

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
April 7, 2025**

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Grasse

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Carla McAleer; Kate Schwarz; Gavin Ma; Iryna Kiyan

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes Committee of the Whole minutes March 17, 2025

Trustee LaBedz moved to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from the meeting on March 17, 2025. The motion was seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck.

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Interview of Carla McAleer for appointment to the Arts Commission, term ending April 30, 2028

Carla's term will officially start on April 30, 2025. The Mayor whole-heartedly recommends Carla for the Arts Commission and stated that Carla is very well qualified and has a passion for the Arts. Additionally, she has skills in event planning and has a background in finance.

Carla stated that she worked at the Metropolis in finance but, since leaving, she misses the involvement with the community and working with other agencies. She is looking to get involved in furthering the Arts in Arlington Heights.

Trustee Dunnington mentioned that she spoke with a muralist about a recent community event in a different town where several muralists created 12 murals around the community during the event.

Trustees thanked Carla for her willingness to serve.

Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Bertucci to concur in the Mayor's appointment of Carla McAleer to the Arts Commission, term ending April 30, 2028.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

B. Interview of Kate Schwarz for appointment to the Arts Commission, term ending April 30, 2028.

Kate's term will officially start on April 30, 2025. The Mayor whole-heartedly recommends Kate for the Arts Commission and stated that Kate is very well qualified.

Kate grew up in Arlington Heights and worked at the Metropolis as the Director of Education. There, she learned that working with children in the Arts is her biggest passion. She also ran the Arts program in a small community in Alaska, where she was their one life-line to the arts. She currently works at the Park District as the Cultural Arts Supervisor and wants to make sure there is access to the Arts for everybody in Arlington Heights.

Trustee Tinaglia challenged the Arts Commission to think outside of the box to come up with some fun projects and mentioned the past project of "Ponies on Parade".

Trustees thanked Kate for her willingness to serve.

Trustee Dunnington moved, seconded by Trustee Baldino to concur in the Mayor's appointment of Kate Schwarz to the Arts Commission, term ending April 30, 2028.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

C. Recommendation that the Liquor Commissioner issue a Class A Liquor License to Maax Arlington Heights, LLC dba MAAX Asian BBQ & Hot Pots located at 222 E. Algonquin Road

The Mayor swore in Gavin Ma, owner of Maax Arlington Heights, LLC dba MAAX Asian BBQ & Hot Pots.

Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula gave the staff report. This location was formerly known as the Rack House BBQ. A walk through was conducted on March 24, 2025 and the submitted floor plan matched what was seen at the establishment. In March 2025, the Police Department completed a background check and no issues were noted. Gavin is leasing the space and the establishment hours are within the permitted hours for liquor sales.

Upon a satisfactory interview tonight, Ms. Mikula stated staff feels it would be appropriate to issue a Class A Liquor License to Maax Arlington Heights, LLC dba MAAX Asian BBQ & Hot Pots located at 222 E. Algonquin Road.

Mayor Hayes asked Gavin about his experience in the restaurant and liquor business. Gavin said he has been in the restaurant business since he was 15 years old. He owns a couple

of different restaurants. This is the second restaurant that he operates himself. He also operates Tomahawk BBQ Steakhouse in Lincolnshire. Tomahawk BBQ has had a liquor license since May 2024 with no suspensions, revocations, citations or violations. He also owns a Thai restaurant which opened in 2012, but that restaurant does not have a liquor license.

Mayor Hayes asked about his Basset certification status. Gavin is Basset certified. He will have approximately 20 employees but has only hired three kitchen staff at this point. Gavin confirmed that anyone in the front of the restaurant dealing with alcohol must be Basset certified. The Mayor recommended bringing in an instructor and having them all trained at once with the in person training.

Gavin is planning to open April 25 and will be operate from 11am – midnight. The Mayor reminded him that there must be at least a limited menu offered to the patrons after 11pm. Gavin expects his patrons to mostly consist of families who come in to enjoy a good meal. The concept is all you can eat, but is not a buffet. Most of the food is cooked on the table so the patrons can see the freshness and quality of the food.

The Mayor asked what the policy will be for carding patrons. Gavin said they will check IDs and will monitor patrons to make sure they are not over-served. The Mayor reminded Gavin about the compliance checks conducted by the Village.

Trustees welcomed Gavin and thanked him for bringing his business to Arlington Heights.

Trustee Baldino moved, seconded by Trustee Dunnington to recommend that the Liquor Commissioner issue a Class A Liquor License to Maax Arlington Heights, LLC dba MAAX Asian BBQ & Hot Pots located at 222 E. Algonquin Road.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

D. Recommendation that the Liquor Commissioner issue a Class B and Class T Liquor License to Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC. dba Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC. located at 100 E. Rand Road

The Mayor swore in Iryna Kiyan, owner of Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC. dba Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC.

Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula gave the staff report. A walk through was conducted on March 27, 2025 and the submitted floor plan matched what was seen at the establishment. In February 2025, the Police Department completed a background check on Iryna and no issues were noted. She is leasing the space and establishment hours are within the permitted hours for liquor sales.

Upon a satisfactory interview tonight, Ms. Mikula stated staff feels it would be appropriate to issue a Class B and Class T Liquor License to Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC. dba Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC. located at 100 E. Rand Road upon receipt of DRAM shop insurance.

Mayor Hayes asked Iryna about her experience in this type of business and her experience with the sale of alcohol. Iryna had a previous deli business in Wheeling with a liquor license for six years. Her license was never suspended or revoked and she was never cited for violations of local liquor laws. A grocery store is a new business for her. The Mayor asked about the corporate policies of the Harvest Fresh Corporation that she is required to follow in regards to liquor sales. Iryna stated that she will set her own policies since this is her business. For marketing purposes, she is using the Harvest Fresh name that some people are familiar with along with her deli name that other people are familiar with. Her husband is a chef so she wants to have his restaurant-quality food in the deli for customers to take home. Ms. Mikula stated that if food or liquor was to be served for consumption on premise, Iryna would need to talk with the Health Department again and would need a different liquor license.

Mayor Hayes asked about her Basset certification status. Iryna is Basset certified. She will hire approximately 30 people and already has the team from her previous business. The Mayor recommended that she bring in a Basset instructor to have the in person training for everyone at the same time.

This business will be open 8am – 9pm, seven days a week. The alcohol will be located in a cooler and on the shelves. The liquor will need to be taken to the cash register. The information from the driver's license will then be entered into the system. Iryna is planning to have tastings for the store opening and/or near Christmas time. It will be set up near customer service.

Trustees welcomed Iryna and thanked her for bringing her business to Arlington Heights.

Trustee Dunnington moved, seconded by Trustee Baldino to recommend that the Liquor Commissioner issue a Class B and Class T Liquor License to Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC. dba Harvest Fresh Market & XO Deli, INC. located at 100 E. Rand Road upon receipt of the Certificate of DRAM Shop Insurance.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS - none

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Baldino moved, seconded by Trustee Tinaglia to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.