

**DOWNERS GROVE LIQUOR COMMISSION
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
801 BURLINGTON AVENUE**

February 1, 2001

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ms. Gerloff, Mr. Julian, Mr. Keenley, Mr. Mochel, Chairman Brown

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Assistant Village Attorney, Enza Petrarca, Liaison to the Liquor Commission
Carol Conforti, Secretary Karen Mudra

OTHERS: Donald Brown, Eric Dominow, Irene Bahr, Court Reporter

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MR. JULIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2001
LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED. MR. MOCHEL SECONDED.**

VOTE: **Aye:** Mr. Julian, Ms. Gerloff, Mr. Keenley, Chairman Brown

Nay: None

Abstain: Mr. Mochel

MOTION CARRIED: 4:0:1

IV. PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE

Chairman Brown made the following statement:

"A part of tonight's agenda is to conduct a public hearing on an application for a liquor license. For the benefit of all present, I would like to state that this Commission does not determine the issuance of any liquor licenses. We may at the end of each hearing, make a finding of 'qualified' or 'not qualified' with

respect to each applicant. If necessary, the Commission may adjourn a hearing to a later date in order to have benefit of further information."

"At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission will summarize its findings and determine any recommendations it wishes to make to the Liquor Commissioner."

"The Liquor Commissioner, who is the Mayor of Downers Grove, will, pursuant to Section 3-12 of the Ordinance, render decisions regarding issuance of available licenses within 60 days in order to consult the Plan Commission for its recommendations."

"Hearings by this Commission are held according to the following format: 1) reading of information pertinent to the application, 2) comments from the applicant, 3) comments from the public, 4) discussion by the Commission, and 5) motion and finding by the Commission."

"A court reporter is present and will take the proceedings verbatim. A secretary is also present for purposes of summarizing the proceedings."

The Pint House, 2009 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove

Chairman Brown said the Pint House is seeking a Class "R" liquor license. Mr. Eric Dominow, 50% shareholder, Vice-President and Liquor Manager of the Pint House, Donald Brown, President and 50% shareholder of the Pint House, and Ms. Irene Bahr, attorney for the Pint House, came forward and were sworn in by the Court Reporter. Chairman Brown said issuance of the license will be contingent upon receipt of satisfactory background checks on the principals, a Certificate of Occupancy and proof of Dram Shop insurance. Ms. Conforti said that Mr. Dominow's State and federal background checks have been received.

Mr. Dominow said they want to open a nice restaurant in Downers Grove with good food. He said he and Mr. Brown have been in the construction business for a long time and they feel they have the management skills necessary to operate a restaurant. He said they are young and they want to try opening and running their own restaurant.

Mr. Brown said he is a lifelong Downers Grove resident and he currently lives two blocks from the establishment. He and Mr. Dominow said they are always looking for some place different to eat, so they decided to open their own restaurant.

Chairman Brown reviewed the floor plan for the restaurant and asked if it accurately depicts their plans for the establishment. Mr. Brown said he had the architect revise the plans to accommodate more seating. Chairman Brown asked if there is a receptionist inside the entrance of the restaurant. Mr. Brown replied yes. Chairman Brown asked if there is restaurant seating in the game area. Mr. Brown replied no. He explained that the game area will be a waiting area.

Mr. Brown said they want to open a nice restaurant, one that is a cross between the Country House in Hinsdale and the Clubhouse in Oakbrook. The décor will be similar to that of an Irish pub, with wood paneling and hardwoods throughout. Mr. Brown said they hope to attract an older, more affluent clientele, 25 years and older.

Ms. Gerloff asked the total seating capacity of the restaurant. Mr. Brown said there would be seating for approximately 86. He added that the updated floor plan more accurately reflects the seating they want to have in the restaurant. Ms. Gerloff asked if they plan to expand the bar seating. Mr. Brown replied no. He explained the bar would be a waiting area.

Ms. Gerloff asked Mr. Brown and Mr. Dominow if they are planning to renovate the exterior of the building, as well as the interior. They replied yes. Mr. Dominow said they plan to use stucco on the exterior. Mr. Brown said he wanted to be sure that they could get a liquor license before investing money in remodeling.

Ms. Gerloff noted that Mr. Dominow has taken the College of DuPage Bar Code course; however, he has no liquor handling experience. Ms. Gerloff asked if he has received his certificate from the class. Mr. Dominow said he completed the class last week; however, the results will not be available for a month.

Ms. Gerloff referred to Mr. Dominow's resume, which indicates that in 1987 he worked at Vollatorri's in Steger, Illinois handling food preparation and filling drink orders. Ms. Gerloff noted that Mr. Dominow was only 15 years old at the time and asked what type of drink orders he was filling. Mr. Dominow explained that his mother owned the business and he worked as a busboy helping out and filling water and soft drink orders, not alcoholic drink orders. He said the job gave him an opportunity to learn a little about the restaurant business. Ms. Gerloff suggested that he change the wording in his resume because it may give the impression that he was filling alcoholic drink orders at the age of 15. Mr. Brown agreed and said they would have the resume corrected.

Ms. Gerloff said she is very impressed with their liquor handling guide and she asked who wrote it. Mr. Brown said he and Mr. Dominow wrote it with help from Ms. Conforti. Mr. Brown said Mr. Russell Hillard, who currently works at the Firehouse Restaurant in Morris, specializes in starting up restaurants and getting them running. Mr. Brown said Mr. Hillard will help them set up the menu, stock the kitchen, and hire the chef and other employees. Ms. Gerloff noted that Mr. Hillard only spends about one year at each location. Mr. Brown explained that Mr. Hillard especially enjoys the startup aspects of the restaurant business and once an establishment is up and running, he is ready to move on.

Ms. Gerloff asked how they plan to train their employees. Mr. Dominow said the manager would be responsible for training them. Mr. Brown added that employees will be instructed to read the liquor handling manual and then be tested on the material. Rather than terminating employees who violate correct liquor handling procedures, Mr. Brown said they would require them to pay all or 1/2 of any fine or penalty assessed against the establishment for the violation. Mr. Brown said servers will be

instructed to consult the manager if they are in doubt about whether or not an individual should be served. The manager on duty will make the final decision.

Ms. Gerloff asked the number of bartenders and waitstaff they plan to hire. Mr. Brown said they plan to hire one full-time and one part-time bartender, three full-time and three part-time waitresses, a full-time and part-time cook, and a few other kitchen workers. He added that the manager on duty would also be qualified to act as a bartender if needed. Mr. Brown and Mr. Dominow said the number of the employees will eventually depend on how busy the restaurant is.

Ms. Gerloff referred to the floor plan, and noted a large area marked "storage room". She asked if they plan to store surplus alcohol in that room. Mr. Brown said kegs would be stored in the basement in a cooler and other surplus alcohol will be stored in a locked room in the basement. Mr. Brown said he plans to remodel the interior of the restaurant and the area currently marked as the storage room may be converted to the women's bathroom.

Ms. Gerloff noted that there are exit doors shown near the men's room and near the kitchen. She asked if these doors are used for access as well as exit. Mr. Brown said the back door near the men's room would be for exit only. He said the side door goes directly into the kitchen and it will be locked from the outside so people cannot walk into the kitchen.

Mr. Keenley asked who will be the on-site manager. Mr. Dominow said that he would. Mr. Keenley noted that Mr. Hillard has an impressive resume. Mr. Dominow said Mr. Hillard will help with training and generally oversee the start-up of the business. Mr. Brown explained that Mr. Hillard is a friend and he can only devote about 20 hours per week to this business because he has another job, which he intends to keep.

Mr. Keenley asked how they decided on the name "Pint House". It seems to imply constant beer drinking. Mr. Brown said it was his girlfriend's idea. They plan to have an Irish theme for the restaurant, similar to Quigley's in Naperville.

Mr. Keenley asked Mr. Brown and Mr. Dominow if they have any idea what percentage of their total sales will be from the sale of food and what percentage will be from the sale of alcohol. Mr. Brown said he has asked Mr. Hillard to calculate the percentages as he works on pricing for the menu. Mr. Brown said the first year they hope to have gross sales between \$300,000 and \$500,000. He offered to supply more accurate figures as soon as he receives them.

Mr. Keenley advised Mr. Brown and Mr. Dominow that the Village conducts control buys periodically without warning to verify that an establishment is not selling alcohol to minors. Mr. Brown said he is aware of the program and added that they will be careful concerning the sale of alcohol. He said he has had his own company since he was twenty years old and he is aware of some of the ways underage individuals attempt to buy alcohol. Mr. Brown added that they intend to be strict about carding.

Mr. Julian noted that Mr. Brown and Mr. Dominow have a 50/50 partnership. They replied yes. He asked how they met and how their partnership developed. Mr. Dominow said after playing minor league baseball for a while, he came home and met Don Brown through a mutual friend. He said he does a lot of drywall painting and Don does a lot of remodeling. About five or six years ago they started working together. Mr. Julian asked if either of them have previously been involved in a partnership. Mr. Brown said he was; however, this is the first partnership for Mr. Dominow.

Mr. Julian asked how they will divide their time between their existing business and the new restaurant. Mr. Dominow said he plans to put aside his drywall work for the present and devote 99% of his time to the restaurant; however, Mr. Brown intends to keep his remodeling business.

Mr. Julian asked if they have started interviewing or hiring employees. Mr. Brown replied no. He explained they wanted to wait until their liquor license was granted and they finalized their lease and loan before they began the hiring process. Mr. Julian suggested that they carefully select, screen and train their employees because they will play an important part in the success of their business. Mr. Brown said Mr. Hillard will assist with the interviewing and hiring process. Mr. Julian asked what Mr. Hillard's position will be in the business. Mr. Brown said he will be a part-time employee hired for his knowledge of the restaurant business.

Mr. Julian asked if food will be served at the tables in the game area. Mr. Brown replied yes. Mr. Julian asked what the square footage of the building is. Mr. Brown replied about 2,500 to 2,600 square feet. Mr. Julian noted that they have planned a lot of seating for a restaurant that size. Mr. Julian asked who the architect is. Mr. Brown said the plans were drawn by Architects By Design and revised by two other architects with whom Mr. Brown works.

Mr. Mochel asked them to include instructions in their liquor manual to watch for a red license when checking identification. He said an Illinois under 21 driver's license has a red border and a red background and large letters stating "under 21".

Mr. Mochel asked Mr. Dominow who would act as liquor manager when he is not on the premises. Mr. Dominow said they have not decided. They are considering having Mr. Hillard act as manager when Mr. Dominow is not there or they may hire a part-time liquor manager. Mr. Brown said he will probably be at the restaurant when Mr. Dominow is not. He added that Mr. Dominow is something of a workaholic who currently works seven days a week so it would not be unusual for him to put in many hours a week at the restaurant. Mr. Brown said one of them will be there all of the time. Mr. Mochel said even with all the hours Mr. Brown, Mr. Dominow and Mr. Hillard plan to devote to the business it still does not appear to cover the entire number of hours that they plan to be open. Mr. Mochel was concerned that they were spreading themselves too thin and asked who will take over when none of them are available. Mr. Brown said he would take time-off from his remodeling business to cover the restaurant if necessary; however, they may have to hire a part-time manager. It is just a matter of finding someone they can trust. Mr. Mochel warned that sometimes violations occur when management is spread too thin. He advised them to avoid that situation. Mr. Brown said Mr. Hillard and he know a

number of people in the restaurant business that they may be able to hire.

Mr. Mochel told them that recently the liquor manager at a newly licensed establishment was involved in a violation probably because she was distracted and trying to perform many duties at one time. Mr. Brown said he has managed his own company for many years and he is used to watching his employees.

Mr. Mochel asked where the restaurant is located. Mr. Brown said it is on the corner of Woodward and Ogden Avenue. It is the former location of the Best Szechwan Restaurant.

Chairman Brown applauded their enthusiasm and cautioned them to be very careful with alcohol sales. Mr. Dominow said he already watches his employees to be sure they do the job right and he is used to overseeing multiple projects. Chairman Brown asked if they plan to hire a full-time bartender. They replied yes.

Chairman Brown asked what their ratio of food and alcohol sales will be. Mr. Dominow replied 60% revenue from food and 40% from alcohol. Mr. Brown agreed. Chairman Brown encouraged them to card everyone who appears to be under 35. They agreed. Mr. Brown added that they are trying to attract an older crowd. Mr. Dominow said for the first month, they will have their servers write the customer's date of birth on their meal ticket to ensure that they are carding the customers. Chairman Brown asked who will do the carding. Mr. Dominow said the waitresses will. He added that if they have any questions, they will be instructed to consult the manager. Chairman Brown asked if they thought it would be difficult to hire waitresses who were at least 21 and old enough to take the initial drink order and card customers. Mr. Brown said they have friends who are interested in working at the restaurant.

Ms. Gerloff asked how many parking spaces are in their parking lot. Mr. Brown said depending on the layout, the lot can accommodate about 50 cars. He added that if there is a parking shortage, he believes he can make arrangements for additional parking at the Food Mart lot next door. Mr. Brown said there will be two handicapped parking spaces along the building and the rest of the lot can be reconfigured to maximize the available parking spaces.

Ms. Gerloff asked when they plan to open the establishment. They said they hoped to open at the beginning of April.

Chairman Brown asked what their hours of operation would be. Mr. Brown said their hours would be Monday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to midnight; Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.; Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.; and Sunday, noon to 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Mochel asked if there will be any televisions in the bar area. Mr. Brown said yes. He asked if the Village would permit a flat screen television in the restaurant area to be used for special sporting events. Mr. Mochel said he felt that would encourage people to sit and drink while they watched sports on TV.

He said that makes it seem more like a sports bar. Mr. Brown pointed out that Champs has television sets and serves restaurant food. He said there will be a television in the bar and added that they would be careful not to overserve customers.

Chairman Brown advised Mr. Brown and Mr. Dominow that the Village has a DUI notification program. Every time a DUI is attributed to an establishment the Village sends a letter notifying the owners. If an establishment has a large number of notifications in a year, the owners are asked to appear before the Commission. Mr. Brown said they will instruct their servers to watch for signs of intoxication and suggest food or coffee to counteract the effects of alcohol. Mr. Dominow said they plan to offer free taxi cab service for anyone who appears intoxicated.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Dominow said they hope they can provide a new and different restaurant for Downers Grove.

Chairman Brown asked for a motion.

MR. KEENLEY MOVED TO FIND THE PINT HOUSE, 2009 OGDEN AVENUE, QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS "R" LIQUOR LICENSE. MS. GERLOFF SECONDED.

Aye: Mr. Keenley, Ms. Gerloff, Mr. Julian, Mr. Mochel, Chairman Brown

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried: 5:0:0

V. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Conforti reviewed a draft ordinance amending the fine provisions of the Liquor Control Ordinance. She said the amendment to Section 3-40(a) of the Ordinance gives the Village the authority to issue a fine of up to \$1,000 for the first violation within a 12-month period, up to \$1,500 for the second violation within a 12-month period and up to \$2,500 for the third violation within a 12-month period. Ms. Conforti explained that these amounts would be strictly fines for violating the ordinance. She pointed out that the amendment to Section 3-40(e), regarding administrative fees, would permit the Village to charge a maximum fee of \$1,000 to cover administrative hearing costs. She added that the administrative fees would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Gerloff asked, once the amendments have been adopted, would it be appropriate to state a motion as follows: "I move to recommend a license suspension and a fine not to exceed \$1,000, plus payment of any administrative costs associated with the hearing." Ms. Petrarca replied yes.

Mr. Mochel asked if the administrative costs had to be verifiable. Ms. Petrarca said the costs have to be within reason.

Mr. Mochel noted that the fine for an establishment's first violation within a 12-month period is limited to \$1,000. Ms. Petrarca replied yes. Ms. Conforti pointed out that the Commission could also recommend a license suspension in addition to a fine.

Mr. Julian asked for a breakdown of the cost for the administrative fee. Ms. Petrarca said they do not plan an itemized breakdown of the fee because there are different costs associated with different types of hearings. Without a breakdown, the fee can be tailored to the type of hearing involved. Mr. Julian asked if any type of hearing fee schedule should be added before this draft ordinance goes to the Village Council. Ms. Petrarca replied no. She said the current language gives the Village the discretion to assess each fee on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Gerloff noted that the proposed ordinance would give the Village the option to suspend an establishment's liquor license and/or impose a fine and require them to pay a fee covering administrative hearing costs.

Mr. Julian said he would like the Council and the public to understand that the Village is first recovering the cost of the hearing, and any fine assessed would be in addition to that. He said he did not want it to appear that the Commission was being punitive or negative. Mr. Mochel said he felt it might be a good idea if they were perceived as punitive because it might make licensees more careful when selling alcohol. Mr. Julian said he agreed that the ordinance should have "some teeth in it" and he feels the proposed amendment will accomplish that. However, he wanted to define that the Village has a hearing fee and a fine beyond that. Mr. Mochel said he does not want the hearing fee to be so structured that it is restrictive.

Mr. Julian said he would like to take a gentle approach when presenting this ordinance to the Council and the public. He said he felt it should be explained that in addition to the hearing fees that are already being assessed, the ordinance would now goes one step further and allows for the possibility of a fine as well. He wanted the public to understand that the Commission is being firm, but also to explain that previously any money charged was to cover administrative costs and there was no actual fine.

Chairman Brown called for a motion in support of the draft ordinance.

MR. MOCHEL MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF A DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FINE PROVISIONS OF THE DOWNERS GROVE LIQUOR CONTROL ORDINANCE. MS. GERLOFF SECONDED.

Aye: Mr. Mochel, Ms. Gerloff, Mr. Julian, Mr. Keenley, Chairman Brown

Nay: **None**

Abstain: **None**

Motion carried: **5:0:0**

Ms. Gerloff said she would like to discuss the packaged alcohol license amendment. Last September when the Commission reviewed the amendment she expressed concern that there were no Class “B-2” Liquor Licenses available. At that time Chairman Brown said it would not be a problem because licenses could be created and approved by the Village Council on a case-by-case basis. However, she noted that this ordinance was submitted in October 2000 and still has not been approved by the Village Council. Ms. Gerloff wondered how long it would take to create licenses requested on a case-by-case basis. She felt a lengthy approval process would discourage businesses from locating in Downers Grove. Ms. Gerloff said she feels the Commission should work on increasing the number of Class “B-2” licenses so that there will be one available if requested.

Ms. Petrarca said it is very unusual for any item to take six months to be brought before the Village Council. She explained that the packaged alcohol ordinance took longer than usual because after it was workshopped by Council, they requested that the Chamber of Commerce review it. The Chamber’s review took several months. She added that the process was also delayed by the Christmas holidays and crowded meeting agendas in January. Ms. Petrarca said usually an item is workshopped one week and goes to the Village Council the next week.

Ms. Gerloff said she no longer feels that creating licenses is a matter of formality. It appears that circumstances can intervene to delay the process. She said businesses requiring a Class “B-2” license may not be willing make a substantial investment to locate in Downers Grove without some guarantee that a license is available.

Chairman Brown said approval of this amendment is not quite the same as the Liquor Commissioner authorizing creation of another liquor license. He explained that if an establishment is reviewed and found qualified for a Class “B-2” license, the Village Council could pass an ordinance to add another liquor license. However, if an establishment is reviewed and found “not qualified” for an existing license, the applicant has a greater ability to appeal the decision. Mr. Mochel added that the Village has less latitude to deny a license application if a license is available. He said once the guidelines have been approved, it should take about two months, not six, to get Village Council approval to create a new license.

Mr. Julian asked what the current procedure is when an appropriate business inquires about the availability of a Class “B-2” license. Ms. Conforti said that at this time she tells prospective applicants that there are no licenses available and they will be put on a waiting list. Mr. Julian said if a good business expressed interest in Downers Grove, he would like the Commission to be able to hear the

application and get the process started. He said he would like to project an environment which is open to having good businesses sell liquor in Downers Grove, while maintaining a strict policy toward those who violate the ordinance. Although Mr. Julian said he is not in favor of opening another Class "B-2" license at this time, he does not want to stop anyone from applying for a license.

Chairman Brown said he thought Ms. Conforti would begin the application process for any reasonable request. Ms. Gerloff asked if application requests are left to Ms. Conforti's discretion. Chairman Brown replied no.

Mr. Julian asked if Ms. Conforti could inform prospective applicants, that although there are no licenses available at this time, they can go before the Liquor Commission and discuss the possibility of creating another license. Ms. Gerloff said she would be uncomfortable making a business investment under those circumstances. Mr. Julian agreed.

Ms. Conforti clarified that the ordinance currently states that prospective applicants must be put on a waiting list until a license is available. Ms. Conforti said that if the Commission is satisfied with the Class "B-2" license guidelines when adopted, they might wish to consider creating more Class "B-2" licenses.

Mr. Mochel asked if prospective applicants would be put on a waiting list even after this amendment is adopted. Ms. Conforti replied yes. She explained that this ordinance establishes the criteria for Class "B-2" licensees, it does not change the number of licenses available and it does not change the application process. Ms. Gerloff said that she is very concerned that the lack of available Class "B-2" licenses will deter desirable businesses, requiring this license, from coming to Downers Grove. Mr. Julian agreed that unless some changes are made viable businesses might be shut out.

Ms. Gerloff pointed out that if the Commission recommends and the Council approves raising the number of permitted Class "B-2" licenses by two, the Commission would still have the authority to recommend applicants as qualified or unqualified. She said the addition of guidelines for the Class "B-2" license establishes a basis for their recommendations. Ms. Petrarca said that perhaps the ordinance could be revised, eliminating the waiting list and adding a provision allowing applicants to petition the Village Council to create a new license.

Chairman Brown noted that some towns do not have a waiting list or extra licenses. He said those towns make the decision to add licenses on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Gerloff agreed, but added that Downers Grove cannot do that because our Ordinance requires that applicants must be put on a waiting list. Chairman Brown asked staff to research eliminating the waiting list. Ms. Conforti said the waiting list requirement could be removed from the application section of the Ordinance. After which, if a license is not available, the applicant would be permitted to present their application to the Liquor Commission and request that a license be created.

Ms. Conforti gave the Commission a copy of the draft ordinance establishing guidelines for the Class

“B-2” license and said that it will be adopted by the Village Council on February 20, 2001. She also gave the Commission a copy of the Order and Findings from the Liquor Commissioner detailing the penalties for the two establishments that were found guilty of violations at the January 2001 meeting.

Mr. Julian asked Ms. Petrarca if the Commission could discipline an establishment based on the number of DUI notifications they received. Ms. Petrarca replied no. She explained that there is no reliable testimony to serve as a basis for such action. Mr. Julian asked why the Commission keeps a record of the number of DUI’s attributed to licensees. Ms. Petrarca said DUI’s are tracked because although the Commission cannot impose a fine or license suspension in such cases, they can reprimand the licensee and suggest that they review their liquor handling policies. However, she added that the Village can not charge an administrative fee for such a hearing. Ms. Conforti said that several years ago two establishments with a large number of DUI’s attributed to them were brought before the Commission for a license renewal hearing. Ms. Conforti said at that time the Commission informed the licensees that the Commission was tracking DUI notifications and advised them to review their liquor handling policies.

Ms. Gerloff noted that Riprocks has been advertising as a nightclub. Ms. Conforti said she sent them a letter reminding them that this type of advertising is not permitted.

Chairman Brown asked if the Police Department can target and watch locations which have a large number of DUI’s attributed to them. Ms. Conforti said she believed the Police have to publish notification if they plan to conduct a major DUI roadblock. Mr. Mochel asked if the Police have to publish the location. Ms. Petrarca replied no.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Conforti said Mr. Willis Johnson, owner of the Tivoli Theater, contacted her and asked about the possibility of having liquor service available for live performances. He is interested in having a portable bar for alcoholic beverage sales during intermission and before and after events. However, there would not be any food available other than the snacks at the concession stand.

Mr. Julian asked what type of events. Ms. Conforti said most events are contractual, i.e. The After Hours Film Society. She added that Mr. Johnson would not have alcohol service during regular feature films. Mr. Julian asked how often these events take place. Ms. Conforti said there were approximately 24 events last year.

Mr. Keenley noted that the Paramount Theater has alcohol service during performances.

Ms. Gerloff asked if Mr. Johnson wanted alcohol service only during intermission, or before and after performances as well. Ms. Conforti and Ms. Petrarca said he would like to sell alcohol before and after performances and during intermission.

Mr. Julian said he would like to invite Mr. Johnson to a Liquor Commission meeting to explain his plans.

Ms. Conforti said at this time, she would like to assess the Commission's general feeling concerning Mr. Johnson's request and she asked if the Commission members would like her to research the matter further.

Mr. Mochel asked if there is any capability for Mr. Johnson to sell alcohol in the theater under the provisions of the current Ordinance. Ms. Petrarca and Ms. Conforti replied no. Ms. Conforti explained that a new license classification would have to be created.

Mr. Mochel asked if minors attend the contractual theater events. Ms. Conforti said most of those attending the After Hours events were 30 to 35 years old. She added that the Tivoli would card anyone who appeared to be under 30 years old. Ms. Conforti explained that during these events an individual or group rents the facilities; however, the events are open to the public.

Mr. Mochel asked if the ordinance could restrict admittance to these events to individuals who are over 21. He said he is concerned that if the events are open to people of all ages, it would be difficult to keep adults from sharing drinks with minors. Ms. Conforti said Mr. Johnson would have a manager on premises during the events that could watch for such activity.

Ms. Gerloff said she is not in favor of serving alcohol before and after performances. It has been her experience that alcohol is available during intermission and that has been very controlled. Mr. Mochel said he would not be in favor of serving alcohol before an event; however, he would not object to it being served during intermission and after the performance, if individuals were staying on the premises for a discussion or some similar activity.

Mr. Julian said he would like Mr. Johnson to come and discuss the details of his plans with the Commission. He added that alcohol service might be good for Mr. Johnson's business and for Downers Grove as well. Ms. Conforti said she would invite Mr. Johnson to attend a Commission meeting.

Ms. Conforti recalled that a few years ago the Ivy Group came before the Commission with a presentation for the Cinema Grill, a movie theater in which patrons could have food and alcohol service while watching feature films. Although the Village denied their request at that time, she said she would pull the minutes from that meeting for the Commission's review. Ms. Gerloff pointed out that Yorktown has a similar theater.

Ms. Gerloff asked how the Tivoli plans to serve alcohol. Ms. Conforti replied there would be a portable bar in the lobby.

VII. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MR. JULIAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MR. MOCHEL SECONDED.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:57 p.m.