

**Liquor Commission
Village Hall – Board Room
March 9, 2017 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Dan Foster, Chairperson
Michael McNeily, Member
Martin Scott, Director CD
Michael Jurusik, Attorney
Patrick Higgins, Village Manager

Alice Gallagher, Trustee
John Robinson, Park District
Dan Albrecht, LES
Rob Salerno, Salerno's
Alyson Zak, Resident

Absent: Brian Cronin, Member

Call to Order/Roll Call: Chairperson Dan Foster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Director Martin Scott conducted the roll call. Two members present. One member absent.

Reading of Agenda –Additions-Deletions: Chairperson Dan Foster read the agenda and asked for additions or deletions. There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment: Mrs. Alyson Zak, 4631 Central Avenue, addressed the Commission on behalf of the Coalition for Drug-Free Lyons Township. The focus of the Coalition is underage drinking and their work has found that if teens are drinking they are drinking at home and in neighborhood parks. Mrs. Zak and the Coalition feel that using a neighborhood park for an event that features drinking beer sends the wrong message to young people. She acknowledged that while the proposed Park District event was probably a done deal she wanted to be on record with an objection. Village attorney, Michael Jurusik, responded that tonight's meeting was a first step on the approval process for the Park District's application for a liquor license for their upcoming event and that the event was not yet a done deal.

Western Springs Park District "Sip and Shop" Event – Request for Class "I" Special Event Liquor

License: John Robinson, Executive Director, and the Western Springs Park District are requesting a Class "I" Special Event liquor license for a "Sip and Shop" event on Saturday, May 13, 2017. The event will be a craft beer tasting festival and boutique fair. It will be held on the lower (western) parking lot at Spring Rock Park. The area will be fenced and secure. The Park District will work with the Police and Fire Departments to insure that there will be adequate emergency exits and that all alcohol remains on the property. The Class "I" License will allow craft beer vendors to pour and serve tastings (3-4 ounces) and all vendors will be Bassett trained. Patrons of the beer tasting event must be of legal drinking age and must have a designated wrist band. Mr. Robinson presented a site plan for the event and answered questions from the Commission about security, ID procedures, parking restrictions, other areas of the park that day, anticipated attendance numbers and alternate plan should weather be an issue the day of the event. The Commission was informed that the Village General Government Committee had met in February to discuss the Park District's request and had recommended that it move forward at that time to the Liquor Commission. On February 27, 2017 the Board of Trustees voted to approve and issue a Temporary Use Permit to the Western Springs Park District to allow the "Sip and Shop" Event. Director Martin Scott added that for each event like the proposed "Sip and Shop" and other similar events the Village staff (Community Development, LES, Fire, and Public Works) meet to review all permit, license, safety and maintenance issues. Member Michael McNeily made a motion to recommend that the Park District's application for a Class "I" Special Event liquor license be approved; Chairperson Dan Foster seconded the motion. All in favor – aye. Motion carried. At this time resident Alyson Zak inquired

about the next step in the approval process. Mr. Scott responded that the Park District's request would now go before the Board of Trustees at an April meeting.

Liquor Control Ordinance – Proposed Text Amendments re: Sign Regulations for Class “G” Liquor Licenses: Amendments to the Liquor Control Code have been proposed. Most apply to the type and method of notification that special event liquor license applicants must make at the time their applications are scheduled to be heard before the Liquor Commission. One of the proposed amendments applies directly to the liquor license applications for Salerno's Pizzeria and R Bar. Changes relating to the sign content allowed for businesses holding liquor licenses have been proposed. “Bar” is currently not allowed. The reasoning in the first liquor code was the concern that typical bars or taverns, without food service, would be permitted. In reality, the establishments that hold liquor licenses in Western Springs have proven to be well run and not focused exclusively on alcohol but on full service dining. The proposed change to the Liquor Control Ordinance to allow the word “bar” seems to be a reasonable approach to allowing some flexibility on a case by case basis. The proposed amendments were favorably reviewed by the General Government Committee. The use of the word “bar” was discussed and deemed acceptable when it is integral to the name or brand of the business. Michael Jurusik, Village attorney, elaborated on the draft for the proposed amendments. The changes would be less restrictive and more flexible regarding establishment signage. The required food to alcohol ration would not change. All liquor licensed establishments in the Village must provide full service dining in addition to the bar service. Chairperson Dan Foster moved to recommend approval of the proposed text amendment to the Liquor Control Ordinance; Member Michael McNeily seconded the motion. All in favor – aye. Motion carried.

Robert Salerno/Salerno's Pizzeria & R Bar 821 Burlington – Request for Class “B”, “G”, “H”, and “N” Liquor Licenses - Mr. Robert Salerno purchased the building at 821 Burlington and plans to “Salerno's Pizzeria and R Bar” in the space that was formerly occupied by Mecenat Bistro. The new restaurant will be an upscale pizzeria and bar high quality home-made food and pizza. Mr. Salerno presented the background of the Salerno family pizza restaurant business and his personal restaurant business successes. He is working on the build-out for his Western Springs business on Burlington and plans on an early April opening. Mr. Salerno's request before the Liquor Commission is to retain the existing Class “B” (restaurant), Class “G” (fine wine/package sales), Class “H” (outdoor dining/consumption), and Class “N” (catering) licenses as had been held by Mecenat. The above mentioned proposed ordinance amendment, if approved, would allow for the “Bar” in the business title and signage. Mr. Scott noted that Mr. Salerno's license requests are proceeding through the necessary background checks and that the General Government Committee had already favorably reviewed the requests. At this time, Chairperson Dan Foster made a motion to recommend approval of the Salerno requests for Class “B”, “G”, “H”, and “N” liquor licenses; Member Michael McNeily seconded the motion. All in favor – aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – November 7, 2016: There were no additions or deletions. Chairperson Dan Foster moved to approve the minutes; Member Michael McNeily seconded the motion. All in favor – aye. The minutes were approved.

Other Business: Director Martin Scott advised that in the near future the Commission would be considering a liquor license request from the proprietors of the Salty Fig Kitchen and Pantry which is planned for the space formerly occupied by Snackers.

Adjournment: Chairperson Dan Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Member Michael McNeily seconded the motion. All in favor – aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Prepared by: T. McGann