

MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON
LIQUOR COMISSION

November 10, 2009

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Steve Stockton called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of Café Italia, LLC, d/b/a Café Italia, located at 1804 S. Hershey for an RBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Steve Stockton, Rich Buchanan, and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Renee Gooderham, Chief Deputy Clerk; Frank Composto, owner/operator and Applicant representative.

Absent: Commissioners Steve Petersen and Mark Gibson.

Commissioner Stockton opened the liquor hearing. He requested that the Applicant present the business plan. Frank Composto, owner/operator and Applicant representative, address the Commission. The restaurant had been open for six (6) months. The menu is similar to what is found in an Italian home. It was his belief that adding beer and wine to the menu choice would offer a higher value. They had received customer requests. It was their intention to serve only Italian beer and wine. As the volume of customers increased there also was a potential to expand the business by an additional 2500 sq ft.

Commissioner Stockton questioned the percentage of take out verses dine-in sales. Mr. Composto replied that take out orders equaled less then a dozen.

Mr. Boyle asked about seating. Mr. Composto stated that current capacity was seating for thirty (30). He had received permission from the building owner, The Snyder Companies, to install a concrete pad which would increase seating in the spring. Commissioner Stockton informed Mr. Composto before serving liquor on the patio he would need to present the seating arrangement and plan to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Clapp questioned the experience of the wait staff to pour and serve alcohol. Mr. Composto expressed his willingness to attend any and all TIPS, BASSETT and/or STEPS alcohol sales training classes. He intended to card everyone. Employees under age would not be allowed to serve alcohol. Marcello Marotta, his partner, and himself would be allowed to serve the alcohol. As the customer base increased there would be the potential to hire more kitchen staff and allow them to assist with alcohol service.

Commissioner Stockton questioned package liquor sales. Mr. Composto stated that alcohol would not be offered for take out.

Commissioner Stockton inquired about signage in the windows. Mr. Composto replied the lease currently does not allow for signage unless it is an open/closed sign.

Motion by Commissioner Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner Clapp that an RBS liquor license for Café Italia, LLC, d/b/a Café Italia, located at 1804 S. Hershey, be created, contingent upon compliance with all applicable health and safety codes with the following condition: 1.) the Commission reserves the right to observe the establishment and apply tavern "T" rules, if needed.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Stockton informed the Applicant that this item would appear before the City Council at their December 14, 2009 meeting at 7:30 p.m. The item would appear on the consent agenda. He encouraged his attendance.

There being no further business the hearing adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Steve Stockton called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of Canambo, LLC, d/b/a Blue Line Night Club, located 602 N. Main St., requesting a TAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Steve Stockton, Rich Buchanan, and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Renee Gooderham, Chief Deputy Clerk; Jack Batasel, owner/operator and Applicant representative.

Commissioner Stockton opened the liquor hearing. He requested that the Applicant explain the changes. Jack Batasel owner/operator and Applicant representative, address the Commission. Mr. Batasel stated that he currently owned and operated OYOS, LLC, d/b/a Rhino's at the same location. The economy had taken its toll. The business was not the same as it was two – three (2 – 3) years ago. He had taken on a partner Andrew Kelly, an attorney, to form a new limited liability corporation. His concept is to draw in the after work crowd, similar to the Loft and to compliment Drifters. There was the possibility of adding a beer garden in the future. Commissioner Stockton cautioned that before serving liquor in the beer garden the seating arrangement and plan would need to be presented the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Stockton inquired about remodeling. Mr. Batasel responded affirmatively. They had been given building permits. Bob Coombs, Inspector III, PACE Department, had reviewed the drawings. There were questions about a new sprinkler system. The plan was to redo the restrooms, hardwood floors, expand the bar area, remove the bump out in front of the building and replace it with windows to match the existing frontage. The front door would remain angled.

Mr. Boyle inquired how long Mr. Batasel had been in business. Mr. Batasel responded seven (7) years. He also was a real estate agent.

Commissioner Stockton questioned entertainment. Mr. Batasel stated that live entertainment such as Jazz bands would be considered. The stage would remain in the same area. The dance floor area would in the back with couches, chairs, and tables in the front area.

Commissioner Buchanan questioned the present operation and intent of new business. Mr. Batasel stated that currently Rhino's is open on Friday and Saturday nights. It was his hope to be open more during the week. They would be taking a wait and see approach.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that there are three (3) apartments above the business. Mr. Batasel responded affirmatively. They managed and collected rent from the apartments.

Commissioner Clapp inquired on the opening date. Mr. Batasel responded that it was his hope to open for New Years Eve.

Mr. Boyle reminded Mr. Batasel to keep current on the City's food and beverage tax.

Motion by Commissioner Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner Clapp that a TAS liquor license for Canambo, LLC, d/b/a Blue Line Night Club, located 602 N. Main St., be created, contingent upon compliance with all applicable health and safety codes with the following conditions: 1.) the Commission reserves the right to regulate the environment's surroundings, with regard to music and sound baffling; 2.) the Commission reserves the right to regulate the use of the future outdoor patio to include the time of use, the time for liquor sales, sound/visual baffling/barrier, and occupancy; and 3.) appropriate approval from the PACE Department with regard to the sprinkler system.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Stockton informed the Applicant that this item would appear before the City Council at their December 14, 2009 meeting at 7:30 p.m. The item would appear on the consent agenda. He encouraged his attendance.

There being no further business the hearing adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Mr. Boyle questioned the ordinance violation process. Fat Jack's, Inc., d/b/a Fat Jack's, located at 511 N. Main St., currently holding a TAPS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises and the sale of all types packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week and Dublin Bay, Inc., d/b/a Killarneys, located at 523 N. Main St., currently holding a TAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week had violations. Commissioner Stockton stated the files need to be reviewed.

Commissioner Stockton stated that the Commission should begin to consider an increase to liquor fees.

There being no further business the hearing adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Renee Gooderham
Chief Deputy Clerk