

FREDERICK COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD
Public Meeting Minutes
Monday October 9, 2023

Those Present: Ms. Joan Aquilino, Chair
Mr. Christopher Glass, Board Member
Mrs. Debbie Burrell, Board Member
Ms. Catherine Keller, Assistant County Attorney
Mr. Robert Lind, Alcoholic Beverage Inspector
Mr. Larry Anderson, Alcoholic Beverage Inspector
Mrs. Dawn Shugars, Director
Mrs. Ashley Kneessi Gay, Administrative Coordinator
Mrs. Candace Sier, Administrative Specialist II
Mrs. Tabitha Vanleeuwen, Administrative Specialist II
Mrs. Trisha Lawson, Administrative Specialist II

A Public Meeting was held in person and called to order at 8:30am by the Chair, Joan Aquilino. Ashley Kneessi-Gay swore in all participants for today's hearing.

1. Adopt September 11, 2023, Hearing minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion to adopt the September 11, 2023, Hearing minutes.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass- Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was ***Ayes 3, Nay-0***
(Motion passed)

2. NEW

a. Application # 261026

DECISION

Widespread Country Market
Lisa Williams and James Summers Jr
For the use of Widespread Country Market, LLC
Class A, Off Sale, Beer and Wine License

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion for conditional approval for Widespread Country Market until December 31, 2023. Pending all rules, regulations and laws of the State, County, municipalities, and Liquor Board are met.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: Commissioner Burrell was unable to hear the history report so Director Shugars read the history again for her so she could vote.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

b. Application # 260968

DECISION

Headwaters
Greg Brown
For the use of Headwaters, LLC
Class B, On Sale, Beer, Wine, and Liquor

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion for conditional approval for Headwaters until March 1, 2024. Pending all rules, regulations and laws of the State, County, municipalities, and Liquor Board are met.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

c. Application # 261040

DECISION

Glenn Leigh Farms
Leigh Anne Thompson
For the use of Elan Pottery, LLC
Class O-Art Gallery, On Sale, Beer and Wine

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Brad Palmer- Brad is a neighbor across the street from the establishment and is concerned about the scalability in the future He does not want to live near an event venue. He is also worried about any of the late-night events. Leigh Anne then addressed the concerns stating that she is not intending for this to be an event venue or to be a place for people to party all night.
- Two written statements were read by Jennifer who is the manager at the establishment. First statement was written by Karen who is a regular at the establishment, she wrote that she supports them getting this license as a regular customer of the farm. Jennifer also read another statement from Lauren Gordon who is a neighbor. She wrote that when the farm first opened, she was worried about it but as they have developed she is no longer worried and is now a regular customer of the farm and loves the atmosphere.

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion for conditional approval for Glenn Leigh Farms until December 31, 2023. Pending all rules, regulations and laws of the State, County, municipalities, and Liquor Board are met.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

3. TRANSFER

d. Application # 261029

DECISION

Miyako Japanese Steak & Seafood
Jung Song
For the use of Miyako Frederick, INC
Transfer From: Ki Kim and Rachel Kim
for the use of HKI KIM, INC
Class B, On Sale, Beer, Wine, and Liquor

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion for conditional approval for Miyako Japanese Steak and Seafood until December 31, 2023. Pending all rules, regulations and laws of the State, County, municipalities, and Liquor Board are met.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

e. Application # 258590

DECISION

Idiom Brewing
Michael Clements
For the use of Idiom Brewing Company, LLC
Converting to Class B, On Sale, Beer, Wine, and Liquor

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Robert Copen- States he is in favor of this change; he frequents the establishment and thinks it will be a great addition to Frederick.

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion for conditional approval for Idiom Brewing until March 1, 2024. Pending all rules, regulations and laws of the State, County, municipalities, and Liquor Board are met.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

Chair Aquilino called for a 5-minute break.

4. General Discussion

a. David McSherry presenting his new concept for Atomic 97

- i. David presented to the Board his concept to have seating for his tasting events.
- ii. Director Shugars states our regulations to the Board that as it is written now, we cannot have someone with a Class A sitting at a tasting event. So, we would have to change our regulations to allow this, but the issue also is that the tasting amounts would need to change legislatively as well.
- iii. Commissioner Burrell then said that there is another State that has done this, it is a class A with something else attached to it to allow this concept.
- iv. Director Shugars says that we need to do our homework on other counties to see if they do something similar to this that we could use to change our regulations.
- v. Director Shugars then tells David the possibility of him converting from a Class A to a Class B and then he could still sell alcohol to go as well with a Class B.
- vi. Commissioner Burrell suggests that David come to Alcohol Day on November 13th and address the Delegation about this as well.
- vii. Director Shugars then asks the Board if we should go the route of asking the Delegation to change legislation or if we should just adjust our regulations. The Board could open the regulations for Class A licenses to allow seating during a tasting event.
- viii. It was then suggested by Commissioner Glass and Chair Aquilino to possibly do a Class B in the upstairs of the building and keep the downstairs a Class A. Both Commissioner Glass and Chair Aquilino are concerned about changing the regulations to allow this because could cause issues with other Class A licenses.
- ix. David agreed to come to Alcohol Day on November 13th and talk to the Delegation about this as well.
- x. There was no public comment on this matter.

5. ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion to Adjourn to Staff Meeting at 11:10am.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

6. STAFF MEETING

- a. Adopt renewal fee increase from \$100.00 to \$150.00.

MOTION: Chair Aquilino made a motion to adopt the renewal fee increase from \$100.00 to \$150.00.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

- b. Director Dawn Shugars provided the Board with staff updates.

- i. Director Shugars gives an update to the Board on the legislative packets that will be going to the Board soon for approval before Alcohol Day on November 13th. Director Shugars states that she has had meetings with Chair Aquilino and Jennifer Keefer to finalize the presentations.
- ii. Director Shugars reminds the Board that the hearing on November 13th will be at the public safety building since it is large enough to accommodate everyone for Alcohol Day.
- iii. Director Shugars informs the Board that staff will be leaving for the MALA conference on Sunday.
- iv. Director Shugars informs the Board that the inspectors and herself have started the compliance checks, Chair Aquilino asked Director Shugars to touch on that in more detail. Director Shugars then tells the Board that she and inspectors have been out once and are going out a second time the week of October 23rd to do the compliance checks and she is concerned with the accountability of licensees. After the November 27th hearing, staff will be presenting to the Board potentially new ways to deal with the compliance issues. Director Shugars also warned the Board that the hearing on November 27th may be a long one and to prepare for that. Commissioner Burrell then asks if there is something that we should do on our end for a refresher for licensees since there has been a lack of presence for so long. Director Shugars thinks that after the hearing on November 27th and once the presentation of proposed changes comes to the Board that will hold licensees accountable, we can discuss the adjustments that should be made.
- v. Director Shugars shares with the Board that we still have many initiatives out that staff is still working on such as the entertainment, regulations review, and the start of renewal preparations.
- vi. Director Shugars states that she would like to start a year end review with staff as well as the Board to celebrate the wins over the year for team building.

7. ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion to Adjourn the Staff Meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell- Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was ***Ayes 3, Nay-0***

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:24am

Respectfully submitted,
Trisha Lawson, Administrative Specialist II
FREDERICK COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD