



HOUSING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 22, 2011
Edgumbe Recreation Center

Committee Members: Mary Davis, Dawn Lundmark, Rochelle Allison, Sam Walling, Mike DeCourcy, John Haggemiller, Steve Matysik, Leo Viktora, Joel Clemmer, Angela Giedd

Also in Attendance: Afton Martens (staff), Beth Judeh, Sheila Sweeney, Jane McClure, Colleen Fixen, Scotte Uzzle, Nancy Rech, Ellen Hartnett, Daniel Esrig, Doug Hennes

Meeting called to order. Attendance roster distributed. Committee introductions.

St. Thomas Liquor License

Statement from Doug Rennes re: UST liquor license. Costs UST a lot to bring in outside vendors to serve alcohol on campus – 2-3 times as much as doing it on their own.

State law doesn't allow non-profits to obtain liquor licenses without specific licenses. Some local colleges and universities have obtained such allowances, have applied for licenses from the cities and has received them. UST has a Minneapolis liquor license.

Joel Clemmers – Thanks Doug for making the rounds to all of the various community groups involved in this process. Recalls that the list of conditions comports with what was discussed with WSNAC. Serving until midnight feels a bit long. Thinks an outside boundary for the frequency of events would be half again the busiest year (so a limit of 48). Thinks having someone who has been through alcohol training should be present at events where alcohol is served.

Leo Viktora – Informed the committee that WSNAC is in listening mode. Was most interested in the hours of operation and the locations of outdoor events. Recommended 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. hours except for wedding receptions on South Campus, then until 11:00 p.m. Has not heard any negative feedback from his neighbors.

Doug Rennes – answers question from Leo re: presence of UST public safety or Saint Paul Police Officers at events where alcohol is served on campus, says that it depends on the size of the event.

John Haggemiller – asks if UST students would be allowed to purchase alcohol at UST sponsored events.

Doug Rennes – responds that there is the potential for that, but that it is unlikely given the age of the attendees. Doesn't know who is responsible for checking IDs at these events.

Mary Davis – questions what UST would like from the committee.

Collen Fixsen – community member is concerned about outdoor events. Would like to see restrictions requiring events to be held indoors after a certain hour.

Doug Rennes – responds to question re: number of events and how many occur in the warm vs. cold months.

Angela Giedd – opposes considering any type of motion.

Leo Viktora – offers resolution:

WHEREAS, the University of St. Thomas (UST) has presented information regarding their intention to acquire a Liquor License for sale, or implied sale, of alcoholic beverages to of age individuals within UST campus boundaries, and;

WHEREAS, UST has engaged in discussion of this license intention with West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) which is composed of neighbor representatives of MGCC, UPDC, SARPA and Neighbors United over the past year and in detail in the past 6 months, and;
WHEREAS, UST is amenable to reasonable restrictions for said Liquor License,
THEREFORE, Be it Resolved that MGCC HLU recommends that the Full Board of MGCC provide input to and support WSNAC in engaging with UST in establishing reasonable restrictions attached to UST's Liquor License application, and;
Report those restrictions back to MGCC so that MGCC may take appropriate action when the City notifies MGCC of UST's Liquor License application.

Discussion of resolution among committee members. The chair proposes closing this portion of the agenda, the committee agrees. Committee will send minutes of this meeting to WSNAC.

The Grand Sandwich Liquor License

Dan Esrig – Applying for waiver of the 45-day waiting period because it will help his business begin the process of negotiating with vendors, initiating that process. Not looking to be a bar, don't want to sell \$2 Pabst Blue Ribbon, want to sell quality craft beer that complements the food.

Angela Giedd – what does fire code allow for capacity?

Dan Esrig – 50, but only 26 seats. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to midnight during the school year. Summer hours are 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the week, open until 10:00 p.m. on the weekends.

Joel Clemmer – question as to why there was no consideration by the committee of the request for the parking space variance. Afton Martens clarifies that in some instances it is not required. Joel expresses concerns re: process so public is appropriately notified about conversations that have taken place and that the outcome of the conversations are passed along to the Saint Paul City Council.

Beth Judel – expressed shock re: the City approving variance without adequate notice to the neighbors.

Afton Martens – explains that she has worked with Dan Esrig to help him dialogue with the community council about the parking variances and the 45 day waiver. Explains that the issue on the table is two-fold: supporting the liquor license and the 45-day waiver.

Dan Esrig – regrets that there was any confusion re: notice or lack thereof. Wanted to appear before the committee because believed people were aware of the application for the beer/wine license. License is for inside sales only.

Dawn Lundmark – moves to support license and the waiver.

Colleen Fixsen – expresses interest in limiting hours of operation.

Dan Esrig – acknowledges responsibility to make sure his business doesn't impact the community.

Beth Judel – states that many business owners in the vicinity have to deal with people bringing their alcoholic beverages outside.

Sam Walling moves to approve the following resolution: Whereas the committee, having considered the statements of Dan Esrig, owner of the Grand Sandwich, does support his application for a beer/wine license.

Motion passes on voice vote with no nays, no abstentions.

Sam Walling moves to approve the following resolution: Where as the committee, having considered the statements of Dan Esrig, owner of the Grand Sandwich, does support his request for a waiver of the 45-day waiver period.

Motion fails with 4 in favor and 6 against.

Afton Martens provides updates.

John Haggemiller expresses interest in writing a letter to the city regarding the process for the parking variance being routed past the Mac-Groveland HLU Committee. Discussion of the issue by the committee.