



## **Liquor Advisory Board June 2, 2016**

The City of Carbondale's Liquor Advisory Board held a meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2016, in Room 103 of the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue. Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m. with the following-named members of the Board present/absent:

### **1. Roll Call**

Present: John Mills, Tasis Karayiannis, David Cisco, and Mark Robinson  
(Donald Monty entered at 5:32 p.m.)

Absent: Steve Payne

A quorum was available to take action on the agenda items. City Staff present for the meeting included City Clerk Jennifer Sorrell, City Attorney Lenoard "Jamie" Snyder, Fire Inspector Tom Manis, Deputy Chief Stan Reno, and Lieutenant Matt Dunning.

### **2. Discussion with representatives from Key West, Noah's Lounge, and Tres Hombres**

The Board noted that this discussion was not intended to be adversarial, but rather to open a dialogue regarding the impact of minimum percentage requirements, gaming revenues, operational hours, and appropriate classifications for establishments.

#### **Jeff Vaughn of Tres Hombres (Class A2 – restaurant/all alcoholic liquors)**

Mr. Vaughn was present to discuss the renewal application and the business data report figures included with the renewal application for Tres Hombres. Mr. Vaughn assumed ownership of the corporation and business in September 2015. The Board asked Mr. Vaughn what he felt would be an appropriate solution to the matter of minimum percentage requirements particularly when gaming revenues are included in the reported figures. Mr. Vaughn stated that the percentage requirement for restaurant licenses was put into effect long before video gaming was allowed in Illinois. He indicated that they are making improvements to the restaurant side of Tres Hombres to improve the business overall and does not have an interest in reclassifying the license to a B2. Mr. Vaughn stated that the gaming revenues had decreased somewhat due to the overall increase in locations where video gaming was available.

Mr. Vaughn responded to inquiries and comments including the effect of Happy Hour on alcohol sales [does not result in significant alcohol sales increase], demographics of customers [mostly an older crowd], was gaming occurring incidentally or were patrons coming specifically to game [mix], and what the ratio of food/alcohol sales is once gaming is removed from the equation [approximately 51% food to 49% alcohol sales].

#### **Scott Uffelman of Key West (Class B2 – On-premises consumption "bar")**

Scott Uffelman was present to discuss Key West's application and business data report. Questions, responses, and comments included the following:

Who runs the restaurant within Key West [third party owns and operates the restaurant, but does not sell alcohol]; the percentage of income from gaming [58%]; whether the applicant wants to be a gaming establishment or bar [restaurant business just started, would like to see where the sales come in during the year to keep the bar license]; how would the restaurant sales affect liquor sales [believes that those coming in for food will purchase alcohol from the bar side]; what issues would occur if the license were

changed from a B2 to a B3 license [owner holds a 180 day permit for a B3 licensed establishment which is less than 500 feet away from the B2 license and two B3 licenses cannot be located within 500 feet of one another]; at the time of applying for the second location (the B3 location) applicant indicated that the new location should pull away from the demand for gaming at the bar location which he still believes is the case; what the timeline is for opening the new location [ready in two weeks for inspections, but will still have to be placed on the Illinois Gaming Board's docket for approval which may take a few months to process]; and what is the procedure for receiving the gaming license [the applicant must obtain the local liquor license first, then the State liquor license, after which they can apply for their gaming license, but the approval of which will take several months as the Gaming Board only convenes a handful of times a year].

### **Sandra Farr and Nora Harris of Noah's Lounge (Class B2 – On-premises consumption “bar”)**

Sandra Farr, President of Noah's Lounge, LLC, and Nora Harris, Secretary, were present to discuss the renewal application for Noah's Lounge.

The issue with this location is hours of operation, and whether they are an event center or bar. When is the bar open [mostly on weekends, but they are not getting afternoon business]; demographics of customers [a lot of their business comes from students and with the students absent, there is no business]; the general public can't tell when to come to the facility due to inconsistent hours, which may be a disincentive to coming [personal/health issues have limited their hours]; does the majority of business come from groups renting the facility or people coming from off the street [predominantly from those holding a party at the location and from booking some artists]; how long can they be closed, per the City Code, before it is an issue [if closed for more than ten days, they should notify City; longer than 30 days can result in suspension or revocation of license]; the renewal application indicates they are open daily from 1:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. so for the time being, and a suggestion that it would be a good policy to contact the City about any extended time of closure.

The Board asked how to request the drafting of an event center license or revisiting the percentage requirements for restaurants. The Clerk and City Attorney indicated that they would work on this item for either July or August.

It was noted that the large events have resulted in an increase for policing which is a drain on City resources. The representatives stated that there have been some issues with attendees feuding and most of the problems are occurring in the parking lot. There was gratitude expressed for the police department's assistance in policing the location at and around the closing hour. The expressions of gratitude were appreciated, but it was again restated that this is a drain on resources and that there is not enough staffing to ensure even coverage for bars and in neighborhoods.

The Board noted that there was a loose end regarding the Board's recommendation to approve these three renewal applications. As the item was listed as a matter of discussion, it was determined that there would be no formal action during the meeting, but would forward the draft meeting minutes to help guide the Local Liquor Control Commission and to make evident that the Board had no intent to recommend denying the renewal applications.

### **3. Liquor Advisory Board Comments**

Next meeting scheduled for July 7, 2016.

### **4. Citizens' Comments**

None.

**5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk

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Date Approved