

Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

City of Madison Alcohol License Review Committee c/o Deputy City Clerk, Jim Verbick

Sent by email

Members of the ALRC,

I send this letter of support on behalf of the Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara (SASY) Neighborhood Association in support of Garver Events, LLC application for a Class B alcohol license for the operation at 3241 Garver Green. This is item #29 on the January 15th agenda. The SASY board considered this project at its January 9th meeting and voted unanimously to support the application.

Our neighborhood and the larger community have started to experience firsthand the operation of the Garver Feed Mill. Food production businesses have moved in and started operations, as have two restaurants - one of which also holds a liquor license. In addition, Garver has hosted several large-scale events and numerous smaller events. The only issue to surface thus far has been a shortage of parking (for which the Garver team has submitted a plan). There have not been issues with alcohol to date and we are confident that this will remain the case with active on-site management.

This support is essentially a continuation of the support that the SASY board expressed in a similar letter to the ALRC in June 2019, when a different agent was proposed to hold and operate the alcohol license. The application before you now has diminished the food component (from 75% to 50%) and increased the alcohol component (from 25% to 50%). Given the long-term plan to more fully develop the food component of the operation, this does not present a significant concern. It also helps that there has been more time to observe the Garver operation in action, and to see that that alcohol served on-site has not proved a problem thus far.

Echoing the community meetings from June 2019 when this conversation started, the neighborhood expressed concerns primarily with parking and noise. The parking issue was mentioned above and appears to be on a path toward resolution. The noise concern remains a valid one since Garver Events has proposed to host events with up to 530 people indoor/280 outdoor. On that front we have consistently been assured that there will be no amplified exterior music. We feel that this restriction must remain in place to minimize the negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods and natural areas.

SASY support remains strong for the Garver Feed Mill project. We intend to stay engaged, observant and working with Baum Revision as this project continues to evolve and build out its final phases. We encourage you to grant the requested alcohol license as the event component becomes a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Hinkfuss

Zorfi Wohl President – SASY, Inc. Cc: SASY Board, Alder Rummel, Alder Foster, Bryant Moroder