

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILMETTE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016 AT 6:45 P.M. IN THE TRAINING ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WILMETTE VILLAGE HALL, 1200 WILMETTE AVENUE, WILMETTE, IL 60091

Members Present: Trustee Senta Plunkett, Chair
Trustee Carol Ducommun,
Trustee Cameron Krueger

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Michael Zimmermann, Corporation Counsel

Guests Present: Cristie Volpert, Walgreens Store Manager
Lisa McMiller, Walgreens District Manager

I. Call to Order.

Trustee Plunkett called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Committee members Ducommun and Krueger were present.

II. Approval of Minutes: Judiciary Committee Meeting of November 10, 2015.

Trustee Plunkett directed the Committee's attention to the draft minutes of the Judiciary Committee meeting of November 10, 2015. Trustee Ducommun moved that the Committee approve the minutes, seconded by Trustee Krueger.

No further discussion occurred on the motion. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes Trustees Plunkett, Krueger and Ducommun.

Nays: None.

The motion carried.

III. Application of Walgreens (811 Green Bay Road) for a Class I Liquor License.

Lisa McMiller, District Manager for Walgreens, reviewed the request for Walgreens, noting the area in the store the liquor would be displayed.

Trustee Krueger asked for clarification regarding the placement of the liquor.

Ms. Volpert said Walgreens has changed the requirement for placement of liquor and it will now be displayed behind the counter.

Trustee Plunkett asked what prompted Walgreens to request a liquor license for the store.

Ms. Volpert said customers ask regularly when they are going to be selling liquor as other Walgreens stores currently sell liquor.

Trustee Plunkett asked what percentage of Walgreens stores sell liquor in the north shore area.

Ms. McMiller said of the 14 stores that she oversees in her district surrounding Wilmette, 50% of the stores sell liquor.

Trustee Ducommun asked if customers from other stores that do not sell liquor, ask when they will start selling it.

Ms. McMiller said yes, customers at other stores that do not sell liquor, ask when the stores will start selling liquor. They are in the process of trying to license 100% of the stores to sell liquor.

Trustee Plunkett asked if any towns or villages had rejected the liquor applications for Walgreens.

Ms. McMiller said that none of the stores in her district had been rejected for a liquor license.

Trustee Krueger noted that the Walgreens at Edens Plaza sells liquor as does the CVS Store at Plaza del Lago.

Trustee Plunkett asked if there were any issues when the liquor license was granted at the Walgreens at Edens Plaza.

Mr. Zimmermann said there were no objections from neighbors for the liquor license at Walgreens in the Edens Plaza. He noted that there have been compliance checks at that Walgreens location and they have been given two warnings for alcohol and one citation for tobacco sales in the past three years.

Trustee Ducommun asked about the nature of the compliance check warnings.

Mr. Zimmermann said the Police Department works with an underage minor to purchase tobacco or alcohol.

Trustee Krueger asked if there were liquor citations for any of the other stores on Green Bay Road in Wilmette that sell liquor.

Mr. Zimmermann said there have been no citations issued for the stores on Green Bay Road which are Jewel Food Store, Wilmette Food Mart and Foremost Liquor Store.

Trustee Plunkett said she understood there were some issues with the back door exit at the Walgreens store at the Edens Plaza and asked if that had been addressed and if there was a back door exit at the Walgreens on Green Bay Road.

Ms. McMiller said the back door exit at the store in Edens Plaza has been addressed and the back door exit at the store on Green Bay Road has an alarm.

Trustee Krueger asked if the Walgreens Stores patrol the parking lot.

Ms. Volpert said they have two security cameras in the parking lot.

Michael Rothstein, 826 Park Avenue, said he lives very close to Walgreens and they have been a great neighbor. He noted that he submitted a letter along with other neighbors in the area, addressing their concerns with Walgreens selling liquor at the Green Bay Road store. He said the Green Bay Road store is on the path for children going to school and he believes the sale of liquor will directly affect the neighborhood safety due to the possibility of underage liquor purchases and loitering and drinking alcohol in the parking lot.

Trustee Ducommun noted that CVS is in a residential neighborhood and asked if there have been any issues with drinking liquor in the parking lot.

Mr. Zimmermann said there have been no citations or warnings issued regarding drinking in the parking lot.

Greg Mayer, 832 Park, said he appreciates having Walgreens in the neighborhood but believes selling liquor at the store would change the character of the neighborhood. He asked why there are no Class I liquor licenses at this time and asked how that is addressed.

Mr. Zimmermann said in Wilmette, there are no set amounts for liquor licenses. When a business makes a request for a liquor license, an application is reviewed and granted if the business is fit to hold a license.

Mr. Mayer noted that the Walgreens on Green Bay Road applied once before for a liquor license and he does not believe they received it.

Mr. Zimmermann said he was at that liquor hearing for Walgreens and at that time a different Village Board chose not to issue the license to Walgreens.

Mr. Mayer said he does not believe the community needs more package liquor sales in the area and he believes many bad things will happen if the license is granted. He noted that there is a lot of traffic in the alley behind Walgreens already, especially if a train is going through on Green Bay Road. He believes liquor sales will contribute more traffic to the alley.

Mr. Zimmermann said the current Class I liquor license holders have been very compliant and if a business is not compliant, the Police Department issues a citation.

Lisa O'Brien, 830 Park Avenue, said she is a good Walgreens customer and has no issue with them. She does not want a liquor store in the neighborhood and all the issues that will come with selling liquor as addressed in the neighbors' letter.

Mr. Rothstein said he does not believe there will be a value to the community to add liquor sales at Walgreens. He believes just having liquor will attract customers that would not otherwise not come there and attract crime.

Ms. McMiller said she would like to assure customers that there will be no consumption of liquor in the store or on the property.

Trustee Krueger asked if alcohol would be separate from other deliveries.

Ms. Volpert said the vendors are already delivering products to Walgreens and the alcohol would be added to those deliveries.

Trustee Ducommun said she understands the concerns of the neighbors but does not believe the concerns are substantiated by other businesses that also sell liquor. She would like to have more time to consider the application before voting on the request.

Trustee Plunkett said the letter from the neighbors was only received yesterday so she also would like more time to consider the request.

Trustee Krueger said he does not remember a liquor application that there has been objections too. The neighbors have raised good issues and since the letter from the neighbors was only received yesterday, he would also like more time to think about the request. He would like to see an updated floor plan for Walgreens regarding where the liquor would be placed.

Trustee Ducommun made a motion to table the request to February 9, 2016 at 6:45 p.m., seconded by Trustee Krueger.

No further discussion occurred on the motion. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes Trustees Plunkett, Krueger and Ducommun.

Nays: None.

The motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Adjournment

Trustee Krueger moved, seconded by Trustee Ducommun to adjourn. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Plunkett declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael F. Zimmermann,
Corporation Counsel