

MINUTES
LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018, 4:30 PM
2 E MAIN STREET, ST. CHARLES

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was convened by Commissioner Rogina at 4:30 pm.

2. Roll Call.

Members Present: Liquor Commissioner Rogina, Ald. Vitek, Fran Zollers, and Robert Gehm.

Members Absent: Ald. Silkaitis

3. Motion to accept and place on file minutes of the Liquor Control Commission meeting held on September 17, 2018.

Motion by Mr. Gehm, second by Ald. Vitek to accept and place on file minutes of the Liquor Control Commission meeting held on September 17, 2018.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. Commissioner Rogina did not vote as Commissioner. **Motion Carried.**

4. Recommendation to approve a Proposal for a Site Modification for the Alibi Located at 18 N 3rd Street, St. Charles.

Commissioner Rogina: The proposal before you is a function of the approval of the Liquor Commissioner. I asked the Chief to put this on the agenda for you, and for the Government Operations Committee meeting tonight. I'd like to receive input from you as to this project being presented by the Alibi.

Chief Keegan: I've been working with Mr. Simpson on behalf of the Alibi for several months. Mr. Simpson brought this proposal to the Historic Preservation Committee and received a certificate of appropriateness. He's worked with a local architect and city staff. The renderings are in your packet. Mr. Simpson would like to stay competitive in the market place. In his general area there are several establishments with patios. Mr. Simpson's plan does not affect the footprint of the building. He's going to just open the roof area. Once again, this really just calls for the Commissioners approval, but we want to be transparent in the process. I would ask that you look at the bullet points provided about the project, those are directly from Mr. Simpson's application material.

Mr. Gehm: The drawings look good. The handicap exit is down in the corner, how will that be monitored in case someone wants to sneak in the establishment?

Mr. Simpson: This will be a handicap only entrance.

Mr. Gehm: Everyone else will enter through the establishment. Will that will be gated or locked off?

Mr. Simpson: Yes. It will be gated. We looked that over extremely carefully to make sure there were no issues with that entrance.

Commissioner Rogina: Do any of you have any concerns?

Ms. Zollers: I'm new to the Commission. Have you had violations in the past?

Mr. Simpson: Yes. People getting out the door with drinks.

Ms. Zollers: There was no way the security guards can...

Mr. Simpson: They were hiding bottles in their coats, putting them in pockets. We changed several things to eliminate that from happening.

Commissioner Rogina: I would note for the record that after the most recent incident we had a long meeting. The Chief set up a remediation plan that involved no glass. Mr. Simpson as abided by those regulations since. We're happy about that.

I would assume if you have music we're not going to have complaints.

Mr. Simpson: There will be no music outside.

Commissioner Rogina: Since you are reducing your footprint, do you intend during the winter to adopt what I would call, "The Office Model", using the patio during the winter by covering it with a tent?

Mr. Simpson: Yes, we're speaking with a consultant.

Commissioner Rogina: What's the rule regarding smoking regulations?

Chief Keegan: If it's not a permanent structure and there is open ventilation, or if it has the capability of being covered or zipped up, and there is always a portion that is open smoking is permitted.

Mr. Simpson: We checked with the Fire Department and the State Fire Marshall as well.

Commissioner Rogina: Pending all information and input I will notify you, through the Chief, of a decision by Wednesday, October 17. I think it's a very handsome build out.

Ms. Zollers: Assuming that all goes well. What's your timeline?

Mr. Simpson: I hope to get it going now, weather permitting.

Mr. Gehm: There is some deconstruction to that outside corner that needs to be done.

Mr. Simpson: We'll be building the inside while they work on the outside. It will be separated.

Mr. Gehm: The permitting will take some time in order to do that correctly.

Commissioner Rogina: Patios present their own set of challenges and opportunities. I'm hoping for the opportunities and not challenges. Thank you, Rich.

Chief Keegan: Just as a point of order, it does say recommendation to approve.

Commissioner Rogina: I consider that recommendation is for me. At the Government Operations Committee, it sits under information only.

Chief Keegan: As far as the Liquor Control Commission you have that sole authority so it's considered a recommendation?

Atty.: McGuirk: I would think so, to make a record of some sort.

Chief Keegan: I want to make sure I'm accurate when I relay that to the committee later this evening.

Commissioner Rogina: Are there any objections to moving this forward?

The members of the Liquor Control Commission indicated that they were in favor of moving it forward.

5. Recommendation to approve a Proposal for a New Class B-1 Liquor License Application, Including a 1:00 a.m. Late Night Permit, for R-House located at 214 W Main Street, St. Charles.

Chief Keegan: The applicants own and operate St. Charles Motor Sports located on the far west side. They have some restaurant/bar experience and are looking to take over Dawn's Boatyard. The site plan and business plan is in your packet. It's a similar concept as to what's there now. There isn't a commercial kitchen in that facility. There are going to be snacks offered which is current to the Dawn's business plan. They are going to allow and encourage local restaurant delivery. There is a patio in the floorplan. We went through the background and material and thought it was well done. There was nothing in their background that would cause concern for obtaining a liquor license.

Brian Rudowiz: We currently own St. Charles Motor Cars on the west side of St. Charles. We've been there for about 5 years. We are now looking to take over Dawn's Boatyard.

Justin Allen: I'm also one of the owners of St. Charles Motor Cars.

Commissioner Rogina: I'm intrigued about this expansion of business from motorsports to an establishment downtown with alcohol and a little food.

Justin Allen: We were looking for an opportunity to start another business in

St. Charles. Noting all the building that's going on, us being a bit older, there's not always a great place for us to go and get a drink on the weekends. We thought we would do something aimed at a little more mature crowd. We would like to make it a nice spot that's nicely done. We're going compliment that with more of a chef style of cocktails. We aren't looking to be a late night bar, but more of a place to go after dinner.

Commissioner Rogina: The Chief referred to the Winery there before and it appealed to an older crowd.

Mr. Gehm: There will obviously be some changes to make it more upscale. Other than offering snacks and encouraging food purchases from local restaurants, is that something you would do to market to the other establishments?

Justin Allen: Having just a bar we reached out to Grub Hub, and we'll have menus with local fare for ordering.

Commissioner Rogina: I like that we're seeing more of the cross marketing.

Ms. Zollers: Walk me through how the food ordering will be done.

Justin Allen: It depends on where they get the food. If it's Grub Hub they may have the AP. If they are looking for menus from local establishment we'll have them there. We can call it in for the customer.

Ms. Zollers: Will you have music?

Justin Allen: Yes, nothing outlandishly loud. Just background.

Commissioner Rogina: Is there a television?

Justin Allen: There are a couple televisions.

Mr. Gehm: Live music would be pretty hard to do based on the size.

Justin Allen: Yes.

Ms. Zollers: Mr. Allen, it's you that has bar experience. Have you owned one?

Justin Allen: Yes. I have worked in one.

Commissioner Rogina: This is your first liquor license.

Justin Allen: I have a lot of experience in big venues.

Motion by Mr. Gehm, second by Ald. Vitek to recommend to approve a Proposal for a New Class B-1 Liquor License Application, Including a 1:00 a.m. Late Night Permit, for R-House located at 214 W Main Street, St. Charles.

Roll Call: Ayes: Vitek, Gehm, Zollers; Nays: None. Commissioner Rogina did not vote as Commissioner. **Motion Carried.**

6. Public Comment.

7. Executive Session (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(4)).

8. Adjournment.

Motion by Ms. Zollers, second by Ald. Vitek to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. Commissioner Rogina did not vote as Commissioner. **Motion Carried.**

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