



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF LIQUOR LICENCE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 2016, STARTING AT 8:45 A.M.
WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT:

Food & Beverage Sector Representative – Pubs, Mike Wilson
Food & Beverage Sector Representative – Nightclubs, Terry Clark
Whistler Community Services Society Representative, Jackie Dickinson
Public Safety Department Representative, RCMP, Rob Knapton
RMOW Staff Representative, Secretary, Frank Savage
Councillor, Andrée Janyk
Whistler Fire Rescue Service Representative, Geoff Playfair
Recording Secretary, Shannon Perry

REGRETS:

Food & Beverage Representative – Restaurants, Vice-Chair, Kevin Wallace
Accommodation Sector Representative, Chair, Colin Hedderson
Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) Inspector, Holly Glenn

GUEST:

John Holton Director of Food & Beverage Operations at Burrard Hospitality Group, including Beacon Pub and Basalt Wine & Salumeria

Frank Savage, LLAC Secretary, called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and assumed the role of Chair in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Rob Knapton
Seconded by Geoff Playfair

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee adopt the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee agenda of October 13, 2016

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Mike Wilson
Seconded by Terry Clark

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Liquor Licence Advisory Committee minutes of July 14, 2016.

CARRIED

COUNCIL UPDATE

An update from Councillor Janyk was provided to the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee regarding Council review of Whistler's employee housing situation. Discussion topics include a trailer camp facility, Airbnb, Cheakamus Crossing rental units, and others. A Mayor's Task Force on Resident Housing has been formed. Whistler Housing Authority is hosting meetings for tenants and landlords.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Licensed Food &
Beverage Services in
Whistler Village

A presentation by Frank Savage on Licensed Food & Beverage Services in Whistler Village establishment locations and capacities. The presentation included:

- The economic impact of the Whistler F&B sector: 32% of direct consumer spending and 18% of jobs
- Recent provincial liquor policy changes in place as well as future policies to come which could impact Whistler Village
- Licensed establishment capacity changes from January 2014 to July 2016 for entire Whistler Village
- Focus on licensed capacity changes along Village Stroll level (Olympic Plaza to Skier's Plaza) from 2014 to 2016
- Noted that there has been a substantial increase in liquor primary patio seats in Skier's Plaza in response to high demand during warm weather and après ski
- A potential concern is that families with children could be excluded from liquor primary patios at the discretion of the establishments
- Goals, objectives and recommendations for a decision making framework were proposed for evaluating liquor licence applications.

Comments from LLAC members:

- It was noted that currently there are limited, easily accessible licensed patios for families with children and skis. Family zones should be easily accessible.
- 2014 provincial liquor policy change to permit minors accompanied by a parent or guardian until 10 p.m. has been a positive for the resort.
- It will be important to retain key Village Stroll locations for food primary and liquor primary establishments. Should also consider key F&B establishment locations in Upper Village and Whistler Creek.
- It is important to maintain the perceived independent nature of Whistler's Food & Beverage sector. The decision making framework should consider this as an objective.
- Policy tools (zoning, bylaws, municipal liquor policy) for managing changes should be investigated.

Basalt Wine &
Salumeria New Liquor
Primary Licence File No.
LLR1263

A presentation by Frank Savage on an application from Basalt Wine & Salumeria for a new liquor primary licence to replace its existing food primary licence. Presentation highlights included:

- For a new liquor primary licence application the provincial Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) requires a resolution from local government Council addressing a number of prescribed criteria. The review process for a new liquor primary licence is more substantial than that of a routine liquor licence change.
- The Basalt Wine & Salumeria opened in 2015 (in the location previously occupied by The Mix by Ric's) with a new food primary licence with hours of liquor service from 9 a.m. to midnight daily.
- With a liquor primary licence the Basalt floor plan would remain unchanged from its current food primary licence and would include the same 67 person interior and 37 person patio areas. The proposed liquor primary hours of liquor service are 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily.
- The applicant letter provides a rationale for the application and describes how they intend to operate: They would like to remain a food primary licensed establishment until 11 p.m. or 12 p.m. but want to be able to transition into a more mature evening venue with minimal food offering in the late evenings. They have identified a need for an upscale evening venue for adults, but not a nightclub or a pub atmosphere.
- The Basalt has applied for a Family Foodservice term and condition, whereby minors would be permitted until 10 p.m. when accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- The Basalt application was reviewed relative to the LCLB and LLAC review criteria.
- A 30-day public notification period was conducted and one comment was received, from the management of a local nightclub. The letter expressed concern about potential negative impacts of the Basalt application on the Village atmosphere and the business of other liquor primary establishments.

John Holton presented to the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee members a history regarding the Basalt Wine & Salumeria establishment and previous liquor licences held at the location:

- The Basalt (and the nearby Beacon Pub) are owned by the Burrard Hospitality Group, which also owns the Crystal Lodge where both establishments are located.
- When Burrard took over the Beacon Pub in 2014 (formerly Citta), they immediately applied for and received an exemption to permit minors until 8 p.m. (now 10 p.m.) and have welcomed families with children since.
- With the proposed liquor primary licence the Basalt would continue to have food available until 1 a.m., but it is not economically viable to keep the kitchen in full operation with a focus on food after 11 p.m. That is why they are applying for a liquor primary licence.
- They believe there is a market for a high end lounge experience at night.
- With a liquor primary licence he stated that the Basalt would welcome families with minors until 10 p.m.

- Basalt wants to continue to have a positive impact on the Whistler Village food and beverage industry and hope to satisfy the needs of guests.
- Basalt would not have loud music at night because of potentially disturbing Crystal Lodge guests in rooms above the Basalt space.

Questions from LLAC members:

Q: What is minimum food requirement to operate as food primary?

A: The menu needs to offer a wide variety of food for its guest's e.g. hot and cold entrees, appetizers, etc.

Q: How does discretion to permit minors work?

A: LCLB policy states that a liquor primary establishment with a Family Foodservice term and condition can permit minors until 10 p.m. when accompanied by a parent or guardian, but the establishment can chose to exclude minors at any time.

Q: Is it possible for an establishment to have both a food primary licence and a liquor primary licence?

A: Not yet. New LCLB regulations scheduled to be in effect early next year are expected to permit an establishment to have a food primary licence until a certain time and then change to a liquor primary licence until closing.

Comments from LLAC members:

- Nightclub Sector Representative: Does not support a liquor primary licence; supports sticking to food primary licence with permanent extension of hours until 1 a.m. (from current midnight)
- Pub Sector Representative: Supports liquor primary application
- RCMP Representative: Access to families is a concern. Cannot support liquor primary application if minors could be excluded before 10 p.m.
- Whistler Community Services Society Representative: Supports liquor primary application
- Fire Department Representative: Supports liquor primary application
- RMOW Staff Representative: Suggests that this key Village Stroll location that must continue to be accessible minors until 10 p.m.
- Council Representative (non-voting): Should investigate policy tools to ensure minors are not excluded

Moved by Geoff Playfair

Second by Jackie Dickinson

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee supports the application from the Basalt Wine & Salumeria for a new liquor primary licence with hours of liquor service from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. to replace its existing food primary licence.

Three in favour; three opposed

FAILED

The LLAC Nightclub Sector Representative had previously stated his support for the Basalt retaining its food primary licence but to extend its hours of liquor service to 1 a.m. from the current midnight.

Moved by Terry Clark
Second by Rob Knapton

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee support a potential application from the Basalt Wine & Salumeria to extend its food primary operating hours to 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. from its current hours of operating 9 a.m. to midnight.

CARRIED

It was noted that the LCLB is considering a liquor policy change which would permit a food primary establishment to transition to liquor primary at a certain hour (say 9 or 10 p.m.) and then operate as a liquor primary until closing. This would require an application for a new liquor primary licence, with full opportunity for public input and local government comment. However, since the LCLB policy is not yet in place, there was no motion proposed on a potential Basalt application for a new liquor primary licence to complement its existing food primary licence.

Public Walkways
between Interior and
Patio Licensed Areas

A presentation by Frank Savage on provincial policies and customer service considerations of licensed patios separated from licensed interior areas by public walkways. An explanation on this policy was provided to Liquor Licence Advisory Committee members and a discussion was held. Further discussion will be held at a future meeting.

Provincial Liquor Policy
Changes

Geoff Playfair left meeting 10:56 a.m.

An update to Liquor Licence Advisory Committee members on recent liquor policy changes issued by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch and a discussion of further policy changes under consideration.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Rob Knapton

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee adjourn the October 13, 2016 Liquor Licence Advisory Committee meeting at 11:02 a.m.

CARRIED

ACTING CHAIR: Frank Savage

SECRETARY: Frank Savage