From:	CANA Madison
To:	licensing
Subject:	CANA Comment for 12/21/22 Agenda Item 17 (74937) Sookie"s Veggie Burgers
Date:	Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:04:08 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings to the ALRC members and others concerned with Sookie's application:

> **TL; DR:** CANA recommends that there be a concrete security plan before Sookie's introduces high alcohol content drinks, but we support Sookie's need for more in-person orders and sit down meals, and we recognize that this is a feasible way for them to do so.

I write to you as the member of the Campus Area Neighborhood Association (CANA) who was at the informational meeting hosted on December 13th, 2022. To my understanding, John (the owner of Sookie's Veggie Burgers) applied for an extension of his liquor license to include signature drinks onto their menu on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights until 10 pm (or other cut off time approved by the committee). He explained to Alder Heck and I that this extension of the menu is to incentivize customers to choose Sookie's during these high competition nights and as a way to create a 'restaurant atmosphere'. He stressed to us that this addition of the menu was made to encourage people to have sit down meals and would be a very small portion of their overall sales (~5%).

Alder Heck and I mainly questioned the additional security measures that would be implemented. Anecdotally, the main crowd of people on State Street from Thursday to Saturday nights are those inclined to adult entertainment such as drinking. If Sookie's were to specifically include alcoholic drinks to draw this crowd in, we questioned their ability to manage intoxicated person(s). We noted that there could be issues such as overdrinking, potential fights between customers, what they would do if someone walked out with their alcoholic drink, potential damage of property due to intoxicated persons, or other scenarios that have not previously been a concern due to their current sales of low alcohol content beers and hard seltzers. John noted that staff would be trained (no specific training curriculum chosen as of meeting with him) and that they are already open during the peak times of alcohol consumption on State Street so have experienced the 'night crowd'. Sookie's also planned to end alcohol sales before it became solely a bar crawl crowd (10 pm was mentioned) so the potential for overdrinking is reduced. Overall, we noted the potential for Sookie's to become an alcohol centered establishment and questioned how they would increase safety precautions if their current proposal was approved. I will also note that John had not been able to meet with MPD before the informational meeting, so a more concrete security plan may have been made following our meeting with him.

To conclude, we have no strong opposition to the application and recognize that it is a part

of Sookie's plan to stay in business. However, we have safety concerns that we hope both Sookie's and the ALRC considers carefully when extending their liquor license.

Best,

Cleo Le, BSW *(they/she)*
cyle@wisc.edu
MSW Candidate; B.A. Environmental Studies
Campus Area Neighborhood Association I Vice President