

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

Thursday, January 5, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Strelau called the January 5, 2017 Liquor Commission meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krusenoski, Ms. Pietrucha, Chairman Strelau

ABSENT: Mr. Austin, Mr. Clary, Ms. King

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

OTHERS: Ana Santos, Mario Vitelo, Court Reporter

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Strelau asked for approval of the minutes for the December 1, 2016 Liquor Commission meeting and asked members if there were any corrections, changes or additions.

Hearing no changes, corrections or additions, the December 1, 2016 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 first order of business is to conduct a public hearing for a liquor license application. 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 the public, and 5) motion and finding by the Commission."

Nossa - 1340 Butterfield, Ste. 200A

Chairman Strelau stated that the next order of business was an application hearing for Nossa Downers Grove, LLC. d/b/a Nossa Brazilian Grill located at 1340 Butterfield, Ste. 200A. She stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "R-2", beer and wine, on-premise consumption 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. Mario Vitelo and Ms. Ana Santos were sworn in by the court reporter. Mr. Vitelo introduced himself as part owner and liquor manager for Nossa. Ms. Santos introduced herself as part owner and bookkeeper of Nossa.

Chairman Strelau asked the applicant to present its case.

Ms. Santos stated that they currently own and operate a Brazilian steakhouse in Schaumburg and decided to open their second restaurant in Downers Grove. She stated that Nossa Brazilian Grill will be a modified concept of the typical Brazilian steakhouse in that they will offer Chipotle buffet-style service in lieu of the all-you-can-eat style service. She stated that they were seeking a beer and wine license.

Mr. Krusenoski asked how long the Schaumburg restaurant has been in operation and if there were any liquor violations. Ms. Santos replied 5 years and noted that they have not had any violations at the location.

Mr. Krusenoski asked who will serve as liquor manager and how many employees they plan to hire. Mr. Vitelo replied he will serve as liquor manager. Ms. Santos stated that they will start with 10-12 employees at the Downers Grove location and will increase as they grow. She noted that a number of the Schaumburg employees will also work the Downers Grove location and stated that they were older with many years of experience.

Mr. Krusenoski noted the application read that they anticipate 5% in liquor sales. Ms. Santos stated that they will act primarily as a restaurant and that alcohol would be incidental to food service. She wanted customers to have the option to order beer or wine.

Mr. Krusenoski asked what the liquor sales are in Schaumburg. Ms. Santos replied Brazilian restaurants typically sell a lot more food than liquor, especially with the all-you-can eat where customers tend to fill up on food rather than drinks. She did not expect to sell a lot of alcohol in Downers Grove during lunch and may serve 1-2 drinks during dinner. She stated that she has a group of ladies that can meet for networking which this will be a nice location in that they can get small plates and lounge and dine for a long period of time.

Mr. Krusenoski stated that liquor was a small portion of their anticipated revenue. He cautioned them to be diligent and not violate any liquor laws as the fines and penalties could outweigh the costs of the license.

Mr. Krusenoski asked about the frequency of server meetings and their practices in Schaumburg. Mr. Vitelo stated that they meet with staff every week on Saturday to cover liquor service and remind them to card and pay attention when serving liquor.

Mr. Krusenoski asked if they will be bringing any servers over from the Schaumburg location. Mr. Vitelo replied yes and stated that they have both experienced servers and bartenders they intend to bring over. Ms. Santos stated that a number of their servers have been with them a long time and have a lot of experience.

Mr. Jacobson was pleased that they advised that they have a good history in Schaumburg and did not have any problems. He reviewed and was pleased with their liquor handling materials and noted that they will review policies every three months and will not accept the vertical license.

Mr. Jacobson looked forward to their opening.

Ms. Pietrucha was pleased they were locating to Downers Grove and looked forward to a place that will serve affordable Brazilian food.

Ms. Pietrucha questioned the layout and asked them to explain the two private rooms listed on the floor plan. Ms. Santos stated that the far private room will be used as an office area and for employee meetings. She stated that there will be another semi-private room which will hold her ladies networking groups, corporate lunch meetings and if a particular party would like a room of their own for a special occasion.

Ms. Pietrucha asked Ms. Santos to explain the bar/lounge and if everyone will have access to the area. Ms. Santos replied that the area is not completely restricted from vision, but will have a separate entrance with enclosure that is some type of see-through barrier. She stated they do not want to call a lot of attention to the bar area. She stated that it will not resemble a bar, per say, and noted food service, snacks and desserts will be available in the area.

Chairman Strelau stated that she was excited for this type of Brazilian food service which was not the full-on experience. Ms. Santos stated that this new concept will be buffet style, similar to Chipotle and not as expensive as the full service Brazilian steakhouse.

Chairman Strelau stated that Downers Grove takes liquor serving very seriously. She asked if the City of Schaumburg also conducts compliance tests on licensees. Ms. Santos replied yes.

Chairman Strelau stated that those licensees who take liquor serving seriously and talk with their servers and emphasize proper liquor service abide by the law. She advised them that 5% of liquor sales could be costly if they have a violation.

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 satisfactory background checks, annual fee, Certificate of Occupancy, employee certifications and dram shop insurance.

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

Mr. Krusenoski asked when they anticipated opening. Ms. Santos replied March.

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-2" liquor license application.

MR. JACOBSON MOVED TO FIND NOSSA DOWNERS GROVE, LLC. D/B/A NOSSA BRAZILIAN GRILL LOCATED AT 1340 BUTTERFIELD, STE. 200A, QUALIFIED FOR A

CLASS "R-2", BEER AND WINE, ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. KRUSENOSKI SECONDED.

VOTE: **Aye:** Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krusenoski, Ms. Pietrucha, Chairman Strelau
Nay: None
Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED: 4:0:0

Motion carried.

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 month end report which noted the Mayor's intent to issue licenses to Chipotle, Trio Restaurant and Honey Jam. She stated that Chipotle was currently serving and advised that Trio is set for a soft-open on January 9th. She advised that the Honey Jam license will go into effect February 1st.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

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

Ms. Kuchynka stated that she was expecting submittal of an application and anticipated having a February meeting.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Jacobson moved to adjourn the January 5, 2017 meeting. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:05 p.m.