

**DOWNERS GROVE LIQUOR COMMISSION
VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM
801 BURLINGTON AVENUE**

Thursday, March 7, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Strelau called the March 7, 2019 Liquor Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Clary, Ms. Flanagan, Mr. Krusenoski, Ms. Pietrucha (6:35), Chairman Strelau

ABSENT: Mr. Heafner, Mr. Jacobson

STAFF: Carol Kuchynka, Liaison to the Liquor Commission, Assistant Village Attorney
Dawn Didier

OTHERS: Luis Suarez, Court Reporter

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Strelau asked for approval of the minutes for the December 6, 2018 Liquor Commission meeting and asked members if there were any corrections, changes or additions.

Hearing no changes, corrections or additions, the December 6, 2018 minutes of the Liquor Commission meeting were approved as written.

Chairman Strelau reminded those present that this evening's meeting was being recorded on Village-owned equipment. Staff was present to keep minutes for the record and a court reporter was present taking the minutes verbatim.

IV. APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE

Chairman Strelau made the following statements:

"The next order of business is to conduct a public hearing for liquor license applications. For the benefit of all present, I would like to state that this Commission does not determine the granting or denial of the issuance of any license. We may at the end of each hearing, make a finding or recommendation with respect to the application. 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 liquor licenses within 60 days."

"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) discussion by the Commission, 4) comments from staff, 5) comments from the public, and 6) motion and finding by the Commission."

Cooper's Hawk Restaurant & Winery – 1801 Butterfield Road

Chairman Strelau stated that the first order of business was an application hearing for Cooper's Hawk Downers Grove, LLC d/b/a Cooper's Hawk Restaurant & Winery located at 1801 Butterfield Road. She stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "R-3", full alcohol, on- and off-premise consumption liquor license and a Class "O" outdoor liquor license.

Chairman Strelau asked that any individual(s) representing the applicant step forward and be seated. She asked that any individual(s) giving testimony, state and spell their name for the record, indicate their affiliation with the establishment and be sworn in by the court reporter.

Mr. Luis Suarez was sworn in by the court reporter. Mr. Suarez introduced himself as the general manager for Cooper's Hawk for the past 8 years.

Chairman Strelau asked the applicant to present its case.

Mr. Suarez stated that they were seeking a liquor license for a new modern Cooper's Hawk Restaurant & Winery which will be located on the old site of Carlucci Restaurant.

Mr. Suarez advised that they change the menu every six months to a year. He stated that they do regular food and wine pairings. He stated that they have a wine tasting counter, gift shop, candy case and sell wine related products. He stated that they also have a wine club where eight wine tastings are allowed per month as part of the membership.

Mr. Suarez stated that upon walking in the guest will approach the hostess stand and then be guided into a bright and modern dining room. He stated that this particular location will have an elevator to the second floor, which will house a patio and bar and dining area. He stated that one section of the upper patio may be closed off, but operable during warmer months.

Mr. Suarez stated that everything in the kitchen is made from scratch and added that bread and fresh produce are received daily.

Mr. Suarez stated that it is their goal to be a destination rather than just a place to dine.

Chairman Strelau asked for comments from the Commission.

Mr. Krusenowski welcomed them to Downers Grove. He stated that they are beginning to staff for an immense location. Mr. Suarez stated that this would be their flagship location and largest facility that they operate.

Mr. Krusenowski asked how they planned to train staff and if there was a formal program in safe liquor handling. Mr. Suarez replied that they are adamant about training and knowledge of wine. He stated that they have a philosophy that every day is a training day and learn from yesterday's mistakes. He stated that new hires go through an initial four hour orientation which includes steps of service, liquor handling, uniforms and other standards. He stated on day two of the training there is another set of trainers who train on food knowledge and hospitality and a sommelier who does a presentation on wine. He stated that they cover how to check identification. He stated that they want to be certain the team knows the importance of giving a guest a full experience so they will come back time and time again.

Mr. Suarez stated that the servers are trained to recognize signs of intoxication, they are to go to a manager with any concerns.

Mr. Suarez stated that there is usually a team of about 10 managers. He stated one will be assigned to the tasting room, one in the dining room and one in the back of the house kitchen.

Mr. Suarez stated that servers are limited to three tables each which allows the server more time to spend with the guest and manage the tables better. He stated that service is of utmost importance.

Mr. Clary asked if this construction is in addition to the other locations or if they are closing any. Mr. Suarez stated that this will be in addition. He stated that there is a Cooper's Hawk in Naperville, Arlington Heights, South Barrington, Burr Ridge and Oak Lawn are the nearest locations.

Mr. Suarez stated that the corporate support center will be established on the 10th floor of the adjacent office building. He stated that this will also be their flagship for entertaining.

Ms. Flanagan stated that she has been to both the Burr Ridge and Naperville locations and loved the establishment. She read over their training manual and did not have any questions.

Mr. Suarez reported that their turnover rate is 35% . He stated that the average is 110% . He stated that they focus on employees taking ownership that with great service comes great rewards. He stated that managers are always on the floor and always ready to assist.

Ms. Pietrucha noted the restaurant will be close to the office and asked Mr. Suarez if they expect a lot of office workers coming in for lunch and after hours for happy hour. Mr. Suarez replied yes but added they do not promote any type of happy hours.

Chairman Strelau stated that she was pleased to have the Cooper's Hawk in Downers Grove. She advised that she is a wine club member and added that she works in the building that they now occupy.

Chairman Strelau noted that Cooper's Hawk was planning on taking over the cafeteria operation at the complex. Mr. Suarez stated that he knew the kitchen manager at the location. He stated that they will apply the restaurant food service with the café itself too.

Mr. Suarez stated that he has been in restaurant management for 40 years.

Chairman Strelau stated that it is important to set the tone for the establishment. She stated that he clearly represented that they work with staff and that they understand the concept that servers only take their job as seriously as the organization does.

Chairman Strelau stated that the two terraces and outdoor eating areas sound delightful.

Chairman Strelau asked staff for recommendations or comments pertinent to this application. Ms. Kuchynka replied that issuance of the license is contingent upon receipt of the Certificate of Occupancy, satisfactory background checks, annual fee and employee certifications.

Chairman Strelau asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Strelau asked for a recommendation from the Commission concerning its finding of "qualified" or "not qualified" with respect to the applicant with regard to their Class "R-3" liquor license application.

MR. CLARY MOVED TO FIND COOPER'S HAWK DOWNERS GROVE, LLC D/B/A COOPER'S HAWK RESTAURANT AND WINERY LOCATED AT 1801 BUTTERFIELD ROAD QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS "R-3" FULL ALCOHOL ON- AND OFF--PREMISE LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. KRUSENOSKI SECONDED.

VOTE:

Aye: Mr. Clary, Mr. Krusenoski, Ms. Flanagan, Ms. Pietrucha, Chairman Strelau

Nay: None

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Strelau asked for a recommendation from the Commission concerning its finding of "qualified" or "not qualified" with respect to the applicant with regard to their Class "O" liquor license application.

MS. PIETRUCHA MOVED TO FIND COOPER'S HAWK DOWNERS GROVE, LLC D/B/A COOPER'S HAWK RESTAURANT AND WINERY LOCATED AT 1801 BUTTERFIELD ROAD QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS "O" FULL ALCOHOL OUTDOOR LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. KRUSENOSKI SECONDED.

VOTE:

Aye: Ms. Pietrucha, Mr. Krusenoski, Mr. Clary, Ms. Flanagan, Chairman Strelau

Nay: None

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0

Mr. Krusenoski asked when they planned to open. Mr. Suarez replied November.

Ms. Pietrucha asked if they will have wine available in the cafeteria. Mr. Suarez was unsure. Ms. Kuchynka noted that they would need to apply for a license if they sell or serve in the cafeteria. She noted that the private functions that are planned on the 10th floor will not require a license.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Strelau asked if there was any discussion, update from staff or comments from the Commission regarding any new business.

Ms. Kuchynka advised she did not anticipate holding an April meeting.

Ms. Kuchynka advised that the Village Council adopted an ordinance creating a Class R-3 liquor license classification for Cooper's Hawk which would meet their need for both on and off-premise consumption.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Strelau asked if there was any discussion, update from staff or comments from the Commission regarding any old business.

Ms. Kuchynka referred to the December, January and February month end reports. She provided the Commission with a new classification chart along with new annual fee chart for 2019.

Ms. Kuchynka advised of the Mayor's intent to issue the Corner Pantry and Carnivore & the Queen license. She stated that Corner Pantry is still in permitting and Carnivore and the Queen opened late February.

Ms. Kuchynka advised that sidewalk café license applications have been coming in. She noted that the season runs from March 15th through November 15th.

Ms. Kuchynka advised that the Downtown Management Organization pulled a special event liquor license and will be holding the 2nd annual Sip, Shop & Stroll event in the downtown. She stated that

fifteen businesses will be offering wine sampling from 5-8 p.m. She stated that the event will take place May 2nd. She advised that she will be conducting a training seminar for the participants and advised that snacks will be made available during the event.

Chairman Strelau asked if RBK was open. Ms. Kuchynka replied she believed so and that she did not hear otherwise, but would check to be certain.

Ms. Pietrucha asked if Nossa Brazilian Steakhouse closed. Ms. Kuchynka replied yes. She stated that the strip mall/location was not conducive to enough business.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Concluding business for the evening, Chairman Strelau called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Clary moved to adjourn the March 7, 2019 meeting. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:57 p.m.