

Good Neighbors Report

To: PS&L Committee
From: Attorney Nhu H. Arn
RE: Tulip Tavern, LLC., dba Tulip Tavern, Tracey Shepard, Agent
Meeting date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023
Departments: Attorney and City Development

License(s) requested: Class "B" and "Class B" license (beer and liquor)

Topics Discussed

Agent/manager experience. Ms. Shepard is currently working at Pepi's Pub and Grill and has been there since 2021. Prior to that, she has worked in the restaurant and bar industry since the age of fifteen on a semi-regular basis. She is currently a licensed bartender, but has never owned her own bar. Ms. Shepard will be primarily in charge of the premises, but will continue to work at Pepi's Pub and Grill on a part-time basis.

Status of building/renovations. Ms. Shepard is working with an architect to design and construct a kitchen on the premises. She is in the process of meeting with city staff to see whether she can move forward with those plans. Thereafter, Ms. Shepard will have to hire a contractor to pull permits prior to any work and obtain an occupancy permit to operate. She hopes to be open by late spring or early summer of 2024. She understands that she will have to start operating within six months of the date of the common council approval.

Amendment of premises description. Ms. Shepard clarified that the premises should include the first floor of the building, fenced-in patio to the south of the building and basement storage. An amendment has been attached to the license application packet, along with a revised map.

Police department issues. This location has been the source of several nuisance issues, including loitering, crowds blocking traffic, and general noise complaints. In the past year alone, this location has generated at least twenty documented calls for nuisance complaints. As such, Sgt. Legath pointed out that there are concerns regarding the establishment's impact on public safety and quality of life issues. At the time of the meeting, Ms. Shepard has yet to hire security and did not have a surveillance system in place. She states she will hire security if needed, although it is strongly advised by Sgt. Legath that she do so.

Overall summary

This proposed location has a history of nuisance issues. Ms. Shepard is aware of these concerns and hopes that the delayed opening date for this bar will disperse the existing patrons at this location. At the time of the good neighbors meeting, Ms. Shepard had yet to apply for an occupancy permit or restaurant license, and is still in the planning stages of installing a

commercial kitchen. Given its current renovation status, the committee should approve a “conditional grant of the license” if it is so inclined, which would require the applicant to start operating within six months of the date of the common council approval.