

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
August 21, 2023**

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees Bertucci, Dunnington, Grasse, LaBedz, Shirley, Schwingbeck, and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Baldino

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Village Manager Randy Recklaus; Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula; Village Attorney Greg Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Damian Gil-Lara, Keith Moens, Kristopher Koppers, Brent Khazei, John Fridono, Angelina Fridono and Rocco Fridono

A. Interview of Damian Gil-Lara for appointment to the Environmental Commission (youth member), term ending 4-30-2024.

Mayor Hayes introduced Damian Gil-Lara, a student at a local high school who is interested in the environment. Trustees thanked Damian for his willingness to serve and asked him more about his background and involvement with the Future Farmers of America.

When asked what he hopes to bring to the Environmental Commission, Damian stated he hopes to bring a fresh opinion and that he feels it is good to have all types of perspectives when putting together plans.

Trustee Schwingbeck moved, seconded by Trustee Dunnington to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees recommend Damian Gil-Lara for appointment to the Environmental Commission (youth member), term ending 4-30-2024.

The Mayor asked if there were any further comments or questions from the Board or audience. Resident Keith Moens stated he would highly recommend the candidate due to the fact that he is president of local FFA chapter, a respected position and that he feels he probably understands Robert's Rules of Order.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

B. Consideration of recommending to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class AA liquor license to Highbar Services Inc dba Bird's Nest Arlington Heights located at 11 W. Davis Street.

The Mayor swore in Kristopher Koppers and Brent Khazei, owners of Bird's Nest Arlington Heights.

Ms. Mikula gave the staff report. She stated that this location had previously been Dunton House, which did have a liquor license.

Police completed a background check in February on Brent Khazei and Kristopher Koppers, no issues were noted. A walk through was conducted on August 10 and the submitted floor plan matched what was observed.

Upon a satisfactory interview tonight, Ms. Mikula stated, it would be appropriate to issue a Class AA liquor license to Highbar Services Inc dba Bird's Nest Arlington Heights located at 11 W. Davis Street.

Mayor Hayes asked Mr. Mr. Koppers and Khazei about their other location in Chicago. They stated they have held a liquor license at that location since 2002 and both of them have been involved in the operation since it's opening at that time. Mayor Hayes pointed out that he did see that there had been a liquor violation almost 20 years ago, which was a sale to a minor. Mr. Koppers and Mr. Khazei stated there have been no violations since that time.

Mr. Khazei stated that wings are what they are known for in Chicago. At this time, the same menu will be used at the Arlington Heights location but in the future, there may be a grain bowl added and other fresh items and salads. Discussion ensued regarding the requirement for a late-night menu which is similar to how they operate in Chicago.

Mr. Koppers and Mr. Khazei are both Basset certified. Currently, all but one of the new employees is also basset trained. Approximately 25 employees are planned. Mayor Hayes recommended in person training for the new employees that will be hired.

Trustees thanked Mr. Koppers and Mr. Khazei for bringing their business to Arlington Heights. Trustees mentioned they have heard so many residents that are excited about this new addition to the dining scene. Mr. Koppers and Mr. Khazei stated they have been trying for years find a location in Arlington Heights.

Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Grasse to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees recommend to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class AA liquor license to Highbar Services Inc dba Bird's Nest Arlington Heights located at 11 W. Davis St.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

C. Consideration of recommending to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class E liquor license to Big Ange's Eatery, Inc dba Big Ange's Eatery located at 640 W. Northwest Highway.

Trustee Tinaglia recused himself as the Fridono's have been friends and clients of his for many years.

The Mayor swore in John Fridono, Angelina Fridono and Rocco Fridono, owners of Big Ange’s Eatery.

Ms. Mikula gave the staff report. She stated that this is a current establishment that is expanding their business plan by adding a liquor license for beer and wine only.

Police completed a background check on John Fridono, Angelina Fridono and Rocco Fridono and no issues were noted. A walk through was conducted on August 15 and the submitted floor plan matched what was observed.

Upon a satisfactory interview tonight, Ms. Mikula stated, it would be appropriate to issue a Class A liquor license to BNL Arlington Heights Inc. dba Brunch Café located at 306 E. Rand Road.

Mayor Hayes asked the Fridono’s why they decided to add a liquor license now after being open for 7 years. John Fridono said that beer and BBQ go together but, the real reason it is being added is that COVID changed things. Costs have gone up on so many items and patrons have asked for the addition of liquor and the Fridono’s hope this will help.

John and Angelina Fridonos stated that they just completed Basset training and Rocco will be certified later in the week. The Mayor asked about the training of the current employees. Five of the employees will be serving alcohol, one of them is certified and the others will be soon. The Mayor stressed the importance of checking IDs. Discussion ensued and it was stressed that the Village will be conducting compliance checks.

Trustees thanked the Fridonos for all they have brought to Arlington Heights and for expanding their business.

Trustee Grass moved, seconded by Trustee Grasse to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees recommend to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class AA liquor license to Highbar Services Inc dba Bird’s Nest Arlington Heights located at 11 W. Davis St.

The following voice vote was recorded:

7 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

D. OTHER BUSINESS - None

E. ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Bertucci moved, seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.