

WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF LIQUOR LICENCE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 12 2020, STARTING AT 10:30 A.M.
In the Flute Room
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5**

PRESENT:

Councillor John Grills
Food & Beverage Sector Representative (Restaurants), Chair, Kevin Wallace
Food & Beverage Sector Representative (Nightclubs), Brendon King
Food & Beverage Sector Representative (Pubs), Vice-Chair, Mike Varrin
Whistler Community Services Society Representative, Lori Pyne
Whistler Fire Rescue Service Representative, John McKearney
Accommodation Sector Representative, Julie Lanteigne
Secretary, RMOW Resort Experience Staff Representative, Stephanie Johnson
Recording Secretary, Denise Taveira

REGRETS:

Public Safety Department Representative, RCMP, Rob Knapton
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) Inspector, Tyler Maloney

GUESTS:

Rising Tide Consultants, Bert Hick
Forged Axe Throwing, Brett Easton
Forged Axe Throwing, James Anderson

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by M. Varrin
Seconded by J. Lanteigne

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee adopt the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee Agenda of March 12, 2020

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Lanteigne
Seconded by J. McKearney

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Liquor Licence Advisory Committee Minutes of November 14, 2019.

CARRIED

COUNCIL UPDATE

A brief Council update was provided by Councillor Grills about the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic on our community. Council is monitoring the situation constantly and working closely with Vancouver Coastal Health.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

LLR1345 Forged Axe
Throwing Liquor
Primary Licence

A presentation by Stephanie Johnson, Planner was given regarding Forged Axe Throwing Ltd.'s new liquor primary licence application.

- Proposed hours of service: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Monday through Sunday.
- Occupant load: Interior - 61 persons.
- Minors: The applicant is requesting for this to be considered a 'Neighbourhood House' with a family endorsement to permit minors accompanied by a parent or guardian until 10:00 p.m.
- The sale, service and consumption of liquor is to be restricted to the licensed areas shown on the floor plan in Appendix "C". The axe throwing is to occur in the unlicensed areas. Safety management protocol will be limiting the amount of axe throwers per lane, each lane will have a staff member host who will monitor safety and liquor consumption, and a security camera system will be in place.
- The strategy will be to have all staff complete "Serving it Right", limiting drinks, having non-alcoholic beverages and food available to customers.
- Municipal review is in good standing, Occupant load is for 61 persons interior and 18 total for outside. We received 117 letters of support from the general public.
- Throughout the municipal referral process some LLAC members outlined safety concerns for employees and participants. The location of the business outside of the Village core was also mentioned as a concern.

A presentation by Bert Hick with Rising Tide Consultants was given introducing the applicants and providing an overview of the liquor primary application by Forged Axe Throwing Ltd.

- The safety criteria developed by the applicant is aligned with similar indoor recreation facilities; it will be supervised by management staff and guest hosts, alcohol will not be consumed while throwing axes, and in-house policies, procedures and staff training have been designed to address operational safety.

A presentation by James Anderson co-owner of Forged Axe Throwing Ltd. was given on the company's history and background.

- The doors opened in April, 2017. The business has grown over the past 3 years with over 40,000 axe throwers. Forged Axe has hosted 19 special events via the LCRB's Special Event Permit (SEP) application process.
- Forged Axe Throwing is a games focused venue. The business wants to stay a recreation facility that provides safe family fun. In response to customer feedback and success of the past SEPs the business now wants to add a liquor primary license to their venue, and feel that this is aligned with what customers are looking for.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Q. Councillor: Have you done the research on obtaining insurance for this type of business with liquor?

A. Yes, Forged Axe has secured an insurance partner who is willing to renew their policy, with a substantial fee increase.

Q. Councillor: Have you met all the parking requirements?

A. We are re-using our existing parking space and gaining 5 spaces

A. RMOW Resort Experience Staff Representative: On November 5, 2019 Council authorized issuance of Development Variance Permit (DVP) DVP1180 to reduce the parking area setback and landscape buffering requirements for 1208 Alpha Lake Road. This DVP allowed the creation of an additional five parking stalls to accommodate the increase parking requirement for licensed establishments in anticipation of this liquor primary application. The overall site currently has 17 parking spaces.

Q. Accommodation Sector Representative: How often are you at parking capacity?

A. We do not often hit our parking capacity for our full occupancy load. It also depends if other businesses in the area use up our parking spots, and on the time of day.

Q. Whistler Fire Rescue Service Representative: Have there been any accidents or near misses and what is your level of response should something happen?

A: No major incidents over the years. Any issues are dealt with immediately. Staff have been trained in First Aid.

Q. Pub Sector Representative: What is the strategy for the establishment being at capacity with the intention of only drinking?

A. Most customers book online to make a reservation for axe throwing, which helps to control numbers of guests and occupancy requirements. Forged Axe does not get many walk-in customers. The focus of the proposed business plan is an axe throwing experience and not a space solely for alcohol consumption.

Q. Pub Sector Representative: Will you have a plan for basic security training staff?

A. Yes, we will implement security training to ensure safety and all capacity issues that may arise.

Q. Nightclub Sector Representative: In past events, have you ever turned away intoxicated customers?

A. Yes, we have had to ask people to leave who are too intoxicated or we have turned them down for liquor service. Staff are trained in how to handle these situations. This is a key focus for us, as we do not want intoxicated customers throwing axes.

Q. Whistler Community Services Society Representative: What are the safety protocols that you would recommend putting in place to limit the amount of drinks prior to axe throwing? What would you deem to be a reasonable limit?

A. The insurance provider has included a maximum drink stipulation in the policy, which includes a maximum of 3 drinks within one hour. Management staff and the guest host assigned to each group will monitor this.

Q. Pub Sector Representative: Why did you not apply for a Food Primary Licence which has more restrictions around it in regards to alcohol consumption?

A. Forged Axe is an indoor recreation use. Food is not the focus of our business.

Q. Pub Sector Representative: Would you not be able to add a PPE to the Food Primary Application?

A. Applicant: The LCRB states that any business wanting to offer liquor service as an additional service to patrons or have a liquor focused service area must apply for a liquor primary licence.

Q. Nightclub Sector Representative: What stops you from becoming a liquor establishment in the future? How will the RMOW deal with this?

A. Forged Axe Ltd. is an axe throwing business. Liquor service would only be auxiliary to axe throwing.

A. RMOW Resort Experience Staff Representative: The subject property is zoned IS1 (Industrial Service One). Under the IS1 zone establishments licensed for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises including neighborhood public house.

Q. Pub Sector Representative: What is the RMOW process should the type of Business change?

A. RMOW Resort Experience Staff Representative: The RMOW reviews business changes via the Business Regulation Bylaw and business licence application process. This application process includes a review of relevant land use planning regulations, building and other pertinent municipal regulations, which may trigger other application processes for consideration by the Municipality.

Q. Accommodation Sector Representative: Do the current zoning requirements or Bylaws in place require the participation of Tourism Whistler fees or dues and resort marketing?

A. Yes.

Q. Restaurant Sector Representative: Why do you have patio B with a capacity of 3 people. Why take that risk?

A. We wanted to have a patio for people to wait for a lane for axe throwing while being outside. This area will also be monitored by staff.

Q. Nightclub Sector Representative: Do you have someone who oversees your groups to ensure rules are followed?

A. We run a hosted experience. When a group arrives they are met by a host, a safety talk and overview of the rules are given, including a three drink maximum by the host who is with the guests throughout the entire experience and leads a series of axe throwing games with the customers.

Q. Nightclub Sector Representative: Have you considered that an axe may be used as a weapon?

A. An axe being used as a weapon has never happened before. We are aware of the risk and are very safety conscious. The proposed safety protocols are designed to reduce risk.

Q. Pub Sector Representative: How many late night events have you had in the past?

A. Most events start at 7pm. We have had a few late night events, mostly special events, which normally end at 11:00pm.

Q. Whistler Community Services Society (WCCS) Representative: How are you monitoring the amount of drinks that people consume?

A. The management team and guest host(s) would be monitoring the groups throughout the experience. Staff are trained with "Serving it Right" and would stop serving the customers. Forged Axe's insurance policy would also be limited to a maximum of three drinks per customer. The general axe throwing experience lasts about one hour.

Q. Councillor: How do you identify under age customers?

A. Applicant: We are trying to figure out the best system to monitor under age customers. With SEPs we have successfully used a wrist band system.

Q. Pub Sector Representative: Is food offered, do they cater?

A. Forged Axe Throwing Ltd. will have a food menu featuring bar food, snacks and sandwiches. We may also use a caterer to provide food service for some booked events, such as, corporate team building, birthdays and other similar occasions. There will be a variety of hot and cold snacks available and non-alcoholic beverages.

Comments:

Accommodation Sector Representative: Supports this application.

Restaurant Sector Representative: No concerns with the application, which provides for a recreation alternative. This application adds animation to Function Junction. In full support of this proposal.

Whistler Fire Rescue Service Representative: Any concerns have been addressed, and WFRS supports this application.

Councillor: Transportation options, such as, taxi and ride share availability is a concern for Whistler in general, including Function Junction at the southern edge of our community.

Nightclubs Sector Representative: Concerned with this liquor primary proposal and this establishment turning into a nightclub type of use with a focus not being on axe throwing.

Pubs Sector Representative: There should be controls in place for safety, but in support of this liquor primary application.

Whistler Community Services Society Representative: Does not support this application due to safety, and mental and health and well-being concerns for staff members.

Moved By M. Varrin
Seconded By J. Lanteigne

That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee support the application by Forged Axe Throwing Ltd. for a new liquor primary application with the condition that axe throwing be the primary focus of the business.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by J. Grills
Seconded by B. King

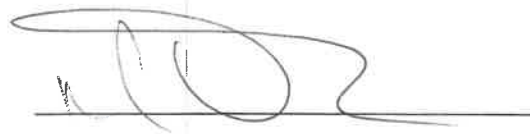
That the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee Meeting of March 12, 2020 be terminated at 12:00p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, K. Wallace

M. VARRIN



Recording Secretary, D. Taveira