

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting

From: **Development & Planning**

Date: July 11, 2022

Subject: Liquor licence amendments for Structural Changes to an Approved Lounge and Change to Hours of Liquor Service (LOUNGE and Outside)

Recommendation: **THAT Council approve the comments made in this report to be sent to the LCRB regarding liquor licence amendments for Structural Changes to an Approved Lounge and Change to Hours of Liquor Service (LOUNGE and Outside) for Grand Forks Beer Company Ltd. Located at 334A Market Avenue.**

Purpose

To provide Council with the necessary information to provide comment to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) regarding liquor licence amendments for Structural Changes to an Approved Lounge and Change to Hours of Liquor Service (LOUNGE and Outside) for Grand Forks Beer Company Ltd. located at 334A Market Avenue.

Background

The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) has received applications for liquor licence amendments for Structural Changes to an Approved Lounge and Change to Hours of Liquor Service (LOUNGE and Outside) for Grand Forks Beer Company Ltd. located at 334A Market Avenue. Before the LCRB can decide whether to issue the licence, Local Governments must first gather input from the community within the immediate vicinity of the establishment and provide comments on the application. Alternatively, Council may also choose to delegate the authority of providing comment on the application to Staff.

Comments to the LCRB regarding these applications must speak clearly to the following items:

- The impact of noise on the community in the immediate vicinity of the establishment
- The impact on the community if the application is approved
- The views of residents, and a description of the method used to gather views
- The local government's recommendations (including whether the application should be approved) and the reasons on which they are based

These comments must consider:

- The location of the establishment
- The proposed hours of service
- The person capacity of the establishment

Hours and Occupancy

The applicant is proposing to:

- 1) increase their overall approved person capacity from 50 persons to 99 persons, which would allow for a maximum of 60 persons indoor and 39 persons on the patio, and
- 2) change the hours of liquor service as follows:

Proposed Changes:	Current Approved Hours	Proposed Hours
Monday-Thursday	3:00PM-10:00PM	11:30AM-11:30PM
Friday-Sunday	3:00PM-11:00PM	11:30AM-11:30PM

To achieve the new person capacity, the owner has been in contact with the City's Building Inspector to discuss options for an additional water closet which will be required as part of the person capacity increase. The owner briefly considered the use of an outdoor portable toilet; however, is determined to work on another indoor solution instead. Occupancy approval from the building department would be issued with the condition that this be resolved prior to January 1, 2023, when the business licence renewal is due.

Tentative Timeline:

Activity	Date (2022)
Staff received notification of amendment application	June 17 th
Public feedback session advertisement published in the Grand Forks Gazette	June 29 th
Cut-off for written submissions from the public	July 8 th
Public feedback session held	July 11 th
Request for Decision brought to Council	July 11 th

Proposed Comments:

The following table lays out the required components of comments that must be made to the LCRB regarding a Lounge Area Endorsement and Staff's recommended comments.

Requirement	Comment
The impact of noise on the community in the immediate vicinity of the establishment	Noise is not expected to be an issue due to the commercial location and considering that the street next to the establishment has been closed for summer activities (approved by Council) and is already acting as a public gathering space.
The impact on the community if the application is approved	If the application is approved, the impact is expected to be positive in that it will support the growth of the local economy and offer a new social venue for residents. The occupancy load and hours of service are acceptable.

<p>The views of residents, and a description of the method used to gather views</p>	<p>_____ responses were received from the public. The public was invited to participate in a public feedback session on July 11th, 2022, which was advertised in the local newspaper on June 29th, 2022. The newspaper ad also invited the public to submit written feedback which would be taken until noon on July 8th, 2022. Comments from the Public Feedback Session were:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>The local government's recommendations (including whether the application should be approved) and the reasons on which they are based.</p>	<p>Council recommends to <u>approve/not approve</u> the endorsement. The proposed occupancy and hours of the establishment present no immediate concerns to the City or to the public. This establishment has the potential to create new jobs and help revitalize the downtown core of Grand Forks.</p>

Benefits or Impacts

General

The additional capacity has the potential to attract more people to the downtown core and support revitalization of the Grand Forks business sector and create healthy competition. Since the proposal does not include a Food Primary application, it may not be in direct competition with a traditional pub which offers an extended menu and dine-in services.

Finances

There are no costs to the City directly associated with the liquor licence. Supporting the LCRB application may lead to expansion of a new business in the downtown core, thereby stimulating the local economy and increasing the tax base for the City.

Strategic Impact

N/A

Risk Assessment

Compliance:

- LCRB policy
- Liquor Control and Licensing Act

Risk Impact:

Low

Internal Control Process:

Staff is complying with LCRB requirements for local governments to provide comments on Lounge Area Endorsement applications.

Next Steps / Communication

Comments will be provided to the LCRB.

Attachments

Appendix A: LCRB Publication - Local Government Qs & As

Appendix B: Grand Forks Gazette Ad from June 29th, 2022

Recommendation

THAT Council approve the comments made in this report to be sent to the LCRB regarding liquor licence amendments for Structural Changes to an Approved Lounge and Change to Hours of Liquor Service (LOUNGE and Outside) for Grand Forks Beer Company Ltd. Located at 334A Market Avenue.

Options

1. Council could choose to delegate the authority to provide comments on this Liquor Primary application to Staff.
2. Council could choose to amend the comments made in this report before submission to the LCRB.