

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
February 17, 2026**

President Tinaglia called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Tinaglia; Trustees Bertucci, Dunnington, Gilbert, LaBedz, Manganaro, Santa Maria and Zyck

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Schwingbeck

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ulaanbaatar Ganbaatar

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Interview of Ulaanbaatar Ganbaatar by the Liquor Commissioner for issuance of a Class E liquor license to KAWAII ASIAN AMERICAN CUISINE dba KAWAII ASIAN CUISINE located at 60 S. Arlington Heights Road

Mayor Tinaglia confirmed that Ulaanbaatar is the owner of Kawaii Asian Cuisine. Mayor Tinaglia also confirmed with Ulaanbaatar that he has never held a liquor license before and has never had any sort of liquor violation. Ulaanbaatar stated that he has never worked anywhere that sold liquor.

Deputy Village Manager Diana Mikula gave the staff report. She explained that Ulaanbaatar, the owner of Kawaii Asian Cuisine, will be repurposing the space across from the former Wild Fish restaurant. Ulaanbaatar is seeking a Class E liquor license which allows for beer and wine sales. He is leasing the space and anticipates opening sometime next month. Ms. Mikula reported that Ulaanbaatar was BASSET certified in November 2025. Ulaanbaatar has some experience in a restaurant from his employment with Domino's in Winnetka, and he has no liquor violations. The site, under previous ownership, did have liquor violations in 2005 and in 2009. The Police Department conducted a background check on Ulaanbaatar and no issues were found.

Trustee Bertucci emphasized how seriously the Village takes the issue of serving alcohol to minors. He explained that the Village conducts compliance checks and he asked Ulaanbaatar to be diligent in checking IDs. Ulaanbaatar shared that his mother is a top ten cook in Mongolia and he decided to join in the family business. He finds that cooking comes easy to him and said that his sister is also going to help him.

Trustee LaBedz asked if any of the recipes are his mother's since she was such an excellent chef. Ulaanbaatar said that yes, he uses some of her recipes.

Mayor Tinaglia reiterated that the Village will conduct compliance checks and that no alcohol is to be sold to underage people for any reason. Mayor Tinaglia directed Ulaanbaatar to always have his staff check IDs. Ulaanbaatar confirmed that they will check IDs all of the time.

Trustees thanked Ulaanbaatar for bringing this business to Arlington Heights.

Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Santa Maria to recommend that the Liquor Commissioner issue a Class E liquor license to KAWAII ASIAN AMERICAN CUISINE dba KAWAII ASIAN CUISINE located at 60 S. Arlington Heights Road.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS - none

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Bertucci moved, seconded by Trustee Zyck to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.