MEETING MINUTES

Liquor Control Board
Wednesday, September 27, 2017 2:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2750

Members Present: Mayor Stephen H. Hagerty; Marion Macbeth; Dick Peach

Members Absent: Byron Wilson

Staff Present: Grant Farrar, Theresa Whittington

Others Present: Ethan Carter (Jilly’s Café’); Ron Onesti (Rock n’ Ravioli); T.J. Callahan (Farmhouse); Diane Mulligan (Farmhouse); Michael McGuigan (Hilton Orrington)

Presiding Member: Local Liquor Control Commissioner Stephen H. Hagerty/Mayor

CALL TO ORDER
The Local Liquor Control Commissioner Stephen Hagerty called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Suathan, LLC, Dba Jilly’s Café, 2614 Green Bay Road, Evanston, IL  60201

Ethan Carter (EC), new owner of Jilly’s Café requested approval for a Class D liquor license (Restaurant /Liquor). EC described Jilly’s café as a landmark that has been in Evanston for 30 years. EC’s company acquired it on September 1, 2017. He would like keep the same type of liquor license class as the previous owner. Mayor Hagerty asked if he has ever owned a liquor establishment before. EC responded “no” and that his background is that of a CPA. Mayor Hagerty thanked EC for investing in Evanston. Mayor Hagerty expressed to EC that he has no tolerance for underage drinking or not following City rules regarding alcohol consumption and expects the business will operate to the highest standard.

Board members reviewed the application in advance of the meeting and found it all in order. The Local Liquor Control Commissioner asked the members if there were any further questions or concerns over the request. None were voiced. The Board recommended issuing a liquor license to be introduced at the City Council meeting on October 23, 2017.

Farmhouse Evanston, LLC, Dba Farmhouse, 703 Church Street, Evanston, IL

T.J. Callahan (TC) requested an amendment that would allow Farmhouse restaurant to sell and serve alcohol to guests at The Hilton Orrington, which is located immediately adjacent to the restaurant. Hilton Orrington has made the decision to shut down lunch and dinner service. Farmhouse leases its restaurant space from Hilton Orrington. Farmhouse would like to offer take-out services to Hilton Orrington guests. TC
requested an amendment to its liquor license to allow service of alcohol to hotel guests within the hotel space. He would also like guests to be able to bring their drinks from the restaurant back to the hotel and their hotel rooms. Mayor Hagerty inquired whether the change would be a slight modification to the existing liquor license. Grant Farrar recommended the law department do a minor text amendment to the portion of the City Code that regulates the Class C liquor license. The amendment would clearly indicate that establishments that lease space from a hotel are allowed to serve alcoholic beverages to the hotel guests. Mayor Hagerty inquired if the change would apply to all Class C licensees and if there are other similarly-situated businesses in town the amendment would apply to. Grant Farrar responded that it might apply to the Hyatt or Hilton Garden Inn but that to his knowledge, each hotel has its own restaurant in the hotel. Marion Macbeth expressed concern about proximity to campus. TC responded that Farmhouse is always diligent about ID’s. Mayor Hagerty asked how they will monitor age restrictions of hotel guests. Michael McGuigan (MM) responded that the Hotels check-in age is 21 and they check ID’s at time of check in. All hotel servers are BASSET-certified and trained on ID checking. TC added that all food deliveries to hotel rooms are carried out by hotel employees. Employees will check IDs again at time of delivery. Hotel guests will place orders through room service, just as they had in the past. Mayor Hagerty asked the owners to continue to be responsible in the service of alcohol and that he appreciates their investment in Evanston. Theresa Whittington indicated to TC that Farmhouse would have to apply for a change in liquor license class from class D to class C. Grant Farrar explained that that class D is strictly for restaurants while class C is for hotels or restaurants.

The Local Liquor Control Commissioner asked the board members if there were any further questions or concerns over the request. None were voiced. The Board recommended issuing an amendment and issuance of a class C liquor license to be introduced at the City Council meeting on October 23, 2017.

RNR Evanston, LLC Dba Rock n’ Ravioli, 1012 Church Street, Evanston, IL 60201

Ron Onesti (RO), owner of Rock n’ Ravioli requested a Class D liquor license. RO explained that he has acquired the former 27-live property. He has owned and operated the Arcada Theater in Saint Charles for the past 11 years. The Arcada does about 250 shows a year. The Arcada has a 1920’s themed speakeasy on the third floor. He would like to implement a similar concept in Evanston. RO describes the business as three business models in one venue. The main room will be branded as Evanston Rocks, the upstairs will have a speakeasy called Bourbon and Brass, and the restaurant is called Rock n’ Ravioli. The second floor will also have VIP party rooms that are themed to various decades such as the ‘70’s, 80’s and 90’s. The venue has been renovated and will be filled with commissioned art work.

Dick Peach asked why he applied for a class D license when the previous business held a class C license. Dick Peach asked RO to explain how his business differs from a class C. The distinctions between a class C and class D were discussed. Mayor Hagerty stated that he is more comfortable approving the business for a class C license. Mayor Hagerty stated that he wants to be consistent in how liquor license classes are applied throughout the city. Marion Macbeth asked if patrons of the speakeasy will be able to order food from the restaurant. RO responded that food will be available thought the venue to some degree. RO agreed to apply for a class C liquor license per the recommendation of the liquor board. Mayor Hagerty asked if RO has ever been issued...
any liquor-related violations. RO responded that he has not received any violations and that his venue in Saint Charles sees between 1500 and 3000 patrons a week and in the past 11 years has not experienced one issue or violation. RO said he is ready to open as soon as he acquires his liquor license. Mayor Hagerty expressed appreciation for the investment in Evanston and RO’s many years of expertise. Mayor Hagerty stated that he will be very disappointed and upset if there are any liquor violations at the establishment and reminded RO that the liquor commissioner has the ability to pull liquor licenses.

Board members reviewed the application in advance of the meeting and found it all in order. The Local Liquor Control Commissioner asked the members if there were any further questions or concerns over the request. None were voiced. The Board recommended issuing a class C Liquor License to be introduced at the City Council meeting on October 23, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by the Local Liquor Control Commissioner Stephen H. Hagerty, Mayor at 2:36 p.m. September 27, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Whittington
Liquor Licensing Manager, Legal Department