

LIQUOR AND LICENSE COMMISSION
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011

Chairman Hammerand called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. The following Commission members were present: John Hammerand, Chairman; Diane Evertsen and John Jung. Bob Bless and Barb Wheeler were absent. Also in attendance: Kenneth Koehler, Liquor Commissioner; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Jamie Rein, State's Attorney's Office; Mary McCann and Ersel Schuster, County Board; and interested public.

John Hammerand, Chairman	
Bob Bless	John Jung, Jr.
Diane Evertsen	Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES: Mr. Jung made a motion, seconded by Ms. Evertsen, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 Liquor and License Commission meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jeff Pankow of Woodstock, Illinois requested permission from the Commission that he be allowed to enter into the discussion during the winery classification update. Commission members agreed to this request.

PRESENTATION: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Winery Classification: Commission members, as well as Ms. Rein, Ms. Schuster, Ms. McCann, and Mr. Pankow, entered into discussion concerning a winery classification. Ms. Rein provided members with a copy of suggested changes to the Liquor Control and Liquor Licensing Ordinance concerning a proposed Class "W" license for wine and wineries. The wording is similar to the wine and winery liquor classification in Jo Daviess County. The proposed Class "W" license would allow the manufacturing of less than 50,000 gallons of wine. It also mentions that the Class "W" license shall allow the licensee to sell not more than 10,000 gallons of wine per year for the use or consumption, either on premises or off premises, and for wine tasting. She will contact Jo Daviess County and inquire as why they limit the sale of wine at wineries to no more than 10,000 gallons per year. Mr. Pankow mentioned that each gallon of wine produces five bottles of wine. Members suggested that the Class "W" license include wording which states that a certain percentage of the material (grapes) used in the production of wine must be grown on the property where the winery is located. Members discussed that the Planning and Development Committee will need to provide a zoning classification for a winery to be located on agricultural property, along with a zoning classification for the production of wine on agricultural property. It was suggested that if a percentage of grapes are grown on a winery's property, it would be classified as an agricultural product. Commission members agreed that the fermentation of grapes into wine must occur on the winery's property, and that a percentage of the grapes produced into wine must be grown on the winery's property.

Mr. Pankow requested the Commission to consider modifying the proposed Class "W" liquor license to include the following wording which is part of Stephenson County's Liquor Ordinance: "individual servings of beer by bottle." This would allow a winery to sell individual bottles of beer to customers at a winery. Chairman Hammerand mentioned that the sale of individual bottles of beer would require a Class "A" liquor license, along with the proper zoning.

Liquor Commissioner Koehler arrived at 1:32 p.m.

Incident Reports: Ms. Rein mentioned that Cmdr. Miller arrived at 12:00 p.m., but had to leave for another appointment since today's meeting did not start until 1:00 p.m. He provided Ms. Rein with copies of Incident/Offense Reports concerning The Snuggery in McHenry, Illinois. In the past month there were eight incidences at this location which included three battery charges, two stolen credit cards, one domestic situation, one criminal trespass charge, and one incident of criminal damage to property. Cmdr. Miller asked Ms. Rein to inform Commission members that the manager of The Snuggery is often the person who calls for police assistance. Ms. Haines will provide Commission members with a copy of the Reports.

Update on Sting Operations: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

REPORTS TO COMMISSION: None.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Hammerand updated Mr. Koehler on the discussion held by Commission members during the meeting concerning a proposed Class "W" liquor license. He was informed that members suggested that the fermentation of grapes into wine must occur on the winery's property, and that a percentage of the grapes produced into wine must be grown on the winery's property. It was also suggested that wineries may bring in grapes from other areas for wine production. Ms. Schuster mentioned that wineries are commercial operations and the Commission should consider enforcement issues. Commission members once again agreed that a winery located in the County would be allowed to sell only wine with the proposed Class "W" liquor license. The sale of beer would require a Class "A" liquor license, along with appropriate zoning. Members also discussed the possibility of limiting the size of the tasting room at a winery located in the County.

ADJOURNMENT: Noting no further business, Mr. Jung made a motion, seconded by Ms. Evertsen, to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION/REVIEW:

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