

**LIQUOR AND BEER SPECIAL MEETING
LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY
CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
MUNICIPAL HEARING ROOM, CITY HALL, 250 NORTH 5TH STREET**

**MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016, 4:00 P.M.**

HEARING OFFICER MICHAEL GRATTAN

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Those present were Hearing Officer Michael Grattan, City Attorney John Shaver, and Deputy City Clerk Debbie Kemp.

II. APPLICATION FOR NEW LICENSE – RESOLUTION, FINDINGS, AND DECISION – Continued from January 20, 2016

1. Liokve, LLC dba The Sports Vortex, 2880 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Hotel and Restaurant

Owner: Melinda Jo Towner, 1043 Echo Canyon Street, Fruita, CO 81521
Reg. Mgr.: Tiffany Ann Blecha, 2628 Patterson Road, Grand Jct., CO 81506

Melinda Towner, sole owner of Liokve, LLC, Tiffany Blecha, general manager, and Mark Towner, marketing manager, were present.

Ms. Kemp read the results of the second needs and desires survey (see attached) into the record.

City Attorney Shaver asked Ms. Towner if she believes what Ms. Kemp read into the record to be true and accurate. Ms. Towner said yes. City Attorney Shaver asked Ms. Towner to describe the process for securing the residential signatures as indicated. Mark Towner said that he went to the houses in the neighborhood and talked to people. There were several people reluctant to open their door. He informed the ones that he spoke with that they are opening a restaurant and would be selling alcohol until 2:00 a.m. and the nature of the business tends to lead to more late night activity. A lot of people responded that they wanted other options besides Texas Roadhouse. The survey was conducted in the mornings on the weekend and Monday and Tuesday evenings between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Tiffany Blecha said that she walked around the neighborhood and surveyed with Mr. Towner and clarified the hours they went out on Tuesday were between 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

City Attorney asked about the 16 disqualifications that were reported. Ms. Blecha said the ones disqualified were outside the designated boundary because she thought that the east boundary went to 29 ½ Road instead of only 29 ¼ Road and for the people who didn't indicate yes or no, she had not realized that they hadn't marked that. She tried to check every signature, but she obviously missed those.

City Attorney Shaver asked about the two business signatures that were obtained. Ms. Blecha said that they were home businesses. Ms. Blecha said that she feels they really got a good response from the community and everyone is really excited. Mr. Towner said from what people told him, there seems to be a demand for The Sports Vortex. City Attorney Shaver asked if there were any “not at homes” and if so, what was done with those. Ms. Blecha said there were a lot of “not at homes” and that they made a second attempt to contact about four or five of those.

Hearing Officer Grattan noted that, except for representatives for the applicant and representatives from the Police Department, there were no other people in the room.

Meghan Woodland, Grand Junction Police Service Technician, advised that, because of Mr. Towner’s involvement with the establishment, there is a concern regarding a DUI (Driving Under the Influence) citation that Mr. Towner received after leaving The Sports Vortex. Ms. Woodland said there was no case being built on that incident because it is currently not a liquor licensed establishment, but they wanted to make the Hearing Authority aware of the citation.

Hearing Officer Grattan asked if anyone, on behalf of the applicant, had anything to say. Mr. Towner stepped up to the podium. Hearing Officer Grattan advised him that there is a Fifth Amendment right to self-incrimination and he has no obligation to say anything and that he was not under oath. He suggested Mr. Towner not say anything. Mr. Towner stated that there was no liquor involved and also said that the reason the LLC is called Liokve is because it is that time between like and love and that is where he and Ms. Towner spent most of their first year together.

City Attorney Shaver said that the second survey results were much more representative of the neighborhood even though the disqualifications seemed a little bit unusual since the applicant was directed to cure more responses. Because there are no petitions or opposition, he recommended approval of the liquor license.

Hearing Officer Grattan adopted City Attorney Shaver’s recommendation and noted the following: 1) there is no opposition; 2) the supplemental survey results were residential responses and there were substantial commercial responses from the original survey; and 3) the premises were previously licensed and was appropriate without significant note. For those reasons he found that the application for a hotel and restaurant liquor license for Liokve, LLC dba The Sports Vortex, located at 2880 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO was in order and he approved it. The City Clerk’s office will prepare a resolution for Hearing Officer Grattan’s signature.


III. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – February 3, 2016

MEMO: Local Licensing Authority
FROM: Debbie Kemp, Deputy City Clerk 
DATE: January 27, 2016
SUBJECT: Application for a new hotel and restaurant liquor license by Liokve, LLC dba The Sports Vortex, 2880 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO

Liokve, LLC dba The Sports Vortex, 2880 North Avenue conducted a second survey to address the reasonable requirements of the neighborhood and the desires of the adult inhabitants of the neighborhood.

The neighborhood was defined as the area bounded on the North by Orchard Avenue, I-70 B on the South, 29 ¼ Road on the East and 28 ¼ Road on the West and included both sides of the streets as the outer boundaries. The results of that survey are as follows:

Check, the **YES** column if you **SUPPORT** this type of license being issued because the existing outlets do not adequately serve the reasonable requirements of the designated area or check the **NO** column if you **OPPOSE** this type of license being issued because the existing outlets adequately serve the reasonable requirements of the designated area.

Business Results:	FAVOR:	2
	OPPOSE:	0
Residential Results:	FAVOR:	72
	OPPOSE:	1

There were 16 responses that were disqualified because:

- five respondents were out of the designated boundary
- ten respondents didn't check yes or no
- one respondent didn't list an address

There were no "exhibits to survey petition" submitted.

That concludes this report.

e-copy: Applicant
John Shaver, City Attorney
Meghan Woodland, Grand Junction Police Department
File