



Liquor Advisory Board February 11, 2016

The Carbondale Liquor Advisory Board held a meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2016, in Room 103 of the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue. Chairman Mark Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following-named members of the Board present/absent:

1. Roll Call

Present: Steve Payne, David Cisco, Tasis Karayiannis, Donald Monty, and Mark Robinson

Absent: John Mills (Two Student Positions Vacant)

A quorum was available to take action on the agenda items. City Staff present for the meeting included City Clerk Jennifer Sorrell, Fire Inspector Tom Manis, and Police Lieutenant Mark Stearns.

2. Approval of Minutes

D. Cisco moved, T. Karayiannis seconded, to approve the minutes from December 3, 2015. All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

3. Consideration of a request to transfer locations and renew a request for an expiring 180-day permit for Reel Lucky to operate a B3 liquor license (video gaming establishment with on-premises consumption of all alcoholic liquors) at 1224 West Main Street

Scott Uffelman was present to respond to Board questions. Mr. Uffelman explained the reason for relocating the business. The Illinois Gaming Board determined that they did not want more than one establishment in the same roofline, so Mr. Uffelman located a new facility.

MOTION: T. Karayiannis moved, D. Monty seconded, to recommend approval of the relocation request and reissuance of the 180-day permit for Reel Lucky at 1224 West Main Street. All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

4. Application for a Class B3 license (Video gaming establishment - on-premises consumption of all alcoholic liquors) from Little Vegas Gaming, LLC d/b/a Little Vegas (second location) at 100 North Glenview Drive

Trace Brown was present to respond to Board questions. Mr. Brown indicated that the second location would be similar to his establishment on the east side, which he described as a low-key, clean environment which is doing well and does not serve a lot of alcohol. This location will be in a portion of the space formerly occupied by Ashley Furniture, which space is being divided by the landlord. Mr. Monty noted that the application indicated the location was not near a gas station, but in actuality was perhaps a quarter of a mile to Shell and about half a mile from the ZX station. He then asked about the nearest establishment with video gaming, which is Larry's House of Cakes. Mr. Robinson remarked on his unease due to the proximity to the park and Mr. Brown responded that his perception was to an establishment of a different nature; that this establishment was not dirty and smoky. In response to the start-up costs, Mr. Brown noted the machines are owned by the gaming people. Mr. Cisco asked about the distance requirement from this location to another location with gaming. The Clerk noted that the 500 foot distance requirement is from one B3 location to another B3 location.

MOTION: D. Monty moved, T. Karayiannis seconded, to recommend approval of the Class B3 liquor license to Little Vegas Gaming at 100 North Glenview Drive, contingent upon receipt of outstanding items. VOTE: With one abstention (M. Robinson), the remaining Board members voted aye. Motion declared carried.

5. Application for a Class A2 liquor license from Bombay Olive, LLC, d/b/a Bombay Olive at 518 South Illinois Avenue

Srinivas Gundala was present to respond to Board questions and remarked that the facility will be a fine Indian dining restaurant which will have a buffet for lunch and sit-down dinner. The Board expressed concern about the business creating building vacancies whether it does well or does not do well. There were a number of questions about the sufficiency of \$40,000 to finance the operation [much of the kitchen equipment would be second-hand, he holds a mortgage for the building, and is self-funded for the restaurant and the liquor store.] It was noted that in December, the application for the liquor store indicated that the building has a total of 4,300 square feet on the ground floor with the liquor store utilizing 1,200 square feet, which leaves 3,100 square feet for the restaurant, but the dimensions on the drawing do not appear to match up. Mr. Gundala responded to a number of questions pertaining to the application: the dimensions of the hallway [counted as a part of the restaurant area], unlabeled rooms on the diagram [part of the kitchen], access to second floor [through a door which opens on to the sidewalk on the east side of the building at the south end], his experience with the restaurant business [from time to time, he provides assistance to Delish], why he utilized St. Andrews Episcopal Church for proximity on the application when the Lutheran Church is closer [an error, he did not realize], proximity to other liquor establishments [14 feet from the door of his future liquor store], plans for an outdoor café [no, there was initially, but not now], the sufficiency of staffing for twelve hour days/seven days a week [if needed, he will add more staff], and a personal interest question about the menu.

MOTION: D. Cisco moved, T. Karayiannis second, to recommend approval of the Class A2 license for Bombay Olive contingent upon receipt of outstanding items. VOTE: All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

6. Consideration of second quarter reports from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Building and Neighborhood Services for license year 2015-2016

The Board expressed their appreciation for the detailed listing of warnings/citations issued by the Fire Inspector, noted their concern about over-occupancies as it is a real safety issue, that management needs to do a better job of keeping track of how many people are in the location, and they need to ensure the doormen are aware of what the occupancy is. It was noted that the over-occupancy makes it difficult for employees to police underage consumption. It was suggested that Building and Neighborhood Services needs to look at physical maintenance issues at other times during the year besides the annual inspection. Mr. Karayiannis stated that the Health Department also looks at these issues.

MOTION: D. Monty moved, T. Karayiannis, to acknowledge receipt of the reports and forward to the Liquor Control Commission. All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

7. Liquor Advisory Board Comments

Next meeting March 3, 2016

8. Citizens

Anne Gaylord hypothesized that this swarming behavior in bars might be intentional so that drinks can be passed to underage drinkers.

Navreet Kang asked what the Board or the public thinks about the possibility of establishing distance requirements between package liquor stores, grandfathering in the currently existing locations, but creating language for future licensing. Mr. Kang noted that the idea of clustering liquor stores works for restaurants, but he is not sure that it works for liquor stores. The Board and Mr. Kang had an extended discussion regarding market forces versus regulation and particularly regulation of controlled substances/vices. A key point seemed to be that restaurants can differentiate themselves by menu, décor, atmosphere, and service, while liquor stores are not able to set themselves apart to a similar degree. The Board's recommendations ran the gamut, including not regulating this matter; regulating the distance requirement; that in this particular case, it would be better to let the market sort it out; and that if the Council wants the Board to discuss Code changes, the direction should come from them.

Mr. Kang noted that he had asked the question to hear some feedback, which he did receive.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Date Approved

Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk