

MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON LIQUOR COMMISSION

March 10, 2015

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the request of Raymond Gerard III and Alyssa Kabureck to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their September 12, 2015 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Tari Renner, Geoffrey Tompkins and Jim Jordan; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Comment section of the meeting.

Janet Lancaster, 316 N. Main St., Apt. B., addressed the Commission. She requested that sidewalk cafes be placed on a future agenda for discussion. She believed same would bring people to the Downtown. She suggested hours 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Commissioner Renner stated same would be placed on the April 2015 agenda.

Commissioner Renner opened the liquor hearing and requested that the requestor address this request. Joni Gerard, mother of the groom, addressed the Commission. The wedding ceremony and reception would be held at the Davis Lodge on September 12, 2015. Red Bird Catering, located at 1507 N Main St., would provide the food and beverage service. Liquor service would be limited to beer and wine only.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan that the request of Raymond Gerard III and Alyssa Kabureck to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at the Davis Lodge for their September 12, 2015 wedding reception be approved.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner stated that this item would appear on the Council's April 13, 2015 Consent Agenda. He encouraged them to attend same.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:08 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of PATH for a Limited Alcoholic Liquor License, Class LA, which will allow the selling and serving of all types of alcohol by the glass for the consumption on the premise. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Tari Renner, Geoffrey Tompkins and Jim Jordan; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk and Karen Zangerle, PATH's Executive Director and Applicant's representative.

Commissioner Renner questioned the purpose of this application. Karen Zangerle, PATH's Executive Director and Applicant's representative, began by informing the Commission that this

application was for a fundraiser for PATH to be held at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA), on Thursday, April 9, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. (midnight). This request was for a Limited License for a nonprofit corporation.

She informed the commission that this would be the seventh (7th) year for Chefs for PATH Gala. Ticket sales would be limited to 250. Ticket price was \$75. There would be five (5) chef stations. Chefs for PATH came about as a Leadership McLean County small group project. Ms. Zangerle noted that there would be two (2) bars. Identification would be requested.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan that an LA liquor license be created for PATH for a fundraiser to be held on April 9, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. (midnight) at the BCPA, located at 600 N. East St.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner stated that this item would appear on the Council's March 23, 2015 Consent Agenda. He encouraged Ms. Zangerle to attend same.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of Setinthebar, Inc., d/b/a Jazz Upfront located at 107 W. Front St., requesting a TAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Tari Renner, Geoffrey Tompkins and Jim Jordan; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk and James Gaston, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative.

Commissioner Renner noted that the applicant had been approved on September 8, 2014 for 105 W. Front St. James Gaston, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative addressed the Commission. He stated that the 105 W. Front St. location required extensive building repairs. The business model remained the same. He planned to host live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. This would be a jazz club.

Rich Marvel, 405 W. Front St., attorney for Mugshots Bar and Grill, LLC, d/b/a Mugshots, located at 107 W. Front St., addressed the Commission. He noted that Mugshots was operating and had a current liquor license at the location. George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel stated that Mr. Gaston had a signed lease. Same began April 1, 2015. He questioned if same was under dispute. Mr. Marvel responded affirmatively. Mr. Boyle questioned resolution.

Mr. Boyle stated that the Jazz Upfront's license would not take effect until Mr. Gaston had possession of the premises. Mr. Gaston stated that Fred Wollrab, owner of Redbird Properties Management Inc., assured him that there was an order to evacuate given to current tenant.

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the application of Setinthebar, Inc., d/b/a Jazz Upfront located at 107 W. Front St., requesting a TAS liquor license

which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week, be contingent upon compliance with all applicable health, safety codes and building possession.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner stated that this item would appear on the Council's April 13, 2015 Consent Agenda. He encouraged Mr. Gaston to attend same.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:15 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of Lincoln Springs Center, LLC, d/b/a Lincoln Springs Center, located at 1611 S. Morrissey Dr., Unit 1, requesting an EAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Tari Renner, Geoffrey Tompkins and Jim Jordan; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, Kathryn Gruber, Fire Inspector and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk and John Coontz and Stacy Smith, Owner/Operators and Applicant representatives.

Stacy Smith, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative addressed the Commission. He noted that a liquor license was approved by the Commission June 2014 for the Smith Family Enterprises, LTD. Due to unforeseen issues the corporate entity changed. He stated that the business model would remain the same. Mr. Smith anticipated that fire alarm and sprinkler system issues would be addressed March 11, 2015.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, provided the Commission with Exhibit A, an email from Leslie Yocum, Morrissey Crossing Property Manager to Kathryn Gruber, Fire Inspector. He noted the fire report from June 2014. The fire system was not functioning and remained the same. Events had been previously held at the location. Mr. Boyle stated that the liquor license issuance and occupancy was dependent upon the fire alarm and sprinkler system passing inspection. John Coontz, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative addressed the Commission. Overland Alarm Systems would install the fire alarm system March 11, 2015.

Mr. Boyle noted that inspections were conducted on March 2 and 9, 2015. Kathryn Gruber, Fire Inspector, addressed the Commission. Ms. Gruber noted that at the March 2nd inspection they were unable to access the sprinkler room and the fire alarms were not functioning. Staff went back on March 9th issues had not been addressed. Same could be fixed within twenty four to forty – eight (24 – 48) hours. She believed that the banquet hall was rented for the upcoming weekend. Occupancy would not be issued until inspection items had been resolved.

Mr. Boyle noted that events would not be allowed at the location until the safety issues had been addressed.

Commissioner Jordan questioned an event with a hundred (100) attendees. Mr. Smith cited wedding receptions.

Commissioner Jordan cited a mixed age group event and how the Applicant planned to manage the bar service. Mr. Smith stated that the bartender would check the individual's identification. In addition, there would be a manager and security staff. Any concerns would be addressed.

Commissioner Jordan questioned a large mixed group event and how the Applicant planned to distinguish individuals over the age of twenty – one (21). Mr. Smith cited the manager and bar staff would be responsible for same. Staff would obtain BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education) certification.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan that the application of Lincoln Springs Center, LLC, d/b/a Lincoln Springs Center, located at 1611 S. Morrissey Dr., Unit 1, requesting an EAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week be approved contingent upon compliance with all applicable health and safety codes and written approval by Planning and Code Enforcement Fire Inspectors.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner stated that this item would appear on the Council's April 13, 2015 Consent Agenda. He encouraged Mr. Coontz and Mr. Smith to attend same.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:40 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of Lupita's Hispanic and American Grocery, Inc., d/b/a Lupita's Hispanic & American Grocery, located at 1512 W. Market St., requesting a PAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Tari Renner, Geoffrey Tompkins and Jim Jordan; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk and Arturo Hernandez, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative.

Arturo Hernandez, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative addressed the Commission through a translator. He stated that the grocery store was currently operating. They wanted the ability to sell package alcohol.

Commissioner Renner questioned BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education) certification. Mr. Hernandez stated negatively. George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, noted that BASSETT training was requirement. Mr. Hernandez stated that the grocery store had three (3) employees.

Commissioner Renner questioned police concerns. Asst. Chief Wheeler stated there were none.

Commissioner Jordan questioned if he had held liquor license before and violations of same. Mr. Hernandez responded a liquor license was held in Only, IL. There were no violations.

Motion by Commission Jordan, seconded by Commission Tomkins, that the application of Lupita's Hispanic and American Grocery, Inc., d/b/a Lupita's Hispanic & American Grocery, located at 1512 W. Market St., requesting a PAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week be approved contingent upon compliance with all applicable health and safety codes and proof of BASSETT certification.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner stated that this item would appear on the Council's April 13, 2015 Consent Agenda. He encouraged Mr. Hernandez to attend same.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:48 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of Revati Raman Bhanot, Inc., d/b/a Happy Hour, located at 704 S. Eldorado Rd., requesting an RAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Tari Renner, Geoffrey Tompkins and Jim Jordan; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk and Sveenivas Poondru, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative.

Sveenivas Poondru, Owner/Operator and Applicant representative addressed the Commission. He stated that the establishment would be a restaurant/sports bar. Commissioner Renner reminded Mr. Poondru that fifty – one percent (51%) of sales must be from food to remain a restaurant. Mr. Poondru acknowledged same.

Mr. Poondru stated that he would employ two to three (2 – 3) bartenders and three to four (3 – 4) servers. All require BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education) certification prior to hiring.

Commissioner Jordan questioned video gaming machines. Mr. Poondru stated they had not thought about those.

Motion by Commission Jordan, seconded by Commission Tomkins, that the Revati Raman Bhanot, Inc., d/b/a Happy Hour, located at 704 S. Eldorado Rd., requesting an RAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week be approved contingent upon compliance with all applicable health and safety codes.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner stated that this item would appear on the Council's April 13, 2015 Consent Agenda. He encouraged Mr. Poondru to attend same.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:55 p.m.

Commissioner Renner noted that Mercedes Restaurants, Inc., d/b/a Famous Dave's located at 1603 Morrissey Dr., currently holding an RAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for the consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week had requested Stipulation of Violation; Reservation of Sanction. Commissioner Renner stated that same had not had a liquor violation in fourteen (14) years.

Mr. Boyle stated that Steve Shaw, President, Mercedes Restaurants, Inc., requested to address the Commission reference the sanction. They would appear at the next Liquor Commission meeting of April 14, 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the meeting be adjourned. Time: 4:59 p.m.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Respectfully,

Renee Gooderham
Interim City Clerk