

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
Virtual Meeting
April 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees Baldino, Canty, LaBedz, Padovani, Rosenberg, Scaletta, Schwingbeck and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Village Manager Randy Recklaus and Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula

OTHERS PRESENT: Harlan Powel, Veronica Villafuerte and Melissa Cayer

Mayor Hayes called the meeting to order and explained that due to COVID 19 restrictions and guidelines, the meeting is being held virtually.

A. Consideration of recommending to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class A and Nr Liquor License to Sonesta International Hotels Corporation dba Sonesta Select Arlington Heights, 3700 N. Wilke Road

The petitioners introduced themselves, Harlan Powell attorney with Powell and Junia law firm and Veronica Villafuerte, General Manager Sonesta Select Arlington Heights. Mayor Hayes administered the oath to Veronica Villafuerte.

Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula gave the staff report. Ms. Mikula stated that this is a change in ownership as it had been the Courtyard Marriott North. This location has had three liquor violations, 2010, 2016 and 2019 under the Courtyard Marriott ownership. The police did background checks on two corporate officers of Sonesta as well as Veronica Villafuerte, there were no issues noted.

Ms. Mikula did a walk through on March 29 and the floor plan matched that plan submitted. Sonesta Select Arlington Heights is currently going through a transition phase and is not selling any food or alcohol at this time. Sonesta did want to go ahead with obtaining a liquor license. Upon a satisfactory interview, Assistant Village Manager Mikula indicated that staff recommends the issuance of a Class A and Nr liquor license.

Mayor Hayes asked Mr. Powell if there is any relationship between Sonesta and Courtyard Marriott as Mr. Powell did represent Courtyard Marriott when they had a violation in 2019 when Mayor Hayes was liquor commissioner. Mr. Powell said they are two separate corporate entities and that there is no relationship between the two.

Ms. Villafuerte was asked by the Mayor how they plan to sell the alcohol. Ms. Villafuerte said that they will only sell liquor from 5pm – 10pm but, there is not a menu for alcohol or food yet. The Mayor asked if mixed drinks will be served and Ms. Villafuerte said that she does not have the new menu yet. Management is in the process of finalizing a menu.

Discussion ensued about Ms. Villafuerte's background and experience with serving alcohol and basset training. Ms. Villafuerte will be completing Bassett training as well as other new staff.

Discussion ensued regarding the set up of the bar area and food service. Ms. Villafuerte stated the food will be prepared in the kitchen/bar area. Servers and bartenders will be Bassett trained. Trustee Scaletta stated that questions were being asked as Arlington Heights takes the issuance of a liquor license very seriously and that there is a lot of responsibility with selling and serving liquor. Trustee Rosenberg questioned if the liquor license should be granted without really knowing how they will be serving liquor.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked about the Nr license and how that would look. Ms. Villafuerte stated that there is a gift shop where beer and wine are sold within a locked cooler. Ms. Mikula stated that under the license classification, only guests of the hotel are allowed to purchase alcohol.

Mayor Hayes suggested that the license be approved conditionally with the submission of the final plan for sale of alcohol and final menu subject to the liquor commissioner's discretion if there is need to return to the Board.

Trustee Scaletta moved, seconded by Trustee Baldino to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees recommend to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class A and Nr Liquor License, pending submission of menu and operation plan of liquor service, to Sonesta International Hotels Corporation dba Sonesta Select Arlington Heights, 3700 N. Wilke Road.

The following voice vote was recorded:

9 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

B. OTHER BUSINESS – The Mayor asked if there were questions from the audience. Melissa Cayer asked if Assisted Living Facilities have to have a liquor license if they sell guests meals that may include alcohol. Ms. Mikula stated that Arlington Heights does have some Assisted Living Facilities that do have a liquor license, not all of them have one but, if they are planning on sell liquor, they would need a liquor license.

C. ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Baldino moved, and Trustee Padovani seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.