

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
November 20, 2023**

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees Baldino, Dunnington, Grasse, LaBedz, Shirley, Schwingbeck, and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Bertucci

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esmael Ghaziani, Dean Badruddin, Jon Ridler, Marc Poulos, Mary Sprow, George Christopoulos, Chris Nichols and Christopher Bonk

A. Consideration of recommending to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class E liquor license to Daze Restaurant Group Corp. dba Gumrai Thai located at 170 N. Arlington Heights Road.

The Mayor swore in Esmael Ghaziani and Dean Badruddin, owners of Gumrai Thai.

Ms. Mikula gave the staff report. She stated Mr. Ghaziani and Mr. Badruddin had been before the Village Board about a year and a half ago when then were seeking a liquor license for Rokbanki Steakhouse on Dundee Road in Arlington Heights. A compliance check was recently conducted on Rokbanki and they passed. Mr. Ghaziani and Mr. Badruddin are continuing to invest in the community by now purchasing Gumrai Thai.

Police completed a background check on Esmael Ghaziani, Dean Badruddin and manager, Aruinbold Batbold. No issues were noted. A walk through was conducted on November 15 and it was observed that the number of seats did not match the floor plan that had been submitted. The seating numbers were adjusted on the floor plan to mirror what was observed at the walk through.

Upon a satisfactory interview tonight, Ms. Mikula stated, it would be appropriate to issue a Class E liquor license to Daze Restaurant Group Corp. dba Gumrai Thai located at 170 N. Arlington Heights Road.

Mayor Hayes asked if any changes were planned for the restaurant. Updated technology is the only change that is being planned. Most of the staff from the previous owners are also going to continue to work at the restaurant. Any new employees will be going through the Bassett training. The same policy for checking ids will be used at Gumrai Thai. Mr. Ghaziani and Mr. Baddruddin stated they have been diligent about having staff check ids as they knew the Rokbanki location had violations with the previous owner.

Trustees thanked Mr. Ghaziani and Mr. Badruddin for continuing with Gumrai Thai and investing in Arlington Heights.

Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Grasse to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees recommend to the Liquor Commissioner the issuance of a Class E liquor license to Daze Restaurant Group Corp. dba Gumrai Thai located at 170 N. Arlington Heights Road.

The following voice vote was recorded:

8 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

B. Chamber of Commerce Harmony Fest featuring The Taste of Arlington Heights Report

Village Manager Randy Recklaus stated that Harmony Fest featuring The Taste of Arlington Heights was again considered a success. Village Manager Recklaus pointed out that much hard work goes into this event both by the Chamber and Village staff. Mr. Recklaus stated that the contract that the Chamber has signed with the Village calls for a report to be given to the Board.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Jon Ridler gave the report for the Chamber. He showcased the children's area, the sponsors and businesses involved. Mr. Ridler stated that the food vendors had a great turn out with several of the booths running out of food.

Executive Director Ridler gave an overview of how the event has grown and changed through the years and how adjustments have been made. Mr. Ridler stated that since fewer business booths have been occupied recently due to the economic changes of not having staff to man the booths, going forward the Chamber plans to pursue the idea of opening the event to different cultural groups and organizations to expand the mission and make the event more reflective of the community.

The Mayor thanked the Chamber for the partnership of this event. Trustees thanked the Chamber for the excellent event and stated that it was well attended.

C. Other Business - none

D. Public Comments - none

E. ADJOURNMENT – Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Baldino to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.