

# IOWA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES COMMISSION

## MINUTES

Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division  
Steyer Opera House  
Hotel Winneshiek  
104 East Water Street  
Decorah, IA  
November 8, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.

### Commission Members Present

Gary Nystrom: Chair  
Rachel Eubank: Vice Chair  
John Pauli: Secretary  
Jay Wilson: Member

### Division Staff Present

Stephen Larson: Administrator  
Tyler Ackerson: Program Planner – Education and Outreach  
Erin Carpenter: Assistant to the Administrator  
Jodi Christensen: Safety and Security Coordinator  
Josh Happe: Bureau Chief, Regulatory Compliance Bureau  
Lolani Lekkas: Compliance Officer 1  
John Lundquist: Assistant Attorney General  
Heather Schaffer: Compliance Officer 2  
Nicole Scebold: Management Analyst 3  
Herb Sutton: Manager, Business Operations

### Guests Present

Stacy Kluesner: Iowa Restaurant Assn.  
Terry Ramlo: Quillins Food Center  
Lance Peters: WCSO  
Joe Ward: Calmar Police  
Dan Marx: Winneshiek County Sheriff  
Clark Lewey: Toppling Goliath  
Barbara Lewey: Toppling Goliath  
Stephanie Fromm: Winneshiek County Development  
Don Arendt: Mayor of Decorah  
Beth Guzman: Winneshiek Wildberry Winery  
Kevin Bemiss: Bemiss Distributing

David Noack: Fareway  
Michael Bergen: HD55  
Rick Zahasky: Decorah City Attorney  
Nathan Cooper: IWBDA  
Brandon S.: Neighbor to Toppling Goliath Tap Room  
Chad Bird: City of Decorah  
Wanda Hemesath: City of Decorah  
John S. Anderson: Anderson Law Firm  
Curt Wymer: Toppling Goliath  
Nichole Hageman: Toppling Goliath  
Josh White: Toppling Goliath  
Brad Epperlhy: Toppling Goliath  
David Lester: Oneota Co-op  
Michael Breitbach: IA Senate  
Ben Grimstad: Decorah Bank & Trust  
John Schroeber: Decorah Bank & Trust  
B. Massman: Decorah City  
Maria Larson: The Ox & Wren Spirits and Gifts  
Paul Scott: Decorah News  
Jen Kimber: Helping Services  
Dan Fretheim: Pulpit Rock Brewing  
Stephen Larson: Backwater Spirits & More  
Mark Jensen: C US Bank/Winneshiek County

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Gary Nystrom called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and roll was taken. There was a quorum.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTION**

Chairperson Nystrom recognized Mayor Don Arendt. Mayor Arendt welcomed the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Commission to Decorah.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Pauli to approve the agenda for the November 8, 2017, Commission meeting.**

**Motion approved.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Eubank and seconded by Commissioner Pauli to approve the minutes for the September 7, 2017, Commission meeting.**

**Motion approved.**

Chairperson Nystrom recognized Administrator Stephen Larson for the Administrator's Report.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Larson provided an overview of the Division's alcohol licensing reform initiative. Administrator Larson also provided an overview of the Division's business operations and Iowa's liquor wholesale system.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Wanda Hemesath – (City of Decorah) Spoke on the Iowa Liquor Wholesale Model questions

Clark Lewey – (Toppling Goliath) Spoke on the importance of the 3 tier system

Nathan Cooper – (IWBDA) Questioned the RFP that has been issued

Stacy Kluesner – (Iowa Restaurant Association) Spoke on the importance of engaging on & off premise in conversation on the Iowa Liquor Wholesale Model & the importance of evaluating the current process of highly allocated products.

David Noack – (Fareway Store in Decorah) Spoke on issues with ordering & receiving orders during holidays.

Brandon – (Neighbor to Toppling Goliath Tap Room) Had questions on breweries only being able to have one tap room, referring to Toppling Goliath.

Ben Grimstad (Decorah Bank & Trust) Welcomed & thanked the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division for coming to Decorah. Spoke on the importance of economic development to small towns in Iowa & to consider that in the licensing reform process.

Stephanie Fromm – (Winneshiek County Development) Expressed the importance of organizations like Toppling Goliath & the economic impact they have on communities & the region on a whole.

Dan Marx – (Winneshiek County Sheriff's Office) Spoke on the importance of having city & county law enforcement involved in the decision making process of licensing.

Beth Guzman – (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery) Questioned if there would be any changes to privileges on wine licenses.

Stephen Larson – (Backwater Spirits & More) Welcomed the commission to Decorah. Spoke on the issue of getting special orders & highly allocated items.

Mark Jensen – (C US Bank/Winneshiek County) Spoke on the importance of the state to keep exploring ways to improve upon licensing/regulation.

Rick Zahasky – (Decorah City Attorney) Spoke on the importance of the local authorities & law enforcement should have more impact on the licensing process.

Nathan Cooper - (IWBDA) Referenced that there is a path to have multiple tap rooms depending on the

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING DATES**

Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. in Ankeny, Iowa.

Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Des Moines, Iowa.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Pauli and seconded by Commissioner Eubank to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.



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Commissioner Pauli, Secretary