowledgeable of the product. Mr. Khalaf also indicated that he will not be selling wine by the glass.

Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin indicated that selling home brewing supplies is an interesting segment of the market. Mr. Khalaf noted he likely cannot do everything he would like to do in the current space, and may consider expanding in the future.

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 Vino e Birra, Inc. to be located at 18 W. Burlington Avenue.

Commissioner Asperger stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2011.

4. Liquor License Request / Liquor License Applicant

Craft La Grange LLC

Commissioner Asperger indicated that Ted Maglaris, Theodore Maglaris and Demetri Kopley of Craft La Grange LLC are applying for a Class A-1 restaurant license for their new restaurant location at 88 S. La Grange Road. Commissioner Asperger noted that the applicants are also owners of Prasino which currently holds a Class A-3 restaurant license.

As John Maglaris was noted in the application as handling the daily operations, Commissioner Langan inquired about his alcohol awareness training. Ted Maglaris responded that John will not be the primary manager but all managers, servers and bartenders will be certified and appropriate documentation will be provided to the Village.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired about the planned restaurant concept and how it will differ from other current restaurants. Ted Maglaris responded that the concept for the business is a tasteful “gastro pub” which will consist of 79 seats, 12 of which will be along the bar. Mr. Maglaris noted that they have not decided whether they will be open for lunch during the week but that they plan to be open for lunch on the weekends. Craft beers and wines will be provided as a compliment to the food. Mr. Maglaris stated that in order to be successful, the food must be excellent. While families will be welcome, the environment will be more adult-oriented. The kitchen will remain open to serve food until the establishment closes each evening. No alcoholic beverages will be sold after the kitchen has closed.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired about the hours for outdoor seating. Mr. Maglaris indicated that while the establishment could stay open until 2 a.m., they do not expect the business to be open that late. He indicated that at Prasino, customers do not typically sit outdoors after 11 p.m. on nice evenings. He anticipates a similar time limitation outdoors at this location.

Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin indicated that the policy for outdoor eating café permits currently does not have an evening time restriction that is different than the hours of operation for the restaurant. An evaluation of the outdoor eating policy will be undertaken in the Community Development Department in cooperation with the Police Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommends: (a) that the Village Board of Trustees create a new Class A-1 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to Craft La Grange LLC to be located at 88 S. La Grange Road.

Commissioner Asperger stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2011.

5. Other Business
6. 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 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Andrianna Peterson  
Assistant Village Manager

Date Approved: March 12, 2012

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