



MINUTES

President and Board of Trustees
Village of Arlington Heights
Committee-of-the-Whole
Community Room
Arlington Heights Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
January 3, 2017
7:15 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tom Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Hayes; Trustees Blackwood, Farwell, Glasgow, Rosenberg, Scaletta, Sidor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees LaBedz, Tinaglia

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Village Manager Randy Recklaus; Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula; In-House Council Robin Ward; Village Attorney Mark Burkland

OTHERS PRESENT: Zach Creer for appointment to Housing Commission; Song Han and niece (Connie Han) for Music Box

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Interview of Zach Creer for Appointment to the Housing Commission - Term Ending: 4/30/20

Mayor Hayes sworn in Zach Creer and introduced him to the Village Board.

Mr. Creer stated that he is hoping to bring his perspective to the Housing Commission on an ongoing subject they have been working on regarding inspections to rentals units. He was part of that in Rolling Meadows and wants to bring that information to the Commission.

Trustee Blackwood asked Mr. Creer to tell the Board about how he sees

affordable housing evolving in the next 30 years. Mr. Creer stated that technical changes will affect all communities. Parking needs, driverless cars will be coming and will affect all communities. You want to preserve the character of each community when it comes to affordable housing. Trustee Blackwood asked Mr. Creer if he sees rentals taking a larger share of the market. Mr. Creer stated that rentals do appear to be taking a larger share of the market. In the modern economy people are moving around a lot and switching jobs a lot.

TRUSTEE GLASGOW MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SCALETTA TO RECOMMEND THAT ZACH CREER BE APPOINTED TO THE HOUSING COMMISSION WITH A TERM ENDING 4/30/20. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Consideration of recommending to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class "A" Liquor License to Music Box Cafe, Inc., dba The Music Box, located at 224 E. Golf Road

Mayor Hayes swore in Song Han & Connie Han.

Diana Mikula, Assistant Village Manager, reported to the Board that Song Han is 100% owner of the Music Box Café. She has applied for a liquor license from the Village twice before. In both instances, the liquor license was denied. The last denial was on July 1, 2013. She is now reapplying for a liquor license. She did submit a letter setting forth her reasons for seeking a liquor license. Ms. Han has been operating The Music Box as a BYOB. She indicated that her patrons still attend to participate in Karaoke but she loses business when patrons find out about the lack of liquor service and this situation has created a significant business hardship on her.

Ms. Mikula went on to report that on October 28, 2016, the Arlington Heights Police Department completed a background check on Song Han. No convictions were disclosed and no criminal derogatory information was found. In addition, no lawsuits, judgments, or liens were outstanding. A walk-thru was conducted on December 29. No issues were noted and the submitted floor plan was slightly revised to reflect the current layout. A check with the departments of Police, Health, and Building indicated no issues were present. The Liquor License Ms. Han is seeking is a Class A which permits alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises where sold and have a seating capacity at tables for a minimum of 25 persons for food service. The liquor hours are intended to be Sunday – Thursday 4 PM to midnight, Friday – Saturday 4 PM – 1 AM. Ms. Han is leasing the space and she is Basset certified. The establishment has had two previous violations by previous ownership in 2002 and 2005. The applicant has not had any liquor violations.

Mayor Hayes asked Ms. Han how many employees she had. She reported that it was just herself and another person at this time because of having so few customers. She is looking to hire four to six more. She reported that it's difficult to keep servers because business is so slow. Mayor Hayes asked if

these new employees would be Basset trained. Ms. Han stated that anyone she hires is informed that Basset training is a requirement of the job. Mayor Hayes asked Ms. Han when the last time she held a liquor license. Ms. Han replied in 2008 at a Chicago restaurant.

Trustee Sidor said in Ms. Han's letter she states that sales are down 40%. He asked 40% since when. Ms. Han said since four years ago. He asked if people come to the restaurant is it to eat or for the karaoke? Connie Han responded that they come in mostly for the food and the karaoke but because there is no alcohol they don't stay very long. Trustee Sidor stated that he has the same concerns as Mayor Hayes. Ms. Han needs more staff. If she is in the kitchen cooking how can she keep an eye on what's going on in the rest of the establishment. Connie Han responded that right now it is a doable situation because there are never more than one or two customers in the establishment. If Ms. Han is expecting a large group she will call other relatives to come in and assist her. She cannot keep permanent staff with the current situation because there is not enough business to support someone that works for tips. If she gets her liquor license back she can afford the extra overhead of paying employees. In the beginning her niece and husband will assist until the business improves and new employees can be hired.

Trustee Glasgow said that in Ms. Han's letter she indicated that she had maxed out her credit cards and taken out loans for the business. He asked how she was going to afford having a liquor license. Connie Han reported that the Han family will be assisting her with stocking the bar and paying for the liquor license. Ms. Han feels that it may cost the family \$15,000 or \$20,000 to get Ms. Han on her feet and then she will be fine. She will not cut corners when it comes to the business. It has taken her four years to get her license back and she will not do anything to jeopardize the liquor license.

Trustee Glasgow asked what has changed from the last time Ms. Han applied for a liquor license. Trustee Sidor had paid a visit to the establishment before the liquor hearing four years ago and he witnessed open liquor bottles sitting on the counter. What has changed since that time? Connie Han responded that during that time the establishment was BYOB. Patrons would come in to eat and bring their own liquor and leave the bottles on the table or counter. Ms. Han did not fully understand the concept of BYOB at that time. At this point, this is her last chance to keep her business and to get out of this hole. Because of this dire need to have a liquor license she has tried everything she could to keep the business afloat. The biggest thing that's changed since the last meeting is her. She has had BYOB for three years and in that time there have been no incidents regarding liquor. You can see with her other liquor license she had for over seven years that there were no liquor violations. She is a very good business owner. At that time Connie Han felt her aunt was being penalized for her half-sister's behavior. This aunt is nowhere near the restaurant or the Arlington Heights area. Her aunt, Song Han, knows the liquor laws and she knows what it takes to run a business legally. Connie Han is aware of the Board's concern in granting her aunt a liquor license but there is no need for

concern. This business has been in their family since it opened 10 years ago and no one wants to see it close.

Mayor Hayes said he felt that Ms. Han has demonstrated over 3 ½ years that she is capable of running the business in a legal manner without any incidences. The Village appreciates her sincere desire to run a legitimate business. He voiced his concern about staffing and he would like short-term hired employees to work in the kitchen and Basset trained servers selling the liquor.

TRUSTEE GLASGOW MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SIDOR TO RECOMMEND THAT THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMEND TO THE LIQUOR COMMISSIONER THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS "A" LIQUOR LICENSE TO MUSIC BOX CAFÉ, INC., DBA THE MUSIC BOX, LOCATED AT 224 E. GOLF ROAD. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

TRUSTEE ROSENBERG MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SIDOR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM

Reported By: Diane Staggs, Administrative Asst. II