



Town of
INDIAN TRAIL
north carolina

Town of Indian Trail
Minutes of Council Special Meeting
February 24, 2010
Civic Building
6:00 P.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Goodall called the meeting to order. He commented that Mayor Quinn will not be here tonight and Councilmember D'Onofrio will be late. He informed Council that Mr. Fitzgerald will not be here for his interview tonight due to medical issues.

INTERVIEWS FOR INDIAN TRAIL ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION

Mayor Pro Tem Goodall stated the reason for meeting tonight is to interview applicants for the ABC Board. After selecting three members to participate on the board, one will be chosen as chairman. It was agreed that council members will each ask the same question during the process. The following questions were posed to the interviewees:

- 1) Why should you be chosen to serve on this board?
- 2) There is no doubt that integrity and leadership are qualities expected in each appointed ABC board member. With that being said, what 3 different professional backgrounds do you think would make for a well-rounded combination of skills-sets that would be a "recipe for success" in the creation and oversight of an ABC store?
- 3) What skill sets and direct experience do you have in any of following four broad areas? a) Retail; b) Finance/Accounting/Banking; c) Legal; d) Real Estate
- 4) Our goal is to have an ABC store up and running by early fall, in order to capitalize on the dramatic increase in business that the holiday season generates. Do you have the time to give to this process (which will likely require much more time during its formation than it might after it is established)?
- 5) (*Time allowing*) Provide one specific example of when you accomplished a complex goal in advance of established timelines either by yourself or by working with colleagues. Explain the specific steps you took to make this happen?

Councilmember D'Onofrio entered the meeting.

John Simulcik:

- 1) Feels he can give 110% and look out for what's best for the Town.

- 2) Ethics, understanding finance and interest of the people.
- 3) He holds a masters degree in finance/accounting and is currently in the insurance profession. He also teaches at the University of Phoenix as a Finance Professor.
- 4) Yes, but things do change.

Jan Brown:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. To which Mr. Brown replied he would have no problem with a background check and could accept being chairman.

- 1) Strong points are 42 years in retail with 20 years owning his own business, which employed 12 people at one time. He has good business common sense and trying to make a profit, which he did.
- 2) Good common sense, high ethical standards, wanting to make a profit.
- 3) Real Estate - owed four or five pieces of property at one time; Banking - banked with Duchess Bank for 28 years with his business; Accounting - knows how to read a profit and loss statement. To have a good business you must have a good bank behind you, a good accountant and a good lawyer. He has good people skills, has taught, can communicate and he doesn't take things personal.
- 4) He is retired and has time.

John Karstedt:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. Mr. Karstedt replied he would be fine in both cases.

- 1) He feels the board has a great responsibility in the community and has a degree of difficulty in controlling a controlled substance. In this area people are needed who possess integrity and honesty with the capability of handling many aspects of a business.
- 2) Background in retail management, a good understanding of sales/marketing, a background in business management and understanding the laws.
- 3) His primary background is in computers but has recently developed retail experience. In regards to finance, he has his own business and handled the bookkeeping aspects.
- 4) He does have time, as he is currently working part time.

Annette Hefner:

Councilmember Goodall asked if she is selected, would she consent to a background check and would she have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. Ms. Hefner replied there would be no problem with either.

- 1) She feels she meets the criteria very strongly.
- 2) Real estate or specifically a Realtor; accounting; perhaps even a homemaker; and she explained her reasons.
- 3) She is a realtor; she has also worked with a group in the location selection of a restaurant chain; she has also with budgets for various agencies.
- 4) She does have the time.

Daniel Takah:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and

would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. He replied he would be fine with both.

- 1) Public service is a privilege.
- 2) In a leadership role; character, integrity and honesty.
- 3) He has an MBA in advanced mathematics, but not on the accounting side. He has experience with divulging into maintenance department of the company he worked with and took apart the financials and tried to reduce spend and manpower by a certain percentage as requested by the CEO. His undergraduate degree was legal studies.
- 4) He affirmed he would have time.

Stephen Swoope:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board.

- 1) He is a local member of the community and the person selected would need to be able to put in the time and effort to make sure it's installed correctly.
- 2) Someone with store management/retail experience; someone with a customer service background as well in dealing with consumers on a regular basis; someone with regulatory background.
- 3) Retail is his strongest area; he is responsible for sales budget for North and South America; he is also familiar with legal contracts, both government and military. No experience in real estate.
- 4) He is in sales and is flexible; but travels occasionally.

Robert Baldwin:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. He indicated he would have no problem with either.

- 1) He is flexible with his time since he is retired and he has spent his career rebuilding companies and he is looking to get involved with the community. He has experience in loss prevention and a solid background in marketing in a retail level also.
- 2) Need someone with management skills, someone capable of handling inventory control issues, and someone with experience in merchandise display/safety.
- 3) Retail - half of the businesses he worked with were retail ; his entire background has been in customer service. Real Estate- He has been in real estate for the past two years. Legal - had two years of college law and also in community college; very up to date on warranty law. Finance/Accounting - in his experience of rebuilding companies, everything is about the finance; knows more than basic accounting.
- 4) He has plenty of time; looking for something to do.

Stephen Speer:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. He responded he would have no problem with either.

- 1) He could be open-minded and look at any challenge without any notions of what should happen and could judge everything fairly.
- 2) Someone from the corporate world, someone from legal entity and maybe medical.

- 3) Retail - he owned a chain of auto parts store and he recently owned a Vespa dealership also. Accounting - in corporate life had to read a P&L statement balance sheet and take corrective measures. Real Estate - zero. Legal - has court experience, not as a defendant; but not an attorney.
- 4) He does have the time.

Kenneth Porter:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. He indicated he would have no problem with either.

- 1) He feels that with his accounting background and his exposure to the restaurant industry would be beneficial and he looking for a way to serve the community.
- 2) An attorney to ensure laws are being adhered to; accountant for fiscal accountability; someone with a business background-seeing how a business is run.
- 3) Legal - he is often referred to, by business associates, as an attorney with a CPA certification. Retail - he has many clientele in retail. Real Estate - about 35% of his business is client in the real estate field.
- 4) He has the time.

Patricia Cowan:

Councilmember Goodall asked if she is selected, would she consent to a background check and would she have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. She indicated she would have no problem with either.

- 1) She has a good commitment to her community and has all the retail experience to get a store open as soon as possible and to make it as profitable as possible.
- 2) Retail, accounting/finance, property development - real estate area.
- 3) Heavy retail/merchandising background as a store manager entailing in the door and to the customer. Able to make financial decisions although does not have a banking background. No real estate background, but has picked out locations for stores.
- 4) Work and live in community, very flexible schedule; company she works for is very committed to their employees participating in community development.

Michael Hinsley:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. He would have not problem with either.

- 1) He has experience in the start up of several groups.
- 2) Manager experience, someone accustomed to working with other people, leader but able to work together as group.
- 3) He currently works in the IT aspect of a retail store; he was in sales previously. No legal background. Only IT aspect of finance.
- 4) He believes he would have the time.

Joseph Hurley:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. No objections to either.

- 1) Welcome the opportunity to serve; he has ten years experience in the ABC industry.
- 2) Finance, sales and distribution.
- 3) Retail - worked with Harris Teeter; Finance is his strength - CFO of the Mecklenburg County ABC Board; Legal - has negotiated many contracts and worked with lawyers; Real Estate - has developed and opened five liquor stores with Mecklenburg County ABC.
- 4) He is retired and does have the time.

Mayor Pro Tem Goodall questioned the need to choose an alternate in addition to the three board members chosen. Council consensus was an alternate was not needed at this time.

Wesley Hinson:

Councilmember Goodall asked if he is selected, would he consent to a background check and would he have a problem if selected as chairman of the board. He had no objections to either.

- 1) He understands the need for common sense, public service and transparency in addition to good faith public service - understands the legal ramifications - understands land use policies etc. He is the managing partner of a law firm, manages a title insurance company, etc.
- 2) Legal, finance and real estate background and perhaps management within those fields.
- 3) His firm is a legal general practice. He advised business client in real estate; he does a substantial amount because of the way the market it. Management leadership is where the main focus is; important to have on this inaugural board people who have the freedom to meet during business hours and after business hours. Been a while since working in retail.
- 4) He believes he would have the time.

After taking a vote from Council, the following members were selected: Kenneth Porter, Jan Brown and Wesley Hinson. Of these three, Council voted for Kenneth Porter to be the Chairman.

Ms. Piontek indicated she will send letters out to all candidates and will call the chosen three to let them know they were selected. She questioned whether Council wanted a background check performed and if so, how extensive it should be. Council consensus was to have an extensive background check performed. Additional general discussion continued.

ADJOURN

John Hullinger made a motion to adjourn

Motion Passed 4 - 1 with Jeff Goodall opposing.

APPROVED:

John J. Quinn, Mayor

Attest:

Trena Sims, Interim Town Clerk