



**Minutes of the Liquor Control Review Board
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall – Room 124**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Chair Sarah Corbin

Present: Chair Sarah Corbin, Members Emily Masalski and Melody Kratz
Absent: Member Kuna
Also Present: Village Attorney Paul Stephanides and Economic Vitality Administrator Cameron Davis
3. **Agenda Approval:**

A motion was made by Member Masalski and seconded by Member Kratz to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was approved by voice vote and the agenda was approved.
4. **Minutes Approval:**

A motion was made by Member Masalski and seconded by Member Kratz to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting of the Liquor Control Review Board ("LCRB"). The motion was approved by voice vote and the minutes were approved.
5. **Public Comment:**

None.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **Application of Oak Park Egg Harbor, LLC for the Issuance of a Restaurant Class B-1 Liquor License at 1111 South Boulevard**

Joyce Parich, a Manager for Egg Harbor, LLC, appeared before the LCRB to present the application on behalf of Egg Harbor. Egg Harbor is family-owned and has 22 locations. Ms. Parish is the district leader for six locations and will oversee the Oak Park location as well.

Egg Harbor will be hiring a new general manager for the Oak Park location. All employees will go through the BASSET training and fingerprinting required for liquor service. Egg Harbor intends to open the Oak Park location in mid to late June 2024. There is some remodeling being completed at the location. The liquor menu will feature mimosas, Bloody Marys, and seasonal drinks.

Operating hours are 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will necessitate a change TO Section 3-5-7 of the Oak Park Village Code.

A motion was made by Member Masalski to recommend approval of a Restaurant Class B-1 Liquor License for Oak Park Egg Harbor, LLC and to recommend amending the Oak Park Village Code to amend the hours of operation for restaurant liquor licensees. Member Kratz seconded the motion.

The roll call was as follows:

AYES: Corbin, Kratz, Masalski

NAYS: None

The motion was adopted.

B. Application of the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce for the Issuance of a Special Events E-1 Liquor License at 141 S. Oak Park Avenue

Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Darian Marion-Burton appeared before the LCRB to present the application. The organization hosts multiple events each year at various locations. Though often the hosting venue or the catering company has a liquor license, there may be instances in which this is not the case.

A motion was made by Member Masalski to recommend approval of a Special Events E-1 Liquor License for the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce. Member Kratz seconded the motion.

The roll call was as follows:

AYES: Corbin, Kratz, Masalski

NAYS: None

The motion was adopted.

C. Application of Café Cubano Oak Park LLC of a Restaurant Class B-1 Liquor License at 113 N. Oak Park Avenue

Melissa Fernandez appeared before the Board to present the application. Café Cubano is moving from Elmwood Park to a larger location in Oak Park. Café Cubano has served liquor at its Elmwood Park location for 23 years. There are four employees who have gone through BASSET training and additional employees will be trained before the restaurant opens. The menu will include mojitos and tropical drinks, which will primarily be rum-based.

Café Cubano plans to be open for business the first week of May 2024. They plan to host live music on Friday and Saturday.

A motion was made by Member Masalski to recommend the approval of a Class B-1 Liquor License for Café Cubano Oak Park, LLC. Member Kratz seconded the motion.

The roll call was as follows:
AYES: Corbin, Kratz, Masalski
NAYS: None
The motion was adopted.

D. April 2024 Renewals

All businesses up for renewal this month are current on tax payments.

A motion was made by Member Masalski to approve the April 2024 renewals. Member Kratz seconded the motion.

The roll call was as follows:
AYES: Corbin, Kratz, Masalski
NAYS: None
The motion was adopted.

E. Liquor Control Review Board Future Meeting Date Discussion 2024

With the Village Board moving meetings to Tuesday, there was discussion regarding moving the day of the LCRB meetings.

For now, the LCRB will keep its meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month. If there is a conflict or need to reschedule, these instances will be addressed as they arise.

7. Old Business:

None.

8. Administrative Report:

Cameron Davis shared a “Presentation Regarding Liquor Tax Collection from 2018 through 2023 – Totals and Trends.”

Liquor tax is 3%. Each year there are 20 – 30 non-profits with liquor licenses which do not pay taxes on liquor. There are usually between 90 and 100 liquor licenses in effect each year. 2023 was the highest collection year since 2018. 2024 is looking positive with ten new restaurant openings expected.

For restaurants, Cooper’s Hawk has the highest liquor sales in Oak Park. Next are Maya del Sol, Poor Phil’s, Victory Italian, Hemingway’s Bistro, Citrine, Rustico, Il Vicolo, and Amerikas in that order. For package sales, Pete’s is number one closely followed by Trader Joe’s, Jewel, and Target.

The LCRB discussed changing the Village Code to allow for corkage fees. There was also discussion about raising the cost of a BYO license. The LCRB asked Village staff for an analysis of the fees charged by neighboring communities for BYO licenses and corkage fees. Chicago Chicken and Waffles is also inquiring about a BYO with a

corkage fee.

Val's Halla has inquired about a possible application for a license. The Village would need to amend its coffee shop license classification to accommodate the request.

Ideas have been floated regarding liquor licenses for art studios and candle shops to allow "paint and sip" type events. Other area communities have such classifications and Village staff will review what these communities have in place.

9. **Board Member Comments:**

None.

10. **Adjournment:**

The next LCRB meeting will be on April 23, 2024.

A motion was made by Member Masalski to adjourn the meeting. Member Kratz seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved by voice vote at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul L. Stephanides, Board Liaison and Recording Secretary