MINUTES

Liquor Control Review Board
Wednesday, July 1, 2020, 11:00 a.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Virtual Meeting

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

Members Absent: Dick Peach

Staff Present: Brian George (Assistant City Attorney)

Others Present: Grace Yang (Chili’s Grill & Bar), Brett Hallongren (American Legion), Alderman Eleanor Revelle

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

CALL TO ORDER
The Local Liquor Control Commissioner/Mayor Stephen H. Hagerty called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty called for the virtual/telephone meeting, seconded by Marion Macbeth.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES
Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty moved to approve the minutes from their March 4, 2020 meeting, seconded by Macbeth.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brinker Restaurant Corporation, d/b/a Chili’s Grill & Bar
   1765 Maple Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

   Grace Yang on behalf of Chili’s Grill & Bar, requested a Class C (Restaurant) liquor license. The restaurant has been in the community for many years. Yang informed that the franchise was interested in converting the restaurant to a company owned Chili’s location, instead of franchise owned. Assistant City Attorney Brian George confirmed that the application submitted was in order and had no concerns. Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty asked the members if there were any further questions or concerns over the request. The Members of the Board did not have any further questions. Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty moved to recommended approval of the liquor license and that Staff forward Chili’s Grill & Bar’s application to City Council for approval, seconded by Macbeth.

   Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty recommended Yang follow up with second ward Alderman Peter Braithwaite so the item could be added for suspension of the rules, for introduction and action.
UPDATE TO THE EVANSTON LIQUOR CONTROL CODE

Assistant City Attorney Brian George informed the members of the proposed change to 3-4-6 Class S Liquor License for the American Legion. Currently the American Legion is exclusive only to members and their guests, and the change would grant non-members entry. The American Legion is interested in serving more to the public and they have outdoor seating options and as a result the liquor license fee would increase from $500 to $2,800.

On behalf of the American Legion Brett Hallogren wants to expand to the general public and abide by the general rules. The organization wants to amend the code rather than move to a class D license to preserve their legacy as the organization has been around for over 100 years. The establishment is following social distancing rules during the Covid-19 pandemic. Hallogren requested a lower liquor license fee since American Legion is not competition with some of the other restaurants in the area.

Alderman Eleanor Revelle inquired about the food offered. Hallogren stated that currently frozen pizza is served and they have a commercial kitchen license and are considering doing more food but they require more upgrades. Alderman Revelle also asked if a golfer from Canal Shores wanted to go get a beer was that possible. Hallogren replied that it was not prohibited since they are non-members, but they could apply for membership. There are three memberships, Veteran, SAL (Son of an American Legion) Booster (Members of the community). Alderman Revelle asked if the patio is City or MWRD property. Hallogren stated that they are on City/Canal Shores property. Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty asked if hotdogs and hamburgers were served. Hallogren answered that it was too much work to continue to do, but a possibility in the future. Assistant City Attorney George will follow up with the Collectors office to see if the liquor license could be prorated.

Alderman Revelle stated that she would like this item to be added for suspension of the rules; for introduction and action.

The Members of the Board did not have any further questions. Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty moved that Staff forward the proposed changes to City Council for approval, seconded by Macbeth.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m. by Liquor Commissioner/Mayor Hagerty, seconded by Macbeth.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lolita Thomas
Admin Lead, Law Department