



Village of Maple Park

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Approved: Approved at Board meeting on 5/2/2017

Village of Maple Park Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 11, 2017 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Village President Kathy Curtis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Village Clerk Liz Peerboom called the roll call and the following Board members were present: Village President Kathy Curtis, Trustee Chris Higgins, Trustee JP Dries, Trustee Kristine Dalton. Absent: Trustee Terry Borg (arrived late), Trustee Luke Goucher, and Trustee Brandon Harris.

Others present: Police Chief Tony Ayala, Village Attorney Kevin Buick and Village Clerk Liz Peerboom.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Any resident wishing to address the Board may do so according to the Rules of Public Comment and should register with the Village Clerk prior to the meeting.*

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- April 21, 2015
- May 19, 2015
- June 16, 2015
- August 18, 2015
- September 15, 2015

Trustee Higgins made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 21, 2015, May 19, 2015, June 16, 2015, August 18, 2015 and September 15, 2015, seconded by Trustee Dalton. Motion carried by

4. REVIEW OF THE MAPLE PARK LIQUOR CONTROL ORDINANCE

President Curtis said that she would like to keep this meeting to an hour. She advised that the Trustees have the current code and the request form Lodi Tap House in front of them.

She advised that the basic request is to have the Village of Maple Park change the liquor code to allow Lodi Tap House to close Main Street and/or Pleasant Street four times a year to hold a beer garden, with food and a sound stage.

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Trustee Borg arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Trustee Dalton asked when the last time Fun Fest has asked to do the same thing. President Curtis advised that they have asked approximately 3 times in the last 8 years, but they have never presented a formal request to the Board.

President Curtis said that she has spent a lot of hours researching and considering this request, but she cannot support it because of the liability. President Curtis also advised that Main Street is not a village street, although the village does snow plow the street.

The Trustees discussed different ideas of how this could work for the village and Lodi Tap House. Trustee Dalton said that although the request could have restrictions, she supports approving the request. She said that Main Street should not be allowed to be closed. Trustee Higgins said that if we approve the second choice (Pleasant Street), it is not contiguous to the business and it would make customers walk on the Main Street sidewalk with their drinks.

Trustee Dries said that, although he supports this, he has concerns with security and the number of times they are requesting it to be closed. He doesn't want private security; he would rather see a police presence. President Curtis advised that the Police Department is part-time and does not have enough staff. President Curtis said that it comes down to how we want our village to be viewed. She added that the Board has already made two liquor code changes to assist them in opening their business.

Police Chief Ayala also expressed concerns about this request. He said that the Police Department has already gotten complaints from area residents.

Trustee Borg said that he had a list of pros and cons and he said that he is short on pros. He is concerned about the cost to the village. He also said that they have a restaurant license, not a bar license. He said he would like the cost of a liquor license raised, but President Curtis advised that Maple Park's licenses are more than many other municipalities.

The Trustees then discussed different types of licenses. They also discussed different alternatives to approving this request. President Curtis said that it wouldn't even be prudent to allow for them to hold this event at Fun Fest, because she doesn't want liquor in two different places because the Police Department doesn't have the manpower to cover one beer area, let alone two areas. Police Chief Ayala advised that all of his officers are part-time. He also discussed areas that need to be improved for Fun Fest.

President Curtis said that she wants to be supportive of business owners, but not at the risk of the village.

Village Attorney Kevin Buick said that this has to be guided by law. He said that this is an invitation to litigation and that the Board needs to balance issues of risk. He was also concerned about the suggested use of village property for something that is not a community event.

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President Curtis was concerned about the resident that just moved in across the street; because, when they purchased their home there was a restaurant across the street that wasn't open late at night. Then, a bar moved in and now they want to have a beer garden and a sound stage. Mr. Buick also said that, although the Liquor Commissioner can approve or deny a permit, it could be seen as favoritism if a permit is denied or approved. He doesn't want the village to set themselves up for failure.

Trustee Borg said that it is a valiant attempt, but it would only cause problems for the village. President Curtis said that it is hard to market apartments when you have a beer garden next door.

Trustee Higgins had statistics on businesses and how often new businesses don't make it. He said that this is a new business and why put ourselves at risk for a business that we don't even know if they are going to make it.

Trustee Dalton asked if they can close off Pleasant Street during Fun Fest for them. President Curtis advised that Pleasant Street is closed off for Fun Fest, but liquor is only to be on Kennebec behind the ropes during Fun Fest.

President Curtis said that she asked other license holders for input, she researched the issue, and talked to other Mayors. She also asked the Village Attorney to do a cursory look at the code. Mr. Buick said that any changes to the code should come from the Board, not the Village Attorney. He said that if it is up to him the State liquor code should be the model, with updated language.

Trustee Borg said that the Board shouldn't mess with something that isn't broken.

President Curtis advised that the Maple Park Pub has music in their beer garden and she gets complaints about the noise in the summer.

Consensus was to not approve the request.

5. OTHER ITEMS

None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Borg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Dries. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Liz Peerboom, CMC
Village Clerk