

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

Thursday, October 3, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Staff called the October 3, 2019 Liquor Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Clary, Mr. Heafner, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Krusenoski

ABSENT: Ms. Flanagan, Chairman Strelau

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

OTHERS: Santhosh Pillai, Fadi Osmano, Court Reporter

III. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

In the absence of Chairman Strelau, staff requested a motion to appoint a Chairman Pro Tem for the meeting.

MR. JACOBSON MOVE TO APPOINT MR. KRUSENOSKI TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN PRO TEM FOR THE OCTOBER 3, 2019 MEETING OF THE DOWNERS GROVE LIQUOR COMMISSION. MR. CLARY SECONDED.

VOTE:

Aye: Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Clary, Mr. Heafner, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Krusenoski

Nay: None

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0

Motion Carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked for approval of the minutes for the August 1, 2019 Liquor Commission meeting and asked members if there were any corrections, changes or additions.

Hearing no changes, corrections or additions, the August 1, 2019 minutes of the Liquor Commission meeting were approved as written.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski 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 Pro Tem Krusenoski 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."

Doubletree Suites – 2111 Butterfield Road

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski stated that the first order of business was an application hearing for AC Hospitality, LLC d/b/a Doubletree Suites located at 2111 Butterfield Road. He stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "O", full alcohol, outdoor liquor license.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked that any individual(s) representing the applicant step forward and be seated. He 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. Santhosh Pillai and Mr. Fadi Osmano were sworn in by the court reporter. Mr. Pillai introduced himself as the liquor manager of Doubletree Suites. Mr. Osmano introduced himself as the General Manager of the hotel.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked the applicant to present its case.

Mr. Pillai stated that the Doubletree is establishing a new concept for the restaurant at the hotel. He stated that they added a patio to the facility and were seeking approval for a full liquor license for the new outdoor café at the Doubletree.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked for comments from the Commission.

Mr. Jacobson asked Mr. Pillai if they had any liquor violations. Mr. Pillai replied no.

Ms. Kuchynka advised that they have held a license since June 16, 2016 and have passed three control buy tests in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Mr. Heafner noted the good job in passing all the control buy tests.

Mr. Heafner asked about the fence enclosure. Mr. Pillai replied that there will be an entrance to, and emergency exit from, the patio. He added that the area will be monitored by a patio attendant. He stated that they plan to bus the tables quicker than the interior of the restaurant.

Mr. Heafner asked if the fencing was sufficient to prevent patrons from passing drinks in and out and if the area was easily monitored. Mr. Pillai replied that the fence is 36" high. He stated that staff will be monitoring the space.

Ms. Kuchynka asked Mr. Pillai to explain how the entrance to the patio will be regulated. Mr. Pillai replied that all seating will be done by the hostess. He stated that patrons who walk into the restaurant will be escorted into the area. Mr. Osmano added that the seating is all assigned.

Mr. Clary said his question was answered about whether access was limited.

Mr. Clary asked how long they have held a license. Mr. Pillai replied since June, 2016.

Mr. Clary asked Mr. Pillai about his liquor handling experience. Mr. Pillai stated that he has experience for the last four years from their other hotel in West Palm Beach. Mr. Clary asked if they have had any violations. Mr. Pillai replied none.

Mr. Johnson asked how many can be seated in the patio. Mr. Osmano replied that it will vary depending on those who are seated for dining or seated in the lounging area.

Mr. Johnson asked how many tables a server is responsible for. Mr. Pillai replied that servers in the restaurant area are assigned three tables, which they plan to implement on the patio.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked if they plan on opening the patio this year. Mr. Pillai replied that they plan to open the patio along with the restaurant re-grand opening event which is scheduled for the Saturday following next. He is aware that they are only allowed to operate the patio through November 15th. He stated that it will be utilized weather permitting until then.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked if they plan to hold special events on the patio. Mr. Osmano replied that its planned use is the extension of their restaurant.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked if the staff attendant is in addition to servers that will be serving the patio. Mr. Osmano replied that the patio attendant will be in addition to the servers.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked what the role of the patio attendant is. Mr. Osmano replied bussing of tables and monitoring the area. He stated that their biggest concern in the area is to remove unfinished drinks as soon as patrons leave the tables.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski appreciated their past good record. He stated that they will be tested in the future and recommend that they maintain their diligence and instill the importance of proper liquor service and keep the culture that you take the serving of alcohol seriously.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked how often they have staff meetings. Mr. Osmano replied that although this is a new concept they are unveiling, they have strict guidelines for liquor service. He stated that the Fabio Viviani franchise sponsor has higher and stricter standards for servers in which they are expected to operate.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski stated that they should stress the importance of serving liquor day in and day out. Mr. Pillai replied that they hold a daily “stand up” meeting prior to each shift change along with monthly staff meetings.

Ms. Kuchynka stated that Mr. Pillai advised her that new staff is trained upon hire with the new policy and that existing staff went through a re-training with the inclusion of the patio policies.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked staff for recommendations or comments pertinent to this application. Ms. Kuchynka replied that issuance of the license is contingent upon installation of the fence, receipt of the Temporary Use permit and receipt of the annual outdoor liquor license fee.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski 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.

MR. CLARY MOVED TO FIND AC HOSPITALITY, LLC D/B/A DOUBLETREE SUITES LOCATED AT 2111 BUTTERFIELD ROAD QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS "O" FULL ALCOHOL, OUTDOOR LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. JACOBSON SECONDED.

VOTE:

Aye: Mr. Clary, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Heafner, Mr. Johnson,
Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski

Nay: None

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0

Mr. Osmano stated that Fabio Viviani appeared on Season 3 and 4 of Top Chef. He added that this is Viviani’s first restaurant expansion into the suburbs which will be located in their hotel.

V. NEW BUSINESS

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

Ms. Kuchynka advised the Commission that she received a request to make available an additional Class R-3 liquor license for on- and off-premise consumption. She stated that the applicant, The Foxtail, who

is set to appear before the Commission at next month's hearing, is seeking this license class. She stated that a part of their operation will be to host dinners and pair them with special wines which they plan to offer for sale after the dining experience for off-premise consumption. She stated that they would like the ability to have both on-premise and off-premise sales.

Ms. Kuchynka advised that the Village recently added the Class R-3 license to accommodate Cooper's Hawk Restaurant & Winery on- and off-premise sales. She stated that when the license was created, it was limited in number. She stated that the owners of The Foxtail are the owners who operate Cadence and who previously operated The Lemon Tree Grocer. She stated that The Lemon Tree Grocer had an on- and off-premise license with the primary business being a grocery store and have liquor handling experience in both regards.

Ms. Kuchynka asked the Commission for a recommendation on increasing the number of Class R-3 licenses from one to two.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski had no objection to allowing another license. Ms. Kuchynka stated the Village typically will issue a limit on newly created license types. She stated that in this instance, the main and principal business will be the operation of a restaurant with incidental wine sales. She stated that restaurant and hotel licenses are unlimited in number.

MR. CLARY MOVED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CLASS R-3 ON- AND OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSES FROM ONE (1) TO TWO (2). MR. JACOBSON SECONDED.

VOTE:

Aye: Mr. Clary, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Heafner, Mr. Johnson,
Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski

Nay: None

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0

VI. OLD BUSINESS

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

Ms. Kuchynka referred to the August and September month end reports. She advised that Cooper's Hawk Restaurant & Winery opened to the general public.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenoski noticed a stall in the opening of Wasabi on Main Street. Ms. Kuchynka reported that they encountered some building issues and their opening will be pushed back.

Ms. Kuchynka advised that the Downers Grove Wine Shop has reopened as WAGs Wine Shop. She stated that they have submitted a floor plan change to the Mayor. She stated that they will be adding a 3-compartment sink, which will expand their food item offerings, they removed a few bar stools and added two tables.

Ms. Kuchynka advised she has two applications on file and noted there will be a meeting on November 7th.

Chairman Pro Tem Krusenowski asked about Commission membership changes. Ms. Kuchynka replied that Chairman Strelau and Ms. Flanagan were absent due to other engagements, however, Mr. Johnson has replaced Ms. Pietrucha as her term expired August 31st. The group welcomed Mr. Johnson.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Concluding business for the evening, Chairman Pro Tem Krusenowski called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Clary moved to adjourn the October 3, 2019 meeting. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:52 p.m.