



Liquor Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Committee Members Present

Jill Alred, Herman Fogal, Hank Gamel, Loise Haines

Committee Members Not Present

Wayne Mathis

Others Present

Mayor Charles Smith; Scott Eisenhauer, Administrator; Tony Brown, Chief of Police; Luke Humphrey, Parks & Recreation Director; David Wesner, Village Attorney; and Tana Ward, Mayoral Assistant

Mayor Smith, Liquor Commissioner, opened the meeting at 3:00pm.

Public Participation

No public participation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gamel moved to approve the Liquor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2023 and March 7, 2024. Mr. Fogal seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Liquor License Class T-1 Discussion

Mayor Smith stated that the Rush Baseball/Softball organization has inquired about fundraising at the Rantoul Family Sports Complex. Rush is requesting a Class T-1 Liquor Permit to allow for this opportunity. The Sports Complex does not currently have a Liquor License.

Mr. Wesner added that the Class T-1 Liquor Permit is limited to nonprofit organizations, which can be issued for a specified period of time of not to exceed two consecutive days, and organizations cannot be issued more than three Class T-1 permits in any calendar year.

Mrs. Haines questioned if the Rush organization would be the only Vendor.

Mr. Eisenhauer specified that the Rush organization directly benefits the Village youth.

Eric Thompson, owner of ET's Downtown, stated that the Village had pursued an RFP process to allow for a sole Liquor License to be held at the Sports Complex. During this process, ET's was chosen, however the Liquor License was not issued by the Village. He added that Rush Baseball/Softball only occurs four to five weekends annually.

Mr. Eisenhower stated that the Staff would need to develop protocols for choosing the Vendor when multiple nonprofit organizations apply for the T-1 Permit. Adding that the Rush organization is not locked in.

Mr. Fogal questioned if there was an opportunity to add additional Vendors to allow for multiple nonprofit organizations to fundraise at different locations on busy weekends.

Mr. Wesner stated that would not be ideal due to the possibility of a control issue with multiple Vendors.

Mr. Humphrey added that with multiple Vendors it would be difficult to manage alcohol sales, and it could have the potential for additional staffing costs.

Ms. Alred suggested that the sole Vendor at the Sports Complex could be changed monthly.

Mr. Gamel questioned if the T-1 Permit allowed for multiple permits to be issued within the community on the same weekend.

Mr. Fogal stated that should be a case-by-case situation.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Fogal made the motion to forward this item to the Village Board for consideration, Mr. Gamel seconded the motion, and the motion failed.

Other Business

Mr. Eisenhower thanked the Committee for their input from the March meeting, which was passed by the Village Board during the April Board Meeting.

- Reclass two Class A Liquor Licenses that are primarily a gaming café.
- Class A Liquor License to require 51% or more in liquor sales in an effort to thwart any additional gaming cafes from obtaining the Class A Liquor License.
- Changing the development/redevelopment language to allow for the expansion of the Liquor License Classes until the new development/redevelopment is terminated, then the license would simply not be available.
- Adding a 30-day window when a business is purchased to allow for application of the Liquor License by the new corporate owner.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:56pm.

Minutes prepared, submitted, and filed by Tana Ward, Mayoral Assistant