MEETING MINUTES

Liquor Control Review Board
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 11:00 a.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2750

Members Present: Mayor Stephen H. Hagerty (Local Liquor Control Commissioner); Marion Macbeth; Dick Peach

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mario Treto, Theresa Whittington

Others Present: James Pomerantz (Falcon Eddy's); Rob Spengler (Board & Brush); Yovanda Diakoumis (Target); Jessica Watson (Target); Michael Binstein (Binny's); Julia Burnham (Binny's); Richard Parenti

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 11:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Falcon Eddy's, LLC dba Falcon Eddy's Barbeque, 825 church Street
Jim Pomerantz (JP), owner, requested approval for issuance of a class D (restaurant/liquor) liquor license. JP is the current co-owner of Bat 17. Bat 17 has been open for 12 years. The new restaurants cuisine is described as Texas barbeque. He would like to serve beer and wine to his customers. Mayor Hagerty stressed his zero tolerance for underage drinking. Mayor Hagerty reminded JP that a type 2 restaurant will not allow a restaurant to serve alcohol on a sidewalk café.

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 issuance of a liquor license to be introduced at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2018.

Target Corporation, dba Target Store T0927, 2209 Howard Street
Yovanda Diakoumis (YD), store director, requested approval for issuance of a class F (Grocery Store/Liquor) liquor license. YD explained that Target on Howard has been in the community for quite some time. The lack of alcohol sales is the one thing that keeps Target from being a “one stop all inclusive” shop for its customers. She said that Target has lots of training programs in place regarding alcohol sales. Cashiers must be 21 years old to ring up sales and POS ID systems cannot be bypassed. She hopes that next year the store will get remodeled as a “next generation store” and that alcohol offerings will add to the reinvention. Mario Treto suggested the removal of the 500 foot rule from Class F be bifurcated and introduced as a separate ordinance. The 500 foot
rule in Class F prohibits issuing a Class F liquor license to an establishment within 500 feet of another class F business. Mayor Hagerty explained that our grocery stores are already out of compliance with the rule and that it makes sense to remove the rule from the city code. The liquor board had discussed the issue at the January meeting and agreed at that time that the 500 foot rule should be eliminated. Mayor Hagerty told YD that he takes underage drinking very seriously and stated further that he has been very pleased, that since his time as Mayor, no issues have come to his attention.

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 issuance of a liquor license to be introduced at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2018.

SV Family Evanston, LLC dba Board & Brush Evanston, 802 Dempster
Rob Spengler (RS), co-owner, requested consideration for issuance of a class X (Arts and Craft studio/beer & wine) liquor license. RS is also co-owner of Little Beans Café. RS explained that he is a new franchisee in Board & Brush. There are currently 147 franchise locations and offers arts & craft classes that focus on making wooden boards and signs. He has a target opening date of April 20th. The franchise requires owners to offer beer and wine either as BYOB or as retail sale offering, with a preference for franchisees to be licensed. RS expressed appreciation to the City for working with them on the creation of a new liquor license class. Mayor Hagerty asked if there would be any power tools in use while patrons are drinking. RS stated customers will not be using power tools. There are hand held tools used at the beginning of class to distress the wood. Alcohol will not be served until after this initial step is complete. Customers are so busy with their hands that he does not anticipate people having more than 1-2 drinks a session. Mayor Hagerty expressed his zero tolerance for underage drinking and his expectation that alcohol will be served in accordance to the rules and laws in place.

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 issuance of a liquor license to be introduced at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2018.

Binny’s Beverage Depot, 1111 Chicago Ave.
Michael Binstein (MB), owner, requested consideration for issuance of a class F-2 (Retail Liquor Dealer Gourmet Food Store) liquor license. May Hagerty provided an overview of the administrative and legislative history that led up to the creation of the new class F-2 liquor license class. Mayor Hagerty asked MB to elaborate on the gourmet food offerings of the store. MB responded that the license mandates food categories. MB said he will try to prioritize local vendors and producers for food. Binny’s is primarily a liquor store and food is an ancillary offering. Stores carrying food items customize the selection to the local community. MB stated that there will be some trial and error as Binny’s tries to pick food products that customers will respond to.

Sandeep Ghaey (SG) offered public comment on the request. SG stated that the issue brought previously to the board was that special considerations should not be made for a large company. He said he thinks it is discriminatory that he was denied a particular liquor license when he opened Vinic Wine while Binny’s gets a license created for it. SG goes on to state that there are provisions in the F-2 license class that smaller companies are not allowed to have such as container sizes. Mayor Hagerty stated that
he appreciated SG’s comments. Mayor Hagerty explained to SG that at the January meeting it was expressed that amendments would be made to other license classes to allow them the same container sizes as Binny’s has been afforded in the F-2 license class. SG also pointed out that the liquor sampling allowances are also different and would want the same treatment for that as well. Marion Macbeth stated the board takes individual cases as they come and that the board has created special amendments for other small companies. Mayor Hagerty directed the law department to work on the appropriate recommendations and amendments. Dick Peach agreed that amendments and allowances should be extended to other license holders.

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 issuance of a liquor license to be introduced at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned by the Local Liquor Control Commissioner Stephen H. Hagerty, Mayor at 11:30 a.m. April 4, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Whittington
Liquor Licensing Manager, Legal Department