



**MINUTES
LIQUOR COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023, 4:00 PM**

The Liquor Commission convened in regular session at 4:00 PM, August 8, 2023. Commissioner Meister called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Lindsey Meister	Liquor Commissioner	Present
Mboka Mwilambwe	Chair & Liquor Commissioner	Absent

Staff Advisors

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Amanda Stutsman	Deputy City Clerk	Present
Paul Williams	Asst. Police Chief	Present
George Boyle	Asst. Corp. Counsel	Present

Public Comment

No Public Comment was received.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Commissioner Meister approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4. A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the July 11, 2023, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting.

Regular Agenda

All license creations, amendments, or transfers are contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. A. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from MBD Bros, LLC, d/b/a Iron Coyote Challenge Park, located at 4113 E. Oakland Ave., Requesting Approval of a Change of Ownership for their Class EAS (Entertainment, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Meister opened the Public Hearing at 4:05 p.m.

Erin Williams, Owner of MBD Bros, LLC, after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Ms. Williams explained the nature of the change. She would remove Michael Williams from the liquor license as he was not involved in the day-to-day business. She stated there would be no other changes to operations.

Staff had no comments or concerns.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, stated that since there had been no issues with the establishment, there were no concerns from the Legal Department.

Commissioner Meister closed the Public Hearing at 4:07 p.m.

Commissioner Meister positively recommended the Item to Council.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. B. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Braize, LLC, d/b/a Empire Coffee, located at 1406 E. Empire St., Requesting Approval of a Change of Ownership and Change in DBA Name for their Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Meister opened the Public Hearing at 4:08 p.m.

Brett Matthews, Proposed Co-Owner of Braize, LLC, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Matthews and his business partner, Robert McDermott, would purchase 100% of Braize, LLC, from Brandon Leach, the current Owner, and would operate the business as a coffee shop and bakery.

Commissioner Meister clarified that it would be a coffee shop and bakery, which included the sale of alcohol. Mr. Matthews explained that Mr. Boyle shared the Liquor License Classifications definitions and believed a Class RAS best fit what they planned to do. He stated they liked the location for Video Gaming, and since Liquor Licensing was a part of that, they would provide a small amount of beer and wine with the flexibility to have liquor as an option.

Commissioner Meister asked what the hours would be, and Mr. Matthews stated he planned to be open every day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Commissioner Meister asked if the staff would be BASSET Certified. Mr. Matthews stated that the current staff was trained, and incoming staff would be trained as well.

Commissioner Meister asked if there would be live music. Mr. Matthews explained that they would have slam poetry events and similar options as opposed to actual live music.

Mr. Boyle confirmed the sale of alcohol must be less than the sale of food. Mr. Matthews stated he estimated it would be 98% food to 2% liquor. He said liquor sales were not anticipated to be significant.

Mr. Boyle asked about other businesses they own. Mr. Matthews mentioned Bar @ Pop-Up in Bloomington and Blono Pizza Co. in Normal.

Mr. Boyle stated there had been no issues with alcohol or management with the other business in Bloomington.

Paul Williams, Asst. Police Chief, asked if there would be rentals or parties in the space. Mr. Matthews answered no.

Chris McAllister, Building Official, reminded the applicant to obtain the appropriate permits from the Economic & Community Development Department for any upgrades and remodeling. Mr. Matthews stated that all permits would be applied for.

Commissioner Meister asked about the capacity of the space. Mr. Matthews stated they would start with 30 seats and utilize lounge seating, adding additional seating if necessary.

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, provided a reminder about the 50% rule for Video Gaming Terminals.

Staff had no additional comments or concerns.

Commissioner Meister closed the Public Hearing at 4:13 p.m.

Commissioner Meister positively recommended the Item to Council.

Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meister adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Commissioner



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk