

Minutes of the Liquor Control Review Board
Tuesday, April 22, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall - Room 215

Present: Chair Victoria Scaman, Commissioners John Lipic (7:44), Jeanette Mancusi, Jane Miller and Sara Spivy

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Attorney Paul Stephanides; Business Service Manager Loretta Daly; Deputy Chief Anthony Ambrose; Detective Mary Byrne

Call to Order: Chair Scaman called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Agenda Approval

It was moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as presented. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2014 with the change from "Board" to "Liquor Board" throughout the document. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as presented.

Annual Renewals

Loretta Daly noted that the Avenue Association officially changed its name to The Hemingway District. It was moved and seconded to approve the annual renewals for April as presented.

The roll call was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Lipic, Mancusi, Miller, and Spivy; Chair Scaman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion was approved.

Old Business

None.

Administrative Report

Background Checks and Fingerprinting Process

The process for background checks and fingerprinting was discussed in detail. Police Department Detective Mary Byrne provided background regarding the Police Department's fingerprinting of liquor license applicants. Deputy Police Chief Tony Ambrose said that the Police Department should be the only department that initially receives fingerprint results which would then be turned over to the Law Department for review.

Detective Byrne stated that the liquor license application was recently revised. Village Attorney Stephanides stated that background checks have always been mandatory for liquor licensing and that it is the Liquor Control Commissioner's determination of who should be fingerprinted. There were concerns raised by Board members regarding liquor licensees who have criminal offenses in Oak Park and/or in other communities and whether they can be denied the renewal of their licenses.

The roles of the Liquor Control Review Board and the Police Department were discussed with regards to enforcement. Deputy Chief Ambrose discussed the Police Department's process for performing sting operations and that the Department performs stings when it receives a complaint that a minor was served alcoholic beverages. He stated that if he receives a complaint about a business, such as noise, they will notify the manager of the complaint to give them the opportunity to take care of the problem. The Police Department will notify the Law Department if it receives a complaint involving a liquor license. Village Attorney Stephanides discussed when informal and formal hearings would be conducted regarding complaints.

Chair Scaman discussed whether there is a need for looking at regulations regarding closing hours so that there is consistency among restaurants in the Village. Deputy Chief Ambrose stated that the restaurants in the Village generally follow closing hour laws and do a good job of managing their customers. Loretta Daly stated that restaurant liquor licensees each fall under the same restrictions regarding hours of operation.

Board Member Comments

It was discussed whether minors can sit in the bar area of a restaurant. The Village Code provides that minors can sit in a bar area of a restaurant as long as they are with an adult.

The review of the Village Code liquor license provisions was discussed. Village Attorney Paul Stephanides stated that the plan is to look at each individual article in the Village Code regarding liquor licensing. He stated that the next article to be reviewed is Article 5 ("Miscellaneous") which includes closing hours. Chair Scaman questioned whether the Sunday serving hours had been changed in the ordinance to 10:00 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m. as the Board had voted on it

previously. It was concluded that it had not been changed and is still listed as 11:00 a.m. service on Sundays.

Signage for Agora Bistro was raised by member Mancusi. Loretta Daly stated that permits had to be obtained for the signs. Loretta Daly added that she received a complaint about noise from outdoor speakers at the restaurant and she believes they had been taken out.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul L. Stephanides, Board Liaison and Recording Secretary