



ALCOHOL REVIEW BOARD
January 19, 2017
CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: Chairman: John Lazenby
Board Members: Kathy Rall, Demetrius Galfas, Margot Ashley, Jimi Taylor
Counsel: Angela Couch
Records: Kaleigh Frederick
Police: Lt. Chris Dusik

Guests: Molly Frasier, GUIDE

Ms. Couch declared a quorum present and called for a nomination for Chair of the ARB. Ms. Taylor nominated Mr. Lazenby. Seconded by Ms. Rall, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Couch called for a nomination of Vice Chair. Mr. Lazenby nominated Mr. Galfas. The motion passed unanimously.

All members were sworn in at the City Council meeting on January 9, 2017.

Mr. Lazenby called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Taylor made a motion to approve of Minutes for the Special Called meeting on December 28, 2016, seconded by Ms. Rall. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review new alcohol license application for Lilburn Exxon at 5355 Lawrenceville Highway. Change of ownership to MD Hasan. Background investigation is complete. Business license in place.

Mr. MD Masud Hasan was present to represent the business. He reported that he has not held alcohol sales license previously. He has sold as an employee in a convenience store in Atlanta, working for 4-5 years. He will have four to five employees at this business: some new, some previously employed at this location. He intends to instruct all employees to check ID for 21 year old customers. The cash register in the store currently does not require date of birth. Members of the Board encouraged Mr. Hasan to change the settings so that date of birth is required for completion of the transaction. He will begin ownership next Monday, January 23. Mr. Lazenby detailed past history at this location and encouraged Mr. Hasan to adhere to city and state requirements for alcohol sales. Mr. Hasan acknowledged that one current employee was working during that period of time but was not the employee who sold to the underage decoy. Mr. Lazenby emphasized that the ARB has little tolerance for those who don't follow guidelines and don't require staff training. Mr. Hasan was encouraged to place signs informing customers of requirements to not sell to anyone under age 21 years.

Having talked about Mr. Hasan's circumstances, the required training and need for the cash register to be set up to block sales with no identification, Mr. Galfas made a motion to approve the application immediately. Ms. Rall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.



Mr. Lazenby called for Public Comment. There was none.

For information, Ms. Couch reported that at the last City Council meeting, the proposed distance ordinance was tabled due to economic development considerations. She has conducted research with other cities, discovering that the Department for Community Affairs (DCA) interprets the law that there is an exception for on-premises sales of alcohol. Ms. Couch has made a suggestion to Mr. Johnsa to add a provision to the city's distance ordinance that will track the State statute. For purposes of economic development: Licensees for retail sales of alcohol for consumption on premises, subject to regulation by counties and cities, are exempt from the distance requirements. The City Council will take up discussion again at the next meeting.

Opening of The Branded Barrel on Pleasant Hill Rd has been stopped at present due to a civil suit filed to stop the business' opening. A restrictive covenant for the entire Lowe's property was violated by placing a liquor store there.

Discussion of whether to propose a limit to the number of convenience stores' selling alcohol ended quickly when Ms. Couch stated that it would be very difficult to enforce due to other regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Rall at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Galfas, the motion passed unanimously.

John Lazenby
Chair Alcohol Review Board

February 16, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Ashley